

ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA



Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group

EMBARGOED until Tuesday, 1 July, 1:00 p.m. Cairo Time

PRESS RELEASE

With aid lagging, African leaders and key international organizations launch a landmark consensus report on how to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

Plan agreed to translate existing commitments into on-the-ground results that tackle poverty, hunger, disease

(SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT, 1 JULY) At a critical time for Africa, and with just one week until the Group of Eight leaders meet in Hokkaido, Japan, to discuss how to speed up poverty reduction on the continent, key African leaders joined forces with the multilateral development system to say—in one voice—that the G8 needs to make good on its existing promises to support African development and that African and international leaders have produced a practical plan to use this support to reduce poverty on the continent.

On the final day of the African Union Summit, UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, African Union Chairperson and President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Jakaya Kikwete and African Union Commission Chairperson H.E. Jean Ping launched a landmark report that has been jointly produced and endorsed by their respective organizations, together with the heads of the African Development Bank Group, European Commission, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank Group, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and World Bank Group.

The report, a product of the MDG Africa Steering Group, an initiative of United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon, comprises a set of key recommendations that detail how Africa can fight extreme poverty, hunger and disease to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Although great strides have been made in some countries, especially in increasing school enrolment, improving access to clean water and expanding HIV/AIDS treatment, progress in many African countries is not on track to meet the Goals.

“Until now, we have not had a clear understanding amongst the major multilateral institutions on the specific policies, projects and programmes that need to be implemented to get Africa on track to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,” said Mr. Ban. “The MDG Africa Steering Group recommendations provide a roadmap for unprecedented and much-needed progress in the region.”

Importantly, these recommendations are largely contingent on the G8’s fulfilment of its 2005 Gleneagles Summit pledge to increase official development assistance (ODA) to Africa by US\$25 billion annually (in 2004 dollars) by 2010. The OECD/DAC’s latest figures show that net annual ODA to Africa has so far increased by only about a quarter of the US\$25 billion promised. Measured in 2007 US dollars, the Gleneagles commitment implies total net bilateral ODA flows to Africa of about US\$62 billion per year.



United Nations



European Commission



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“The Steering Group’s recommendations are a call to action,” said Mr. Kikwete. “They outline focused investments in agriculture, education, health and infrastructure that are critical to present and future efforts to reach the MDGs. We now need to implement the recommendations to ensure that we halt the spread of hunger, disease and suffering.”

“African leaders are looking to the G8 to turn their existing promises into action—the credibility of international commitments is at stake,” said Mr. Ping. “There are many development success stories across Africa that can be replicated in more countries with additional financing. The MDG Africa Steering Group’s recommendations provide a framework—with the seal of approval of the multilateral institutions—to spread these successes across the continent.”

The Steering Group has issued the most comprehensive assessment of the external financing needed to reach the MDGs in Africa to date. Existing EU and G8 commitments, combined with present aid flows from other sources, are sufficient to finance the estimated US\$72 billion a year in external money required to implement the Steering Group’s recommendations.

Rising food prices, record energy costs and climate change all threaten to reverse existing advances toward the MDGs. The World Bank estimates that high food prices and climate change could together drive over 100 million people into extreme poverty. This would undo most of the gains the world’s poor have made over the last decade.

The MDG Africa Steering Group recommendations call for targeted investments in agriculture to launch a green revolution in Africa; stepped-up support to education and healthcare systems; major projects to fill critical gaps in the continent’s infrastructure and trade networks; and improvements in national statistical systems so that progress on the MDGs can be tracked more effectively. The recommendations also call for increased ODA quality and predictability as disbursements increase to finance these investments.

With the momentum generated by strong economic growth rates in many African countries, increased commitment to domestic resource mobilization, improving governance and better policy performance, the Steering Group contends that the MDGs can still be achieved in Africa by 2015. These solid efforts by African governments need to be matched by follow-through on existing G8 aid commitments to help Africa make major gains in the fight against poverty.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

“Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa” Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group to be launched at African Union Summit on 1 July

***** Press materials are embargoed until
Tuesday, 1 July, 1:00 p.m. Cairo Time *****

WHEN: Tuesday, 1 July, 1:00 p.m. Cairo Time

WHAT: Launch of a landmark report by the MDG Africa Steering Group, an initiative of the UN Secretary-General, laying out practical steps, strategies and programmes needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, jointly produced and endorsed by the United Nations, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank Group, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Bank Group.

WHO: H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete, Chairperson of the African Union
Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General
H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
Mr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs
Moderator: Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon

WHERE: African Union Summit, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Maritim International Congress Center, Media Briefing Room

Background: At the mid-point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015, progress in many African countries is not on track. Nevertheless, a number of recent successes demonstrate that rapid progress is possible across Africa when sound national programmes are matched with adequate development assistance and full support from the international system. Existing international commitments — if fully implemented — can expand these success stories and are sufficient to achieve the MDGs. The aim of the MDG Africa Steering Group’s recommendations is to translate existing commitments into tangible progress in every African country.

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ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA



Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group

FACT SHEET

The MDG Africa Steering and Working Groups

The MDG Africa Steering Group was convened by United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon on 14 September 2007. The Steering Group brings together the leaders of multilateral political and financial organizations to identify the practical steps needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals in Africa.

Members

The Group is chaired by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and comprises the President of the African Development Bank Group, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the European Commission, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the President of the World Bank Group.

Objectives

The Steering Group's objectives are to:

- strengthen international mechanisms for measures in the areas of health, education, agriculture and food security, infrastructure and trade facilitation, and national statistical systems;
- improve aid predictability; and
- enhance coordination at the country level.

Working Group

The Steering Group is supported by the MDG Africa Working Group, which is chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and comprises representatives of the UN System and other major multilateral organizations. The Working Group met for the first time on 20 September 2007 and frequently thereafter. The Working Group has supported the Steering Group's identification of a set of key recommendations that, if implemented, would accelerate African countries' progress in achieving the MDGs.

Background

In its landmark 2008 recommendations, officially launched during the 11th African Union Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Steering Group established a definitive international understanding on what needs to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, outlining concrete opportunities to turn existing commitments into tangible actions.

The UN Secretary-General first gathered the MDG Africa Steering Group on 14 September 2007, in an effort to mobilize the leaders of the UN System and major multilateral and intergovernmental organizations in support of reaching the MDGs in Africa. This followed his announcement at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm in 2007 of his establishment of a new mechanism to spur faster progress towards meeting the MDGs in Africa. The Steering Group reconvened on 10 March 2008 to review its recommendations and to identify the most effective ways to implement them.

For further information, please visit: www.mdgafrica.org





Summary of the Recommendations

At the mid-point in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, progress in many African countries is not on track. The continent's pace on each Goal is lagging, despite encouraging increases in economic growth and strengthened policies. Nevertheless, a number of recent successes — including the expansion of HIV/AIDS treatment, increases in agricultural productivity, a dramatic rise in school enrolment and improved access to water supply — demonstrate that rapid progress is possible across Africa when sound national programmes are matched with adequate development assistance and full support from the international system.

Existing international commitments — if fully implemented — can expand these success stories and are sufficient to achieve the MDGs. The aim of the MDG Africa Steering Group recommendations is therefore to translate existing commitments into tangible progress in every African country. They represent a landmark understanding among the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank Group, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Bank Group on the practical steps, strategies and programmes needed to achieve the MDGs in Africa. The Steering Group calls for the following key actions by sector:

- Agriculture and food security.** Africa is the only region in the world where per capita food production has fallen in the last 30 years. Therefore, the Steering Group calls for support to African Governments to launch a Green Revolution to double crop yields, with a focus on providing smallholder farmers with temporary subsidies for fertilizer and better seeds. Malawi's agricultural support programme provides an impressive example of the rapid gains that can be made with improved inputs. Development assistance for African agriculture must rise from the current US\$1–2 billion provided annually to some US\$8 billion by 2010. In parallel, assistance for feeding and nutrition programmes should be raised by an additional US\$4 billion by 2010.
- Education.** The education sector has seen some of the most remarkable progress towards the MDGs, yet many countries remain off-track. The Steering Group calls on development partners to finance national education strategies endorsed by the Education for All Fast-Track Initiative. No African child should be denied access to primary education because of a lack of financial support. Beyond universal primary education, the recommendations also focus on the need to increase expenditure on early-childhood, secondary, tertiary and vocational education, as well as adult literacy programmes.
- Health.** The Steering Group underscores the critical importance of financing national health systems to improve the quality of life of Africa's people. International support should help phase out user fees for primary health care to ensure that the poor can access health services. Investments in healthcare providers, including through community health workers, will also need to be stepped up. The Steering Group is particularly concerned by the slow progress on the MDG aimed at reducing the high rate of maternal deaths in pregnancy and childbirth. The Steering Group therefore calls on governments to increase investments in emergency obstetrical care.
- Infrastructure and trade facilitation.** The Steering Group asks development partners to at least double infrastructure financing to some US\$23.7 billion annually by 2010, in order to close growth-inhibiting gaps in transport, power generation and transmission, communication, water and sanitation services. The large number of small and land-locked countries in Africa creates the need for substantially increased investments in regional transport, communication and power networks to support development through growth and trade.
- National statistical systems, census, civil registration.** Progress towards the MDGs can only be measured and accelerated if we have better data. The Steering Group calls for concerted action to support a full census across



Africa, better statistical systems, and more comprehensive civil registration. Improved systems of civil registration are critical in protecting the rights of women and children.

- **Climate proofing.** The Steering Group recommendations include an explicit and comprehensive call to ‘climate proof’ efforts to achieve the MDGs so that countries can guard themselves against increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, and changing weather patterns. Recommended measures included better seed varieties and irrigation, improved malaria control, and renewed investments in clean power generation and transportation.

Financing and aid predictability

- **The Steering Group has issued the most comprehensive assessment of the external financing needed to reach the MDGs in Africa.** Existing EU and G8 commitments, combined with present aid flows from other sources, are sufficient to finance the estimated US\$72 billion a year in external money required to implement the Steering Group’s recommendations. This figure is in line with pledges made in 2005 at the EU and Gleneagles G8 Summits to more than double official development assistance (ODA) to Africa to about US\$54 billion a year by 2010. Measured in current US dollars, this commitment is equivalent to about US\$62 billion annually. Combined with existing support from donor countries outside of the OECD, private foundations and public-private partnerships, the Steering Group’s recommendations would be fully financed.
- **Aid predictability.** Most African countries do not know how much aid they will receive in coming years and therefore they cannot expand key public services with needed personnel and infrastructure, both of which require confirmed multi-year financing. Therefore, the Steering Group

calls on donors to issue country-by-country schedules for how their aid will be increased to meet the commitments made in 2005. This change in the way aid is provided would have a dramatic effect on African countries’ ability to pursue the long-term strategies needed to achieve the MDGs.

- **Scaling up aid.** Experience shows that even large increases in ODA can be absorbed in the presence of sound policies. The Steering Group is supporting a first set of ten countries in preparing scenarios for how existing ODA commitments can be implemented on the ground through new and expanded projects and programmes. The Steering Group will help mobilize the resources needed to implement these country-owned plans.
- **Follow-through on financing needed.** Many African countries have upheld their side of the Monterrey Consensus by implementing economic and political reforms and by focusing budgets on MDG-related social expenditures. But the increase in ODA promised to Africa by the G8 at Gleneagles, which amounted to an additional US\$25 billion (in 2004 dollars) per year by 2010, has not yet materialized, nor come close. As of 2007, OECD/DAC data show that annual net ODA to Africa, including one-off debt relief, emergency assistance and scholarships, is estimated to have increased by only US\$7 billion since 2004. The Steering Group urgently calls on donors to accelerate ODA flows to Africa in line with existing commitments.

For further information, please visit: www.mdgafrica.org

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ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER • ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION • PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN • REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY • IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH • COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES • ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY • DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT • ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER • ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION • PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN • REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY • IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH • COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES • ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY • DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT • ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER • ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION • PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN • REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY • IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH • COMBAT HIV/AIDS

Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group
June 2008



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Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group
June 2008



United Nations



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About the MDG Africa Steering Group

The MDG Africa Steering Group was convened in September 2007 and brings together the leaders of multilateral development organizations to identify the practical steps needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals in Africa. The Group is chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General and comprises the President of the African Development Bank Group, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the President of the European Commission, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the President of the World Bank Group. The Steering Group is supported by the MDG Africa Working Group, which is chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and comprises representatives of the UN System and other major multilateral organizations.

For more information: www.mdgafrica.org

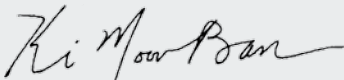
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Photos: United Nations Photo

Preface

We, the undersigned,* representatives of the United Nations, the African Development Bank Group, the African Union Commission, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank Group, have identified concrete proposals for action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. We believe that the recommendations contained in this document — if fully implemented — will produce substantial and verifiable results. They will take countries closer to achieving the MDGs and lay the foundation for robust economic growth. We hope that world leaders will take up these recommendations and commit to implementing them as an ambitious, but feasible, agenda that needs to be launched during 2008.

June 2008



BAN Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General (Chair)



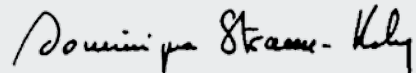
Donald Kaberuka
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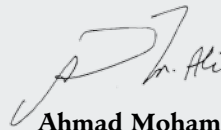
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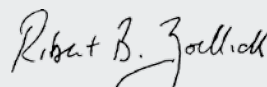
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Achieving

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, [Table 1](#)) and other internationally agreed development goals in Africa holds the promise of saving millions of lives; empowering women; addressing the scourge of illiteracy, hunger and malnutrition; and ensuring that Africa's children have access to high-quality education and good health to lead productive lives. The concrete development results identified in this document ([Table 2](#)) map out a set of minimum thresholds in agriculture, nutrition, education, health and infrastructure that, if fully achieved, will allow African communities and countries to raise productivity and compete successfully in world markets to increase economic growth. Investing in the MDGs and promoting the private sector are critical steps in charting a course towards stability and sustained economic growth that will build capital, attract foreign investment and overcome Africa's current need for external assistance.

Since the MDGs are too important to fail, the second half of the MDG period, which begins in 2008, must focus squarely on scaling up proven interventions to achieve the Goals. Substantial progress has been made globally in achieving the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals, but many countries remain off track to meeting them by 2015. This is particularly true in large parts of Africa where some

states are fragile or emerging from conflict. The continent as a whole is lagging behind on each Goal despite a very encouraging recent rise in the rate of economic growth, an overall improvement in the policy environment, and strong macroeconomic fundamentals. In addition to the sectors identified in this document, progress towards achieving gender equality and environmental sustainability remains inadequate.

Sound public policies and investments are central for achieving the MDGs and accelerating economic growth, but they are not enough. The private sector is the engine of innovation and growth providing incomes for rural and urban populations. It is also a tremendous repository of organizational and management expertise that can increase the effectiveness of service delivery. Where possible, countries should therefore draw on the private sector to complement governments in designing, delivering and financing interventions to achieve the MDGs.

The challenge of meeting the eight MDGs in African countries is compounded by the grave long-term risk that climate change poses. African countries demonstrably require additional resources for adaptation since they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the growing risk of natural disasters. At least some of these additional resources will be

needed to “climate proof” all projects and policies intended to achieve the MDGs and to strengthen the resilience of communities to the effects of natural disasters. Threats posed by climate change and natural disasters further increase the need for regional cooperation and integration in areas of economic policy, infrastructure (e.g., power pools, transport and communications infrastructure), research, and the management of trans-boundary river basins.

Similarly, the continuing threat of conflict threatens to reverse development gains in many parts of the continent. Evidence shows that security and development go hand in hand. Investing in development is critical for reducing the risk of conflict. Strong political leadership — including through regional mechanisms — coupled with effective support for peacebuilding and longer-term development are key elements of strategies to stabilize post-conflict

countries and prevent the emergence of new conflicts.

The recent rise in food prices is putting great pressure on African economies and is threatening to unravel hard-won progress in fighting hunger and malnutrition. However, the crisis also offers a window of opportunity to increase needed expenditures in agriculture and to remove obstacles to an open trading system in agricultural commodities to the benefit of African countries. The dangers of a decelerating world economy add to the challenges that African countries face now and in coming years. The MDGs and the international development agenda as a whole, including a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations under the World Trade Organization, need to be kept at the forefront of the global agenda to reduce the likelihood of slower increases or even reductions in the availability of financing for development.



I. The feasibility of rapid progress

In recent years important success stories have emerged from across Africa that are sometimes hidden beneath the aggregate picture. With the exception of **MDG 5** — reducing maternal mortality — each Goal will be met in many African countries thanks to carefully designed programmes and sound policies that are backed by strong government leadership and effective support from the international community. For example, this combination of African leadership and effective international support accounts for Malawi's marked reduction of child mortality rates, Tanzania's increase in primary school completion rates, and Senegal's remarkable progress towards the water target.

The primary responsibility for achieving the Goals remains with African Governments, who have shown tremendous leadership in recent years and are putting in place ambitious and bankable programmes.¹ The African Peer Review Mechanism is helping to improve domestic policies. More can and needs to be done to strengthen the policy and regulatory environment across Africa and to mobilize the private sector and non-governmental organizations. But it is the strong and visible African leadership demonstrated by African Governments and regional bodies, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), that gives the MDG Africa Steering Group confidence that the Goals can be widely met

¹ Africa's political commitment to achieve the MDGs was reaffirmed in January 2008 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa through the adoption of a decision in support of the work of the MDG Africa Steering Group.

if the global partnership agreed to at the 2002 Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development is implemented.

The MDG Africa Steering Group has identified a list of concrete opportunities to implement and scale up interventions in support of the MDGs. They include:

- » Meeting short-term emergency food needs resulting from the global rise in food prices to prevent malnutrition and contain political unrest;
- » Launching an African Green Revolution within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to double agricultural yields, accelerate economic growth and combat hunger;
- » Implementing national school feeding programmes using locally produced food and providing full coverage of micro-nutrients through national nutrition programmes to drastically cut malnutrition and hunger;
- » Investing in education to achieve the MDGs and Education for All Goals by 2015, including gender parity at all levels, through holistic sector plans that reflect the country context and include cost-effective expansion of post-primary education;
- » Strengthening health systems and phasing in of child survival interventions to achieve a two-thirds reduction in child mortality rates;
- » Ensuring access to emergency obstetric care for all women by 2015 to achieve a three-quarters reduction in maternal mortality rates;
- » Providing family planning services for all by 2015;
- » Fighting infectious diseases, by:
 - » Providing comprehensive access to HIV/AIDS treatment by 2010;
 - » Halving the malaria burden by 2010 (from 2000 levels) and bringing malaria mortality rates close to zero by 2015;
 - » Ensuring effective diagnosis and treatment of TB by implementing the Global Stop TB Plan of Action; and
 - » Controlling Neglected Tropical Diseases by 2015;
- » Implementing national water supply and sanitation strategies to achieve the water supply and sanitation targets;
- » Making critical infrastructure investments (i.e., transport, power, water, broadband), as identified under NEPAD, to raise productivity, lessen the time burden of household activities on women and young girls, enable low-cost service delivery, and integrate Africa into the global economy; and
- » Strengthening national statistical systems to monitor progress towards the MDGs by implementing the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics.

The evidence surveyed by the Steering Group shows that — if fully implemented — the recommendations contained in this document will produce verifiable development results (Table 2) that can serve to monitor progress and ensure the effective use of domestic and external resources. In combination with sound economic policies to promote private sector development and increased participation in trade, these results will reduce barriers to progress, take countries closer to achieving the MDGs and lay the foundation for robust economic growth.

In many areas improved regional collaboration and integration will need to complement national-level actions to reap economies of scale and address challenges that are too big for any individual country to take on by itself, such as investments in regional power pools and trade facilitation.

In addition to these scaling-up opportunities, countries need to systematically empower women and young girls and address the central challenge of environmental sustainability through effective policies and laws. The results identified in Table 2 will make a major contribution towards achieving both objectives. For example, full access to quality education will empower young girls; improved infrastructure will reduce the time burden for women and young girls; effective health services will save mothers' lives; and broad-based agricultural development will empower Africa's smallholder farmers, who are predominantly women. Likewise, investments in water resources management, sustainable agriculture and urban development can stem the decline of environmental resources across Africa.

In many sectors, progress can be accelerated remarkably quickly through basic interventions, particularly in post-conflict settings or following natural disasters. Examples of such quick impact initiatives include enhanced coverage for nutrition programmes, control of malaria and other vector-borne diseases, rapid increase in school enrolment through the abolition of school fees, improved inputs to increase agricultural productivity, and increased access to family planning. The Steering Group recommends that countries prioritize quick impact initiatives and receive the necessary support from their development partners for implementation.

For each scaling-up opportunity, the Steering Group has identified international organizations and financing mechanisms that can support African Governments in formulating effective policies and programmes, ensure greater coherence in donor support, and support resource mobilization. The Group stresses that the financing mechanisms listed in Table 2 complement and do not replace other multi-lateral, bilateral and private financing channels.

As outlined in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, financing the targeted investments and current expenditures needed to achieve the MDGs in Africa will require African Governments to mobilize domestic resources effectively and attract private capital. African Governments have already done a great deal to increase the efficiency of their tax systems and boost government revenue as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).² They have also committed to minimum public expenditure targets in key sectors, which need to be met.³ The private sector is an essential contributor to achieving sustained growth and the MDGs through its core function of creating economic value, delivering targeted investments and services through public-private partnerships, and providing critical co-

² For example, countries in sub-Saharan Africa have raised domestic revenue as a share of GDP by 6.9 percentage points between 1996 and 2006. The increase in domestic resource mobilization has been even higher in non-oil producing countries. Source: International Financial Statistics, International Monetary Fund (IMF).

³ Key commitments made by African Governments include the allocation of 10 per cent of their budgets to agriculture (2003 Maputo Declaration), 15 per cent of their budgets to health (2000 Abuja Declaration), and 20 per cent of their budgets to education (2002 Dar-es-Salam Conference of Education Ministers and EFA-FTI guidelines).

financing in infrastructure and other public investments. Governments can and need to strengthen the private sector through adequate policies favouring investment.

Yet, domestic resources and private-sector contributions will not be sufficient to achieve sustained economic growth and the MDGs. Overall, external public financing for development in Africa needs to rise to US\$72 billion per year to support the achievement of the MDGs. Therefore, the Steering Group calls on development partners to fulfil the official development assistance (ODA) commitments made at Monterrey (i.e., making concrete efforts toward the target of annual ODA equivalent to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI)) and in the run-up to the UN World Summit in 2005, including at Gleneagles.⁴ The remaining external financing needs can be met through commitments made by donors that are not members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), improved South-South cooperation, private philanthropy and public-private partnerships. As African economies grow and integrate into the global economy, international trade and domestic resources are expected to contribute an increasing share of development financing, provided that countries implement active policies and comprehensive strategies for increasing competitive-

ness and participation in regional and international trade. The combination of growth and sound policies will gradually reduce Africa's dependency on external resources.

It is important not only to increase the volume of external resources but also to improve aid quality in alignment with countries' priorities, as agreed in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The MDG Africa Steering Group recommends that development partners fully align their assistance with country systems through multi-year compacts, increase the predictability of aid, improve the division of labour among donors, and accelerate the shift away from project-based finance towards budget support. Many countries and organizations that are not members of the DAC are assuming an increasingly central role as development partners for African countries. Therefore, efforts to improve aid effectiveness also need to involve non-DAC high-income country donors, such as the Gulf States; enhanced South-South collaboration with partners such as Brazil, China and India; and large private foundations.

The targeted efforts to scale up the proven interventions recommended below map out an ambitious, but feasible, agenda that needs to be launched during 2008. The Steering Group urges world leaders to take up these recommendations and commit to implementing them at the 2008 European Summit, the G8 Summit in Japan, the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the September High-Level Event on the MDGs in New York, the Financing for Development Conference in Doha, as well as other international fora.

⁴ As recorded in the 2005 Gleneagles Summit communiqué: "The commitments of the G8 and other donors will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of \$25 billion a year by 2010." Following the Gleneagles Summit, ODA to Africa in 2004 was confirmed at US\$29.3 billion; so the target level of ODA to Africa by 2010 corresponds to US\$54.3 billion in constant 2004 prices. This amounts to roughly US\$62 billion at average 2007 prices and exchange rates.



II. Key recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group

The recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group outline the concrete steps that are needed to translate existing commitments into results at the country level. In each area, the MDG Africa Steering Group has identified the following (see [Table 2](#) for a summary):

- i. Specific results that can be achieved by scaling up known and proven interventions;*
- ii. Organizations that can provide policy leadership;*
- iii. Multilateral financing mechanisms that can complement other bilateral and multilateral funding sources; and*
- iv. Estimated external financing needs.*

1. Agriculture, food security and nutrition

As underscored by the global rise in food prices, agriculture is central to reducing poverty, combating hunger and malnutrition ([MDG 1](#)), and accelerating growth in Africa. A particular focus is needed on smallholder farmers, who are predominantly women and account for 80 per cent of the region's farmers. The continent is the only region in the world that has not benefited from a Green Revolution. As a result, yields have stagnated in recent decades leading to a fall in per capita food availability since the 1970s. Yet, proven and cost-effective technologies exist today to launch an African Green Revolution that can double per hectare yields among smallholder farmers in a short period of time. In particular, smallholder farmers need to gain access to basic agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer and improved seeds.

They also need to improve crop and livestock husbandry and adopt sustainable land and water management practices.

Though external resources devoted to agriculture in Africa continue to rise, they remain far below the levels needed to launch an African Green Revolution. A particular challenge is the need to reduce donor fragmentation and channel financing to effectively support the implementation of national-scale agriculture strategies within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

In many parts of Africa, rural and urban populations suffer from macro- and micro-nutrient deficiencies that can be addressed through targeted national programmes aimed at providing basic nutrition and school meals using locally produced food. In conjunction with increases in agricultural productivity among smallholder farmers, these proven programmes can improve food security.

The recent rise in food prices poses grave risks to African countries and threatens to exacerbate food insecurity among the poor, as well as undermine recent development gains. This situation requires an urgent and coordinated international response. It heightens the need to invest over the long term in raising agricultural productivity, promoting school feeding as well as nutrition programmes, and investing in social safety nets including insurance systems. In the short term, increased resources are required to deal with humanitarian situations and address temporary food shortages across the continent. Meanwhile, high agricultural commodity prices are an opportunity for agricultural producers in Africa to expand production. Critically, they offer an unprecedented opportunity to open up domestic

and international agriculture markets, which should be seized to advance trade negotiations under the Doha Development Round.

The long-term effects of climate change are already being felt in Africa. Precipitation patterns are changing, crops are reaching the upper limits of heat tolerance, and pastoralists spend more time than before in search of water and grazing grounds. Urgent investments are needed to “climate proof” water management for agriculture, develop new production systems such as conservation farming, promote drought and high temperature-tolerant crops, and improve social safety nets for smallholder farmers.

Key results that can be achieved with proven interventions:

- » Sustainable doubling of food yields across Africa to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition;
- » Subsistence agriculture progressively transformed into commercial agriculture to accelerate economic growth that is resilient to the projected impact of long-term climate change;
- » Improved child nutrition and learning outcomes through national school feeding programmes and other nutrition programmes; and
- » Adequate provision of micronutrients to populations at risk, including children aged 0–2 years, combined with effective deworming to ensure nutrient absorption.

Key recommendations:

- 1.1. To meet short-term emergency needs resulting from the global rise in food prices, the international community needs to mobilize an estimated US\$755 million. The MDG Africa Steering Group urges governments to

seize the opportunity presented by high agricultural commodity prices to reduce trade distorting subsidies as well as barriers to trade in agricultural products.

- 1.2. Governments and the international community should lend their full support to implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which provides the framework for supporting the design and implementation of national agriculture and food security strategies.
- 1.3. African Governments, with support from development partners and in collaboration with the private sector, should launch an African Green Revolution within the framework of CAADP. Key interventions include providing access to improved seeds, fertilizers and agricultural as well as financial extension services; strengthening land and water management; improving rural infrastructure; strengthening farmers' associations; and increasing access to markets in close collaboration with the private sector. These interventions need to be supported by reforms of agricultural policies and institutions as well as local purchases of food assistance.
- 1.4. Working with African Governments, the international community needs to increase external financing for African agriculture from the current US\$1-2 billion per year to roughly US\$8 billion by 2010. All available bilateral and multilateral⁵ financing channels need to be mobilized for this urgent and unprecedented effort in strict adher-

ence to the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The MDG Africa Steering Group will elaborate a detailed set of proposals for how such financing can be mobilized.

- 1.5. Interested African Governments should be supported in rolling out school feeding programmes — using locally produced food — that cover all children in primary school. Likewise, comprehensive national-scale nutrition programmes are required to tackle micronutrient deficiencies (i.e., Iodine, Vitamin A, Zinc, Iron, etc.) with a particular focus on children aged 0–2. Providing take-home food rations will increase incentives for girls to attend schools. These programmes can be implemented with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) and will require an estimated US\$4 billion per year in external financing. Over time their financing has to be assured through a rising share of domestic resources.
- 1.6. Investments in agricultural research need to be significantly scaled up to support research into high-yielding crop and livestock varieties as well as sustainable agricultural practices that are also resistant to drought and the anticipated effects of climate change. Incremental investments need to adhere to the CAADP, in particular its Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP), and support African research through the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), sub-regional organizations, and centres belonging to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

⁵ Major multilateral institutions financing African agriculture and rural development include the World Bank, the African Development Bank and IFAD, which is currently mobilizing a major increase in its next replenishment.



2. Education

Several African countries are on track to achieve universal primary education by 2015 thanks to tremendous efforts made by African Governments and effective support from their development partners through highly improved bilateral and multilateral support programmes and the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI). However, progress towards universal primary education (**MDG 2**) remains too slow in other countries. Millions of children — especially girls (**MDG 3**) — from poor backgrounds and rural communities do not have access to primary education, because many countries are not able to provide adequate services for their population and continue to allow school fees and other costs that discourage school attendance. Challenges also remain in increasing access to post-primary education, improving the quality of education and addressing threats to education systems from pandemics, natural disasters and civil conflict. Countries need to improve curricula, strengthen the management of education systems, provide better teaching materials and increase expenditure for the training, hiring and management of teachers. For example, it is estimated that some 4.5 million new teachers will be required in Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The education sector is well organized to scale up education expenditure, and significant progress has already been made in improving aid effectiveness. Continued efforts are needed to strengthen national governments' capacity for preparing and implementing bankable education sector plans. Likewise, development partners need to fully align their support with national priorities, including through harmonization of

existing global monitoring mechanisms and fulfilment of donor commitments.

Despite its strong track record, the education sector remains heavily underfunded. The EFA-FTI urgently requires additional funding to finance sector plans that have already been endorsed or are scheduled for endorsement in coming years. With additional resources provided through bilateral and multilateral channels, as well as global initiatives like EFA-FTI, support can be expanded to a larger number of African countries — including post-conflict countries. This will enable governments to formulate holistic sector strategies that balance support to early childhood development, literacy programmes, as well as primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary education. Increased financing through these existing support mechanisms will contribute towards achieving the MDGs and EFA goals. By implementing holistic education strategies, African countries can strengthen their human capital and accelerate economic growth across the continent.

Key results that can be achieved with proven interventions:

- » Achievement of Education for All Goals by 2015: universal primary school completion; comprehensive early childhood care; 50 per cent improvement in adult literacy from 2000; gender equality in education; improved quality of education; and advancing life-long learning; and
- » Expanded access to secondary, vocational and higher education by 2015.

Key recommendations:

- 2.1. The international community should fulfil its commitments towards education using the full range of bilateral

and multilateral instruments, including a fully funded EFA-FTI Catalytic Fund. In particular, development partners need to:

- » Urgently meet the current shortfall in the FTI for primary education funding to low-income countries with endorsed sector plans requiring at least US\$1 billion;
- » Increase resources through FTI and other bilateral /multilateral channels to support countries whose plans will be endorsed in the foreseeable future; and
- » Ensure that education in countries experiencing fragility and in countries with low-level donor involvement is adequately supported.

Overall approximately US\$8.3 billion is required annually to ensure achievement of the education MDGs and EFA goals in Africa by 2015. This figure excludes school feeding programmes, which are covered under recommendation 1.5. It also does not cover expenditure for technical and vocational education as well as tertiary education, which are critical for increasing economic growth and will require additional financing.

- 2.2. As part of the endorsement process, FTI partners should systematically review countries' sector plans for consistency with projected resource requirements for achieving the MDG and EFA goals by 2015. Where feasible, FTI partners should support each country to revise and better align its education plans with the 2015 goals. Critically, partners need to adopt a longer-term approach to look beyond the results that can be achieved over a four- or five-year planning cycle.

- 2.3. All development partners should systematically meet recipient governments' requests for long-term education sector support to ensure country ownership, predictable financing, a sound division of labour among donors, and full alignment with country systems over multiple years.
- 2.4. African leaders should give high priority to setting up strong national statistical systems for tracking progress towards the education goals. In support of their efforts, the international community should invest in strengthening the EFA High Level Group and its supporting EFA Working Group as a platform for:
 - » Countries to share best practices and learn from each other to design and implement holistic education sector plans for achieving the MDGs and EFA goals, and
 - » Monitoring progress globally through the annual Global Monitoring Report (GMR).



3. Health

Africa as a whole is off track to meeting the MDGs on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating infectious disease (i.e., MDGs 4, 5 and 6). Yet, experiences from other continents, as well as recent progress in several countries in the region, prove that the Goals can be achieved across Africa. Nevertheless, support for rapid scale-up of proven interventions as well as critically needed investments in basic healthcare systems remains insufficient. In most African countries the basic health infrastructure, human resources, equipment and supplies are inadequate to provide essential maternal, child and reproductive health services, and to control and treat infectious diseases. Malaria and other vector-borne diseases that can be controlled and treated continue to take millions of lives throughout Africa and are spreading to more parts of the continent due to rising temperatures caused by climate change.

The health sector has many mechanisms for channelling international financing and technical support to countries in Africa. For example, in addition to major bilateral initiatives, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria ('the Global Fund') has mobilized billions of dollars and produced remarkable results across Africa. Likewise, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization ('GAVI Alliance') has contributed to a spread of the use of vaccines. The World Bank's IDA 14 has contributed to fighting HIV and malaria as well as piloting innovative health insurance and performance-based financing programmes. Another example is the Catalytic Initiative coordinated by UNICEF, which has provided much-needed funds for strengthening health systems and scaling up health services for the MDGs.

Existing bilateral and multilateral financing mechanisms in the health sector are adequate to meet the Goals once they align fully with national priorities and are fully resourced in line with their financing plans for the delivery of basic health care. Together they can complement domestic resource mobilization in financing comprehensive national health strategies to achieve universal access to basic and vital health services.

Donor fragmentation, lack of long-term predictable financing, and over-reliance on project support are major challenges that need to be addressed through adherence to the Paris Declaration. The eight global health agencies (the 'H8'), the International Health Partnership (IHP), the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs, and Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA) are successfully increasing harmonization and alignment among agencies. These existing mechanisms are well-designed, and their scope now needs to be expanded further.

Action in these key areas will support countries in implementing the Africa Health Strategy to address the health crisis affecting many parts of Africa and empower Africans to live healthy and more productive lives. In this way, meeting the health MDGs in Africa will have a profound impact on poverty reduction and economic development.

Key results that can be achieved with proven interventions:

- » Widespread access to comprehensive primary health systems that meet demand and supply-side constraints, including:
 - » Adequate human resources for the management and provision of health services at all levels;
 - » Adequate access to essential drugs and commodities;
 - » Adequate supply and logistics systems; and
 - » Appropriate infrastructure and equipment;
- » Universal and free access to immunization and key child survival interventions;
- » Universal and free access to reproductive health services including emergency obstetrical care, skilled birth attendants and family planning;
- » Universal and free access to HIV/AIDS prevention, mitigation and treatment by 2010;
- » Malaria burden halved by 2010 (from 2000 levels) and malaria mortality reduced to near zero by 2015;
- » Control of TB through implementation of Global Stop TB Plan of Action; and
- » Sharply reduced morbidity and mortality from Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and other prevalent diseases.

Key recommendations:

- 3.1. All development partners, including non-DAC donors, philanthropic donors and others, should systematically meet recipient governments' requests for sector-wide approaches and long-term health compacts, as supported by the IHP, to map out financing needs, ensure multi-year predictable financing for health systems, a sound division of labour among donors, and full alignment of donor support with country systems.
- 3.2. African Governments should be supported by the international community to expand:

- » Primary healthcare systems to provide basic and vital health services identified above (e.g., support for human resources; operation of health facilities; construction of dispensaries and local health posts to ensure universal access to services; support to community health activities; and demand-side interventions including subsidies to poorest groups to remove the financial barriers to accessing essential health services and/or phasing out user fees where appropriate);
- » Emergency obstetric care to reach all women by 2015; and
- » Scaling up of community and mid-level health workers, while addressing the need for more highly trained and specialized staff.⁶

Funding for health systems can be channelled through the health systems windows of the Global Fund and GAVI or other multilateral and bilateral channels.

⁶ For more details see <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/en/>.

- 3.3. International support for comprehensive family planning should be expanded through the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), other reference institutions and bilateral channels.
- 3.4. Continue the expansion of prevention, control and treatment programmes for HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other priority diseases, including endemic Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), through the Global Fund and other mechanisms.

Taking into account synergies across the health goals, it is estimated that external financing for the above identified needs may need to reach some US\$25–30 billion per year by 2010.⁷ Most of this financing should be provided with enough flexibility to cover the funding gaps in national plans, including those plans developed under the IHP framework.

⁷ These and other resource estimates for the health sector are preliminary and need to be verified through bottom-up assessments at the country level. See [Table 2](#) for more details.



4. Infrastructure and trade facilitation

The lack of transport, power, communication networks, water, sanitation and other infrastructure services poses severe constraints on economic growth, trade and poverty reduction across Africa. For example, with respect to electricity — an essential input for economic growth and achieving **MDG 1** — about 35 countries are currently experiencing a power crisis with frequent supply interruptions. The 700 million people in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) share a combined generation capacity equivalent to that of Argentina, a country of less than 40 million people. As a result, only one in four Africans has access to electricity, and this figure is barely 10 per cent in rural areas.

Yet, despite the widely recognized importance of infrastructure in Africa, infrastructure financing remains pitifully low. In particular, investments in transformational energy generation projects, including large-scale hydropower, and transmission networks need to be increased substantially if the continent is to meet the MDGs. In addition to capital investments, public expenditure on infrastructure maintenance must rise sharply, particularly in the transport sector. Of particular concern is the affordability of infrastructure services for end users to ensure effective access for the poor.

With a very large number of small economies, 15 landlocked countries and 63 shared river basins, Africa's infrastructure needs have to be addressed in a regional manner if countries are to reap the benefits of economies of scale, develop intra-African trade and enhance competitiveness in the global economy. Therefore, increased financing is required for regional power

pools, transport networks, backbone communication infrastructure (Figure 1), and transboundary water management.

Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns that result from climate change are expected to place an additional burden on African infrastructure. Wear and tear on roads will increase, leading to higher maintenance costs. Additional water storage will be required to adapt to increased climate variability, lessen the impact of extreme events, and provide steady water supplies for human consumption, agricultural use and power generation.

The feasibility of rapid progress in improving access to key infrastructure is underscored by recent experiences in the water sector. Owing to carefully designed programmes, which entailed a syndicated approach by the donor community, a number of African countries are on track to meeting the MDG water target. Similar progress can be made in other infrastructure sectors if sound strategies are matched with adequate domestic and external resources.

The MDG Africa Steering Group estimates that US\$52.2 billion per year will be required in public and private investment finance to resolve the critical infrastructure bottlenecks in Africa. About half of the financing will need to go towards energy. Some infrastructure investments — particularly information and communications technology, as well as some energy investments — can attract substantial private co-financing, while others, such as roads, require largely public financing in Africa. Of the aforementioned US\$52.2 billion, it is estimated that approximately US\$41.3 billion will require public financing, of which US\$23.5 billion need to be mobilized as external public financing (see Table 2 for

details). To meet this financing need, ODA for infrastructure must at least double by 2010. Brazil, China, India and other partners that are not members of the OECD/DAC are becoming increasingly important financiers in this sector. It is estimated that China already provides as much annual concessional and non-concessional financing for infrastructure projects in Africa as all OECD countries combined.

In addition to the contribution that improved national and regional infrastructure will make in enhancing the trade and growth prospects of African countries, greater efforts are needed to strengthen the institutional aspects of trade facilitation — such as efficient customs systems and efforts to promote regional standards through the Regional Economic Communities. Most African Least Developed Countries have completed Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies under the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance. These now need to be transformed into trade development and competitiveness strategies and require stepped-up and coordinated assistance from development partners to enable African countries to address key trade-related bottlenecks.

Key results that can be achieved with proven interventions:

- » Ensure adequate connectivity and infrastructure to increase productivity, ensure low-cost service delivery, and integrate African countries into the global economy through:
 - » Effective regional networks for roads, rail, canals, power pools, and information and communications technology to integrate African economies and to provide land-

Figure 1: Minimum required investments in Africa's regional power pools (red lines denote missing links)



- locked countries with reliable access to seaports;
- » Adequate rural and urban electrification;
- » Adequate transport grids, including major expansion of rural feeder roads;
- » Halve the proportion of people without access to adequate water supply and sanitation; and
- » Strengthen national and regional institutions to promote regional integration, regional infrastructure projects and trade facilitation across Africa.

Key recommendations:

- 4.1. Launch a “New Deal” for the energy sector to plan and build transformational generation and transmission facilities across Africa, and improve the performance of power utilities. Clean energy, in particular hydro-power, will need to play an important role in Africa’s power sector development and can help to contain greenhouse gas emissions. Additional investments are required in decentralized energy systems to increase access to fuels for domestic cooking and heating, motive power and off-grid electricity. Overall, ODA for energy needs to increase to US\$11.5 billion per year.
- 4.2. The international community should assist in financing regional infrastructure (e.g., road corridors, power pools, multipurpose water infrastructure, information and communications technology), as outlined in the African Union NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan and other regional plans. African countries need to budget adequately for such regional projects.

African countries and regional institutions need to allocate resources and develop capacity to prepare projects for funding from public, private and public-private sources. This will require a one-off US\$10 billion investment for power and transport networks, respectively, and an estimated US\$2 billion to complete regional broadband communications networks.⁸

- 4.3. The international community needs to support African countries in implementing national strategies to achieve the water supply and sanitation targets. This will require an estimated US\$5.8 billion per year in external financing. Additionally, some US\$0.8 billion will be required each year to invest in irrigation infrastructure.
- 4.4. ODA for infrastructure in Africa, including for water and sanitation facilities, needs to be at least doubled by 2010 and delivered through the infrastructure facilities set up by G8 bilateral development agencies, the African Development Bank, European Commission, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank (Table 2). All infrastructure investments in Africa need to be systematically climate-proofed.
- 4.5. The Enhanced Integrated Framework and Aid for Trade are important mechanisms for supporting country efforts to develop trade capacity and performance. They need to be fully operationalized. Bilateral and multilateral development partners should support interested African countries in preparing and implementing nationally-owned

⁸ These one-off investments have been included in the calculation of annual investment needs reported in Table 2.

and costed implementation plans that operationalize the trade facilitation recommendations of national Integrated Framework Trade Diagnostic Integration Studies.⁹ Similar country strategies and Aid for Trade needs assessments should be prepared by interested African countries that are not part of the Integrated Framework. In parallel, regional integration strategies within the regional economic communities need to be developed and implemented.

⁹ No robust estimates are available for the incremental financing needs for trade facilitation beyond core infrastructure. Currently, some US\$100 million is provided each year for trade facilitation in Africa. This amount would likely need to at least double to implement national strategies to enhance trade capacity and performance.

- 4.6. Multilateral and bilateral donors should increase the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to leverage public financing and strengthen collaboration with non-DAC donors and other partners through project co-financing and other new hybrid financing instruments.
- 4.7. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) should be strengthened to support the monitoring of infrastructure results, particularly in the transport and power sectors, where progress is necessary to achieve **MDG 1** on poverty and **MDG 7** on environmental sustainability. The ICA could be used to support the coordinated syndication of financing for national infrastructure strategies.



5. National statistical systems

The availability of high-quality statistics for monitoring progress toward the MDGs and development in general is improving, but remains inadequate in many African countries. The main causes lie in weak statistical capacity within national governments and, in some cases, low demand for data from users. There is a vicious cycle at work, whereby weak and underfunded statistical systems produce poor-quality and sometimes irrelevant statistics. As a result, users do not value the statistical products produced. Resource levels and statistical capacity consequently remain low.

With support from development partners, African countries need to increase public expenditure for national statistical systems to effectively monitor progress towards the MDGs and to inform national development strategies (including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)), and to implement the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF) — the regional follow-up mechanism to the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics, which was adopted in 2004.

Key results that can be achieved with proven interventions:

- » Successful completion of the 2010 census round;
- » Improved household survey programmes to inform and monitor strategies to achieve the MDGs;
- » Comprehensive systems for civil registration and vital statistics;
- » Improved statistical capacity for the analysis and dissemination of data to all relevant stakeholders and establishment

of sustainable training programmes accessible by all African countries;

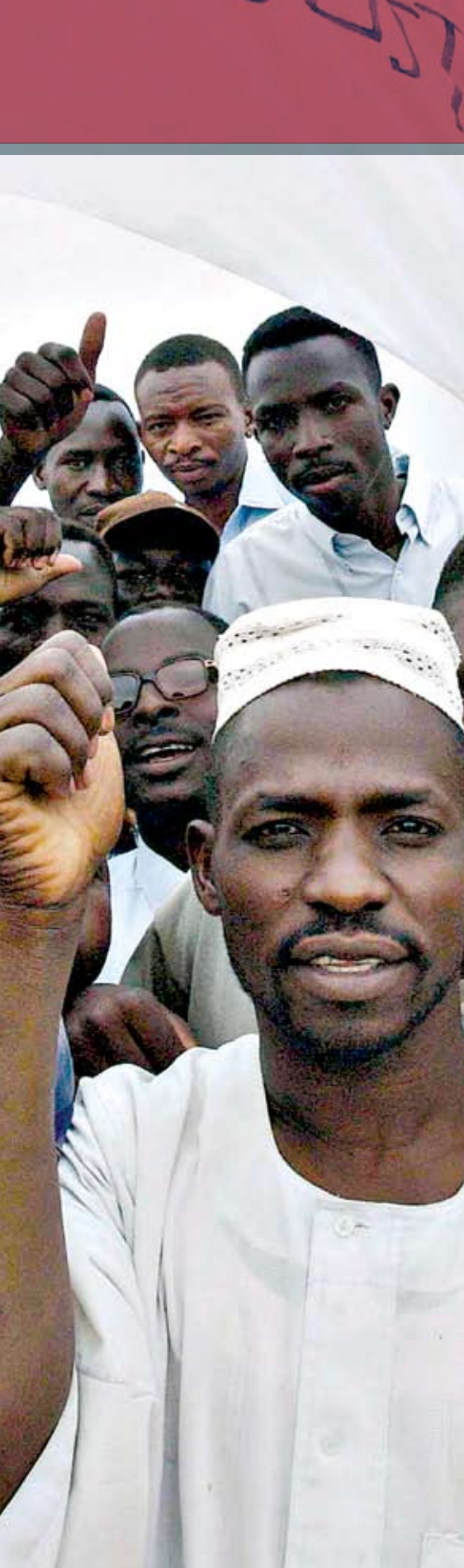
- » Improved capacity for the production and use of gender statistics; and
- » Harmonization of statistics across Africa to permit comparability.

Key recommendations:

- 5.1. Governments, with support from development partners, should finance and implement bankable National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to strengthen data systems and develop statistical capacity across Africa. In particular, support is required for the 2010 census round, the creation of national sys-

tems for civil registration and vital statistics, and the infrastructure to conduct enhanced and comparable socio-economic surveys across Africa. Approximately US\$250 million¹⁰ will be required annually in external financing to support needed investments and associated operating expenditure. Support for NSDS should be provided within the framework of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF).

¹⁰ An estimated US\$85 million for censuses, US\$50 million for household surveys, US\$80 million for Civil Registration/vital statistics, US\$20 million for institutional development and US\$15 million for other training activities.



6. Aid effectiveness and aid predictability

Progress in implementing the aid effectiveness agenda outlined in the Paris Declaration remains too slow. In particular, development partners need to overcome donor fragmentation; promote collaboration and complementarity, including a clearer division of labour; align their financing more clearly with country systems, strategies and policies; and increase budget support where possible. The rapidly growing importance of non-DAC high-income donors (e.g., Gulf States), South-South cooperation with partners such as Brazil, China and India, and large private foundations implies the need for renewed efforts on donor harmonization and aid effectiveness. The 2008 Accra High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness provides a major opportunity to accelerate progress in implementing the Paris Declaration. An important mechanism for integrating and harmonizing public expenditure and financial accountability is the multi-donor Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Partnership.

The MDG Africa Steering Group is particularly concerned that aid volumes are not yet in line with existing international commitments and that the disbursement of existing levels of development finance is not sufficiently predictable at the country level. Governments across the world committed to increase ODA at the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit and the May 2005 European Council, among other events, in the run-up to the UN World Summit in 2005. Yet, progress has fallen behind the pace implied by these commitments. African Governments, like those in other developing regions, are concerned that existing commitments to increase ODA in line with

the 2002 Monterrey Consensus, which promised concrete efforts toward the target of ODA equivalent to 0.7 per cent of GNI, may not materialize.

Today, African countries generally do not know how much development assistance they will receive in coming years or how it will be sequenced. The lack of predictability in aid disbursements makes it difficult for these Governments to plan public investments and current expenditure in the key MDG-related areas of agriculture, health, education and infrastructure. Unless reasonably accurate aid disbursement schedules can be drawn up on a country-by-country basis and reflected in national macroeconomic programmes, countries will not be in a position to effectively utilize existing development assistance and any increases that are made available. African Finance Ministers drew attention to the problems posed by insufficient predictability in ODA disbursements at their meeting in Addis Ababa during April 2007.

Following the adoption of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, awareness of the importance of aid predictability has increased at the technical level, but this has yet to translate into changes in donor practices that will enhance aid predictability sufficiently to ensure that African countries can initiate multi-year public expenditure programmes to achieve the MDGs. All donors need to review their procedures and initiate the practical steps required to issue multi-year schedules for scaling up aid on a country-by-country basis.

Key results:

- » Sufficient predictability in ODA disbursements to permit the programming of investments and the gradual expan-

sion of social service delivery to meet the MDGs;

- » Increased donor harmonization and division of labour to reduce transaction costs for the use of ODA by African Governments; and
- » Full alignment of development assistance with country systems and — where possible — a shift towards budget support to support national priorities and lower transaction costs.

Key recommendations:

- 6.1. Each country that provides development assistance should reconfirm its intention to fully implement the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness as well as its 2005 commitment to increase ODA, in line with the Monterrey Consensus commitment to make concrete efforts towards the target of ODA equal to 0.7 per cent of GNI.
- 6.2. Each bilateral donor should provide country-by-country schedules on how it will scale up its aid to Africa to meet existing commitments, including the Gleneagles and other commitments for 2010 that equate to an extra US\$25 billion to total US\$54 billion or US\$90 per capita at 2004 prices and exchange rates.¹¹
- 6.3. The African Development Bank, African Union, IMF, UN System and the World Bank should assist African Governments in maintaining strong domestic policy frameworks as well as designing policies and programmes for the effective use of projected aid increases

¹¹ This corresponds to US\$62 billion or some US\$105 per capita at 2007 exchange rates.

while maintaining macroeconomic growth and stability.

- 6.4. Governments and development partners should formalize compacts that outline each others' roles and responsibilities to ensure financing commitments are met and aligned with national systems; delineate a clear division of labour among donors; provide

for the use of budget support wherever appropriate; untie aid; design and implement any conditionality in a way that promotes predictability; and take account of existing sector programmes and other proposed advances in implementation.¹²

¹² Examples include the "MDG Contracts" promoted by the EC. See also recommendations 2.1 and 3.1.



7. Translating the MDGs into integrated programmes on the ground

The countries and communities where the poorest people live are the locus for implementing the MDGs, and it is here that the Goals need to be translated into bankable programmes that are efficient, identify clear responsibilities and can be monitored effectively. To date, however, country programmes in Africa remain constrained by insufficient as well as unpredictable financing and do not spell out the full set of policies and supporting public expenditure needed to achieve sustained economic growth and the MDGs.

The members of the Steering Group will support African Governments in strengthening their nationally-owned development strategies, including the PRSPs, to achieve country-specific goals for economic growth and internationally agreed development goals, such as the MDGs. In particular, the Steering Group is supporting the preparation of country case studies that outline results-based opportunities to increase expenditure and improve policies in support of achieving the MDGs. These country case studies will help demonstrate how commitments on policies and financing can be translated into programmes that spell out the responsibilities of Governments and development partners in implementing them.

Moreover, the Steering Group underscores the importance of strengthening coherence and coordination among development partners at the country level. The Paris Declaration provides a sound framework for coordination among development partners. In parallel, the UN System is increasing joint programming among its member organizations.

Key results:

- » Rigorous and bankable country strategies that, if fully implemented, will accelerate economic growth and achieve the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals.

Key recommendations:

- 7.1. The African Development Bank, African Union, IMF, UN System and World Bank should assist African Governments that request support in the preparation of “Gleneagles/MDG scenarios”. The scenarios will show how the international commitments, which

equate to an increase of development assistance to Africa to an average of some US\$105 per capita (US\$90 per capita in 2004 US\$ terms) by 2010, can be operationalized through the implementation of policies and programmes at the country and community level to achieve tangible results.¹³

The preparation of these scenarios will be coordinated with development partners at the country level.

¹³ Work is already underway in Benin, Central African Republic, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia. Other countries will be supported upon demand.

Table 1: The eight Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1:	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Target 1.A:	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.
Target 1.B:	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.
Target 1.C:	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
Goal 2:	Achieve universal primary education
Target 2.A:	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
Goal 3:	Promote gender equality and empower women
Target 3.A:	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.
Goal 4:	Reduce child mortality
Target 4.A:	Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.
Goal 5:	Improve maternal health
Target 5.A:	Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.
Target 5.B:	Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.
Goal 6:	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Target 6.A:	Halt and begin to reverse, by 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS.
Target 6.B:	Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.
Target 6.C:	Halt and begin to reverse, by 2015, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- Target 7.A:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
-
- Target 7.B:** Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.
-
- Target 7.C:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
-
- Target 7.D:** Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Target 8.A:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally.
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- Target 8.B:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries. This includes: tariff- and quota-free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.
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- Target 8.C:** Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly).
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- Target 8.D:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.
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- Target 8.E:** In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
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- Target 8.F:** In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies.
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Table 2: Summary of Scaling-up Opportunities in Africa

Scaling-up Opportunity	Summary of Key Results	Policy Leadership	Key Multilateral Financing Mechanisms (among several funding sources)	Estimated Public External Financing Needs by 2010 from All Funding Sources
Agricultural Productivity	<p>Launch the African Green Revolution through the CAADP framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Doubling of food yields by 2012 * Transformation to commercial agriculture * Strengthened agricultural research in Africa 	FAO, IFAD, World Bank, AU/NEPAD	All available bilateral and multilateral financing mechanisms	US\$8 billion per year ⁱ
Nutrition & School Feeding Programmes	<p>Eliminate stunting and chronic malnutrition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Universal access to critical micronutrients * Comprehensive school feeding * De-worming 	UNICEF, WFP, World Bank	UNICEF, World Food Programme (expansion of existing efforts)	US\$4 billion per year ⁱⁱ
Education	<p>Meet Education for All Goals and implement Plan of Action for Second Decade on Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Comprehensive early childhood care * Universal primary education * 50 per cent improvement in adult literacy * Gender equality in education * High-quality education * Expanded secondary, vocational and higher education 	AU, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank	Education for All Fast Track Initiative	US\$8.3 billion per year ⁱⁱⁱ
Health Systems, Child Survival, Maternal Health	<p>Build effective primary health systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Comprehensive primary health systems that meet demand and supply-side constraints * Adequate human resources for health, including paid community health workers * Universal access to immunization and key child survival interventions * Universal access to emergency obstetrical care, skilled birth attendants & other reproductive health services 	UNICEF, WHO	Global Fund health systems window & GAVI Alliance health systems window	US\$10 billion per year ^{iv}

Scaling-up Opportunity	Summary of Key Results	Policy Leadership	Key Multilateral Financing Mechanisms (among several funding sources)	Estimated Public External Financing Needs by 2010 from All Funding Sources
Family Planning	Universal access to family planning	UNFPA, WHO	UNFPA	US\$1 billion per year ^v
Vertical Disease Control Programmes	<p>Comprehensive control of AIDS, TB, Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Effective HIV prevention and universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010 * Malaria burden halved by 2010 (from 2000 levels) and malaria mortality reduction to near zero by 2015 * Control of TB through implementation of Global Stop TB Plan of Action * Sharply reduced morbidity and mortality from NTDs 	UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO	Global Fund	<p>Total US\$17 billion per year^{vi}, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * HIV/AIDS: US\$12 billion per year * Malaria: US\$2.4 billion per year * TB: US\$2.0 billion per year * NTDs: US\$0.5–1.0 billion per year
Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation	<p>Adequate connectivity and infrastructure to increase productivity, ensure low-cost service delivery, and integrate African countries into the global economy, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Effective regional networks for roads, rail, canals, power pools, ICT * Halve proportion of people without access to adequate water supply and sanitation * Adequate rural and urban electrification and access to other modern energy services * Adequate transport grids, including major expansion of rural feeder roads * Adequate institutions to promote trade facilitation across Africa 	AfDB, EC, World Bank	<p>World Bank–AfDB–EC-led consortium facilitated by Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA)</p> <p>AfDB's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative</p>	<p>Total US\$23.7 billion per year^{vii}, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Energy: US\$11.5 billion per year * Transport: US\$5.4 billion per year * Water & Sanitation: US\$5.8 billion per year * Irrigation: US\$0.8 billion per year * ICT: no public external finance needs * Trade facilitation: at least US\$0.2 billion per year^{viii}

Scaling-up Opportunity	Summary of Key Results	Policy Leadership	Key Multilateral Financing Mechanisms (among several funding sources)	Estimated Public External Financing Needs by 2010 from All Funding Sources
Statistics	<p>Implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Successful 2010 census round * Comprehensive vital registration * Harmonization of statistics across Africa 	ECA, DESA, World Bank	PARIS21 can syndicate	Some US\$0.25 billion per year ^{ix}
Achieving the MDGs in Africa	Comprehensive cross-sector public expenditure programmes against clear quantitative targets	Secretary-General & MDG Africa Steering Group, G8 leadership, African Union, private sector, foundations	All multilateral, bilateral, private mechanisms providing high-quality, predictable financing	Some US\$72 billion per year, of which US\$62 billion (in 2007 terms) from DAC members (as per Gleneagles and, inter alia, Monterrey Consensus and EU ODA targets), with additional financing from non-DAC donors, South-South collaboration, private foundations and innovative private co-financing

ⁱ Source: Preliminary estimates prepared for the Bellagio Working Group for the African Green Revolution (22 February 2008).

ⁱⁱ Source: WFP estimates, 2008.

ⁱⁱⁱ Source: Thematic Sub-Group on Education; Education Global Monitoring Report, 2008.

^{iv} Based on estimates by Commission on Macroeconomics and Health.

^v Source: Based on UN Millennium Project "Investing in Development", 2005.

^{vi} Source: GFATM "Resource needs for the Global Fund 2008-2010", 2007.

^{vii} Estimates cover only public external financing; source: Thematic Sub-Group on Infrastructure and Trade Facilitation.

^{viii} Assuming that current ODA for trade facilitation in Africa (excluding core infrastructure) will need to at least double. More robust estimates of financing needs will become available as countries prepare their Integrated Framework Trade Diagnostic Integration Studies.

^{ix} Source: PARIS21, Information collated for the Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics and establishment of the World Bank-managed "Statistics for Results Facility".

ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals in Africa holds the promise of saving millions of lives, ending the scourge of hunger and malnutrition, and ensuring that Africa's children are empowered through education and good health to lead productive lives.

Investing in the Millennium Development Goals is a critical step in charting a course towards sustained stability and economic growth that will build capital, attract foreign investment and overcome Africa's current dependence on external assistance.

Since the Millennium Development Goals are too important to fail, the second half of the MDG period, which begins this year, must focus squarely on scaling up proven interventions to achieve the Goals.

The evidence surveyed by the MDG Africa Steering Group demonstrates that — if fully implemented — the recommendations contained in this document will produce substantial and verifiable results. They will take countries closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and lay the foundation for robust economic growth.

The targeted efforts to scale up the proven interventions recommended in this document map out an ambitious, but feasible, agenda that needs to be launched during 2008. The members of the Steering Group hope that world leaders will take up these recommendations and commit to implement them.

For more information, see: **www.mdgafrica.org**
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