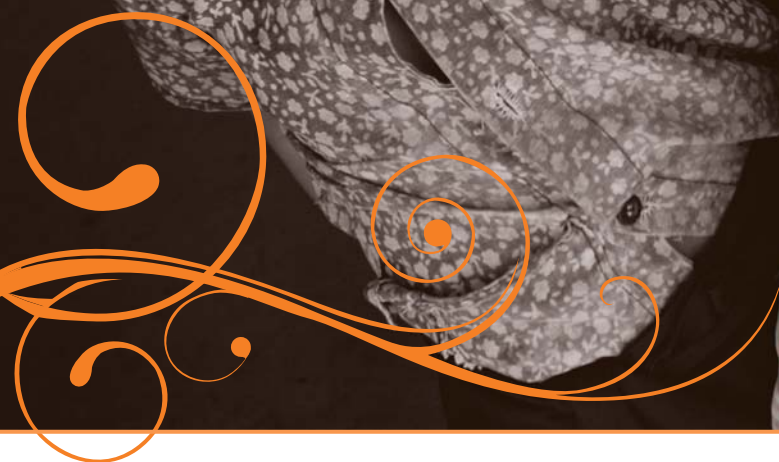


Millennium Development Goal 8 Review

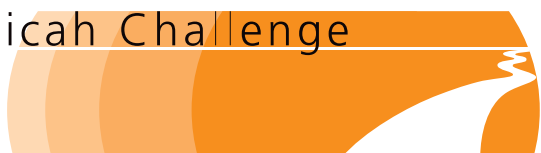
Australia 2009

A report from Make Poverty History
and Micah Challenge



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

Micah Challenge



Introduction

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.

- Declaration by World Leaders, September 2000

[It is our] aspiration to achieve the 0.7 per cent target that the international community has embraced.

- Kevin Rudd, speech to Lowy Institute, July 2007

81% of Australians believe that Australia should join other nations and lift aid to 0.7% of national income by 2015.

- Quantum Market Research survey of Australian attitudes to aid, June 2009

Almost a decade after the promise was made by world leaders there has been mixed success in reducing poverty. While substantial progress has been made on a number of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), for many countries progress has fallen behind our collective ambitions. Figure 1 summarises progress towards the Goals in our neighbouring regions and globally. At the end of the report is a list of the Goals and their targets.

In this report we consider Australia's progress against Millennium Development Goal 8, which relates particularly to the responsibilities of richer countries. Goal 8, to build a partnership for development, commits developed countries such as Australia to support the developing countries in their efforts through more and better aid, fairer international trade and debt arrangements and other forms of assistance. In assessing Australia's contribution to the MDGs we have reviewed the key areas of action agreed to by Australia in the Millennium Declaration – these are listed in Table 1 and provide the reporting framework for this paper.

This assessment takes place in the context of the "global financial crisis". While the effects of the crisis are keenly felt by those Australian's who have lost their jobs, the impacts are even more keenly felt by people living in communities far more vulnerable than ours. For people living in extreme poverty this is just one of a number of ongoing crises that threaten to impede progress of the Millennium Development Goals.

The food crisis: in recent years food prices have escalated dramatically and it is estimated they will stay high¹. This has contributed to a rise of more than 100 million in the number of undernourished people in the world².

The financial crisis: declining economic growth will see millions of the world's poorest lose their jobs. At the same time, decreased tax receipts and difficulty in accessing finance will see many developing countries unable to provide basic services to their people, yielding devastating impacts such as an estimated 200,000-400,000 more infant deaths each year³.

The climate crisis: climate change will have the harshest impacts on the world's poor. Reports from developing countries suggest these adverse impacts are already being felt, yet the poor have the least capacity to adapt⁴. The science is increasingly showing that the need for action, over and above aid commitments, is urgent. We will all benefit if we can help all nations along a "green growth" path.

The trade crisis: the 'Doha' round of trade talks, designed to address issues of concern to developing countries, has collapsed.

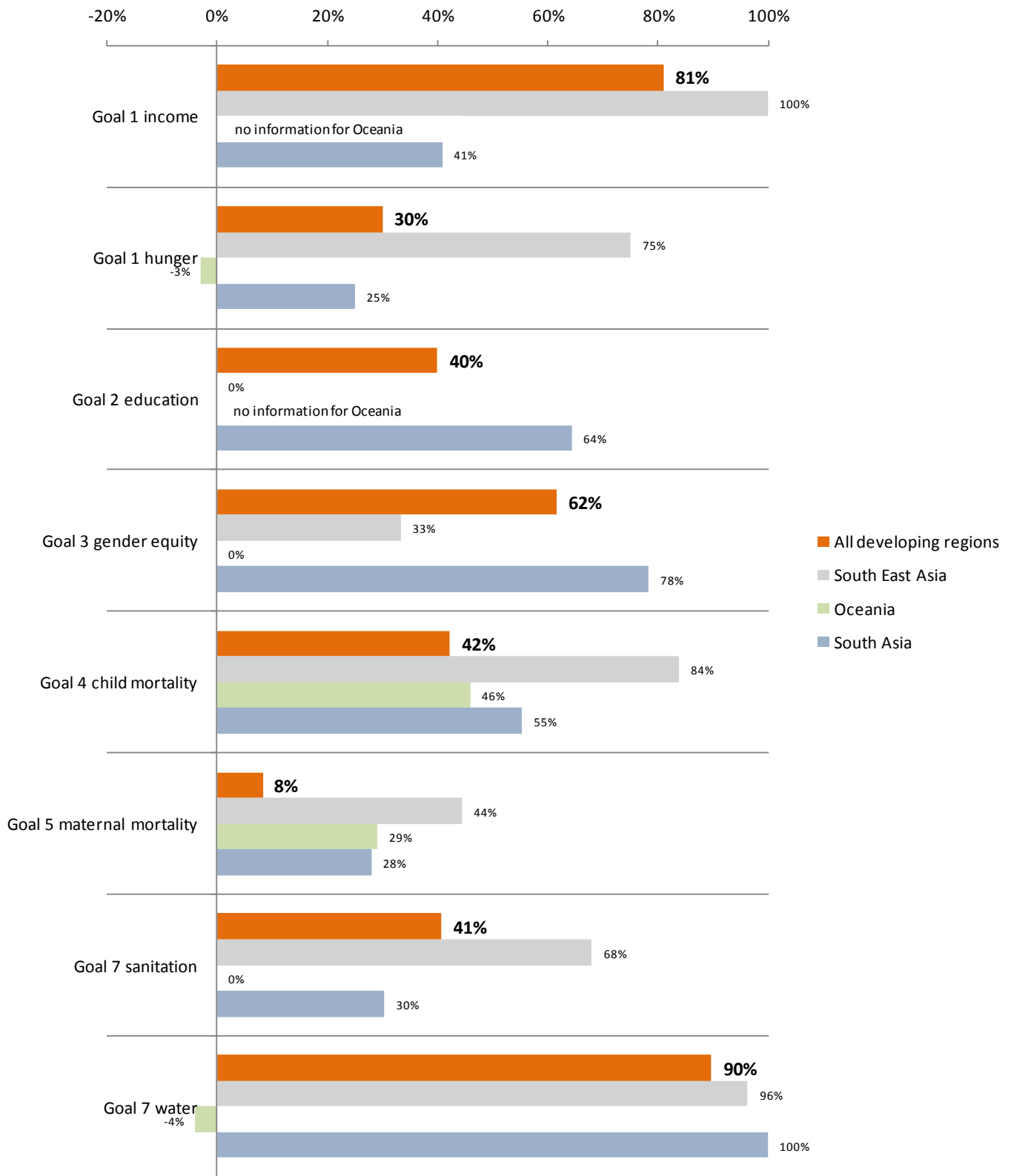
This fourth review by Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge of Australia's MDG performance has two major conclusions:

- Australia's contribution to the MDGs has improved greatly since our last assessment in 2007. In fact, as Table 1 shows, for the first time we have provided a 'good pass' score to the Australian government for its overall performance on the MDGs, and;
- There are many additional things that Australia can and should do to help developing countries reach the MDG targets.

The table below summarises the scoring for each assessment criterion and highlights further steps we believe the Government should take to help countries achieve the MDGs. The assessment of progress and further steps are then explained in more depth in the body of the report.

As the deadline to achieve the MDGs by 2015 looms closer, Australia must go beyond aspirations and set concrete steps in place to give more and better aid, ensure trade justice, cancel poor country debt, support good governance and tackle climate change - to do our fair share to halve global poverty.

Figure 1 How far are we along the MDG path? Neighbouring regions and overall



Source: UN MDG Report 2009 and Statistical Annex.

Notes: Goal 1 poverty – Proportion of population living on less than \$1.25 a day, Goal 1 hunger - Proportion of population undernourished, Goal 2 – Net enrolment ratio in primary school, Goal 3- Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, Goal 6 - to have halted the spread of the major infectious diseases is not included in this chart because of difficulty in assigning a percentage achieved score. In most places there has been a drop in new infections from the major infectious diseases however in many countries the rates of infection are still high.

Table 1 Australia's 2009 MDG Goal 8 performance in summary

Key area	Opportunities for improvement	2005 score	2006 score	2007 score	2009 score
a) A coherent whole of government approach in support of the MDGs	Still some way to go to ensure whole of government support for the MDGs – for example there appears to be little or no progress in girl’s education and the rights of women in Afghanistan; Australia is not reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Greater whole of government support for specific MDGs would increase impact.	1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4
b) Fairer trade	Australia could provide stronger and more consistent support for developing countries in trade talks and within the World Trade Organisation. The importance of trade capacity building justifies increased aid in this area. The Government should ensure that Pacific Island nations are able to proceed with PACER Plus negotiations at their pace.	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4
c) Adequate volume of aid	The significant needs in the region and globally justify a much greater commitment to aid. The Government should meet the international targets agreed by most other donors to reach 0.7% by 2015.	1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4
d) Aid support for least developed countries (LDCs)	Cambodia and Laos stand out as the two LDCs in our region that would benefit from greater Australian support. Greater support to the Global Fund and the World Bank would assist other LDCs outside our region.	1/4	1/4	1/2	1/2
e) Aid support for small island states	Urgent action is required from Australia to reduce our contribution to climate change. There are concerns that Australia is pushing trade agreements that are not in the Pacific people’s interests and have not been adequately considered by communities in the region.	3/4	3/4	3/4	3/4
f) Aid support for landlocked countries	Laos would benefit from further increases in support. The expanding program of Australian assistance to Africa should consider the specific needs of landlocked nations.	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/2
g) A poverty focused aid program	There is a need to continue to increase funding for the poorer countries in our region – those countries with the greatest number of poor do not receive the most funds. Australia also needs to continue increasing funding for basic social services as we are still well below our fair share. More active engagement is required with multilaterals to increase their effectiveness and focus on poverty reduction, and more support for NGOs.	1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4
h) Aid focused on the MDGs	Further work is needed to integrate the MDGs more into planning, monitoring and evaluation and to support the MDG plans of developing countries. Further increases in funding are required for basic social services and food security to reach our fair share. Even greater effort on supporting women’s equality is required.	1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4
i) Aid aligned with developing country systems & harmonised with other donors	Increase the level of aid to the international volume targets, integrate the MDGs more in planning and continue to build greater alignment with developing country plans and systems and greater harmonisation with other donors. Need to make our aid more predictable and long-term so that developing nations can plan around it.	1/4	1/2	1/2	3/4
j) Adequate MDG monitoring and reporting	The Office of Development Effectiveness should place MDG performance at the centre of its reviews. Further improve the detail and timeliness of AusAID publications and web documents. Ensure communities that host our aid programs have more say in their evaluation. Assist Pacific countries to adequately monitor their MDG performance.	0	0	1/4	1/2
k) Sustainable debt and financial systems	Australia needs to more actively seek solutions to developing country debt problems and to help lead initiatives to make the international financial system fairer for poor countries such as restricting opportunities for capital flight and tax avoidance.	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
l) Environmental sustainability	Increased aid is required to finance the new environment strategy. Effective action should also be taken to reduce Australia’s greenhouse footprint, assist other countries to reduce theirs and greater support provided for developing countries affected by climate change.	3/4	1/2	1/2	1/4
m) Generating productive work for young people	Continue to expand vocational education activities, provide much greater microfinance funding and lift the proportion of Australia’s aid budget spent within developing countries.	1/4	1/4	1/2	1/2
n) Access to lifesaving medicines	Health funding needs to increase further. Australia could also do much more to support relevant public and private health research and protect rights to essential medicines.	1/4	1/4	1/2	3/4
o) Access to modern technology	Increased funding for research into developing country priority needs, greater encouragement of corporate action to assist developing countries and assistance with information technology to improve MDG monitoring. Much greater support for the sharing of renewable energy technologies.	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
Sum of scores as a %		35 %	35 %	48 %	60 %

Goal 8 Assessment in Detail

A - Coherent whole of government approach in support of the MDGs

Progress since the last report – There is now much greater integration of the MDGs in aid planning and implementation, increased support for multilateral initiatives, establishment of a health debt swap in Indonesia and some efforts by Australia to promote G20 support for developing nations during the global financial crisis.

Opportunities for improvement – While AusAID has significantly increased its support for the MDGs there is still some way to go to ensure whole of government support. For example:

- there appears to be little or no progress in girls education and the rights of women in Afghanistan
- greater effort is required to steer the G20 to assist developing nations, and
- the Australian government needs to act quickly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Greater whole of government support for specific MDGs would increase impact.

B - Fairer trade

Progress since the last report - Australia has maintained its low levels of protection and continued to campaign for reduced agricultural trade barriers and subsidies in international forums.

However, there has been little movement on the Doha round of trade talks as developed countries have failed to live up to their commitments to make this a development round.

Opportunities for improvement - Australia could provide stronger and more consistent support for developing countries in trade talks and within the World Trade Organisation. The importance of trade capacity building justifies further increased aid in this area.

While agreement to start the PACER Plus trade negotiations was reached at the Pacific Islands Forum it is important that the Australian government proceeds at a time and pace that allows under-resourced Pacific nations to participate fully and meaningfully in those negotiations and to determine the type of trade agreement that is in their interests. It is also important that the Australian government develop proposals that puts development of the Pacific at their core. This crucial policy work has yet to be done by the Australian government.

C - Adequate volume of aid

Progress since the last report - Aid was increased this year to \$3.8 billion (0.34% of GNI) and the Government has reiterated its commitment to reach 0.5% of GNI by 2015.

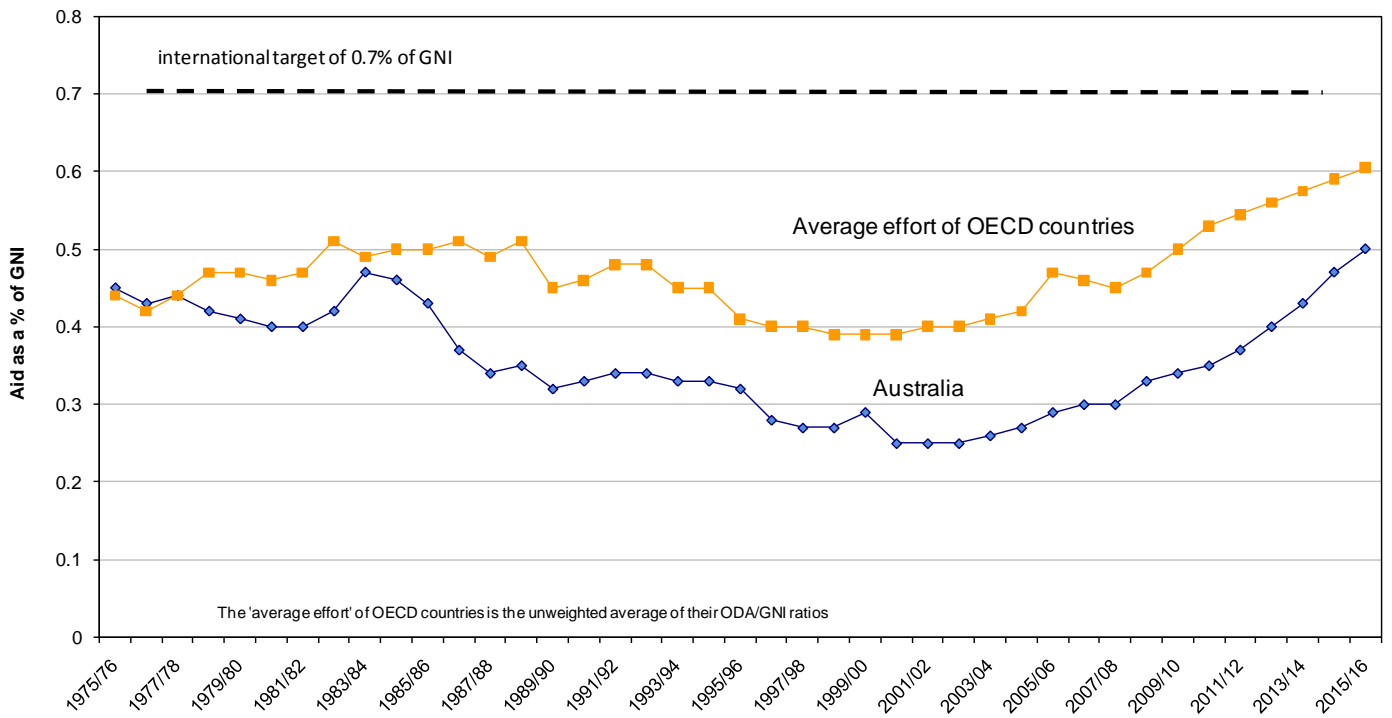
Opportunities for improvement - The significant needs in the region and globally, and the impacts of the global economic crisis, justify a much greater commitment to aid. The Government should meet the international targets agreed by most other donors to reach 0.7% by 2015.

Recent opinion research indicates that four in five Australians support Australia joining other nations and committing to lift aid to 0.7% of GNI by 2015. 0.7% would represent only around 2.3% of the federal budget – a much lower share than most Australian's think is now spent on aid.⁵

The previous government committed to lift aid to around \$4 billion by 2010. On present commitments the current government will meet this and then lift aid to 0.5% of GNI by 2015. However it is important that the increases are achieved early in this period as the current needs are significant and MDG progress is inadequate in many countries.

The chart below indicates that on current trends Australia will still be significantly lagging behind the OECD aid volume average effort by 2015.

Figure 2 Australian aid levels compared with the average effort of OECD donor countries including projected levels to 2015



Source: DAC Development Cooperation Reports 1982-2008, DAC preliminary data on development assistance for 2008, AusAID budget papers



D - Aid support for the least developed countries

Progress since the last report - The level of funding for least developed countries (LDCs) as a share of gross national income has remained fairly constant since 2007.

Opportunities for improvement - Cambodia and Laos stand out as the two LDCs in our region that would benefit from greater Australian support. Greater support to multilaterals would assist other LDCs outside our region.

The internationally agreed target of aid to LDCs is between 0.15 and 0.20% of GNI⁶. The latest international comparison covers 2006 and 2007 and indicates that Australia's share of aid to LDCs, including aid through multilaterals, was 0.08% of GNI. This compared with an average of 0.15% for all donors⁷.

E - Aid support for small island states

Small Island States are particularly susceptible to economic shocks, natural disasters and environmental problems. They also suffer from a lack of economies of scale, high transportation and communication expenses, and costly public administration and infrastructure. For this reason they are given special attention in the MDGs.

Progress since the last report - The Government is maintaining its high level of support and commitment to the Pacific and has increased the emphasis on partnership.

Opportunities for improvement - Urgent action is required from Australia to reduce our contribution to climate change. There are also concerns that Australia is pushing trade agreements that are not in the Pacific people's interests and have not been adequately considered by communities in the region.



Poor landlocked countries face significant difficulties in achieving trade growth and therefore receive special attention in the MDGs. There are 31 poor landlocked countries – 15 in Africa, 10 in Eastern Europe and North Asia, 2 in South America and 4 in South and East Asia: Mongolia, Laos, Bhutan and Nepal.

Progress since the last report - Aid for landlocked countries has grown with the increase in support for multilateral agencies and increases to Laos, Nepal and Africa.

Opportunities for improvement - Laos would benefit from further increases in support and the expanding program of Australian assistance to Africa should consider the specific needs of landlocked nations.

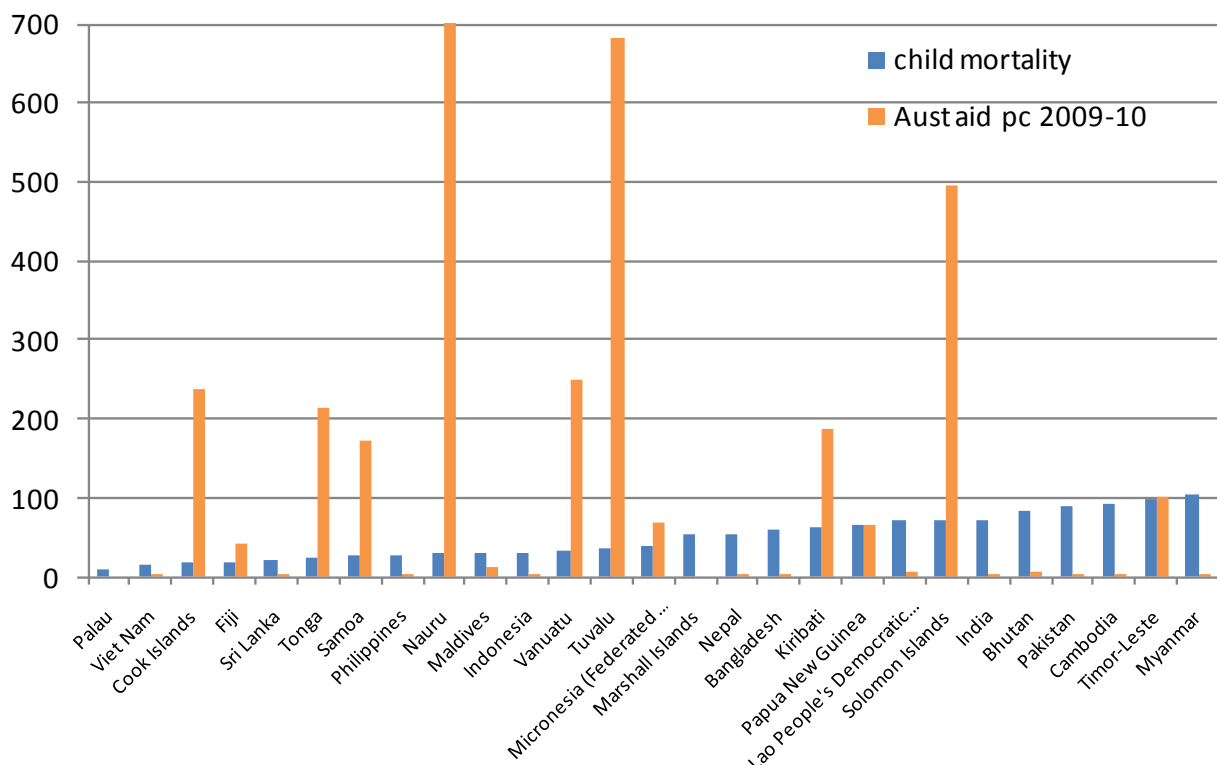
G - A poverty focused aid program

Progress since the last report - The Government has increased financial support for basic social services and for multilateral agencies and increased aid funding for Africa. Australia has encouraged the G20 to implement pro-poor policies and AusAID has tried to target its aid at those most affected by the Global Financial Crisis.

Opportunities for improvement – Australia should increase its efforts to shape pro-poor policies by the G20.

There is also a need to continue to increase funding for the poorer countries in our region. This will require a significant increase in the total volume of aid leading to a redistribution of aid towards the countries in our region with the most poor people. The chart below shows that our aid is not yet focussed on those countries in the region with the greatest need.

Figure 3 Australian country allocated aid per capita (A\$) in the 2009-10 budget vs child mortality rate



Source: AusAID budget papers and UNICEF State of the World's Children 2009 Annex Table 1

To increase further Australia’s focus on poverty reduction will require continuing increases to the level of support for basic social services as we are still well below our fair share⁸. This is discussed further in the next section. In addition the Government should increase the share of aid that is allocated through NGOs as they tend to work with the poorest groups in each country.

Finally the Government should ensure that AusAID, DFAT and Treasury engage more actively with the multilateral agencies that Australia funds in order to increase their effectiveness and focus on poverty reduction. As a first step AusAID should complete and implement its multilateral engagement strategy.

H - Aid focused on the MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals are most likely to be achieved through a combination of action by developing countries to improve their economic governance and provision of basic services as well as by developed country support in the form of debt relief, more open trade and long-term, predictable financial assistance to those low income countries that do not have the resources at this stage to meet all of their MDG financing needs.

This means that aid needs to be focussed on supporting countries to achieve the education, nutrition and health goals as well as helping to reduce income poverty through general and targeted economic growth.

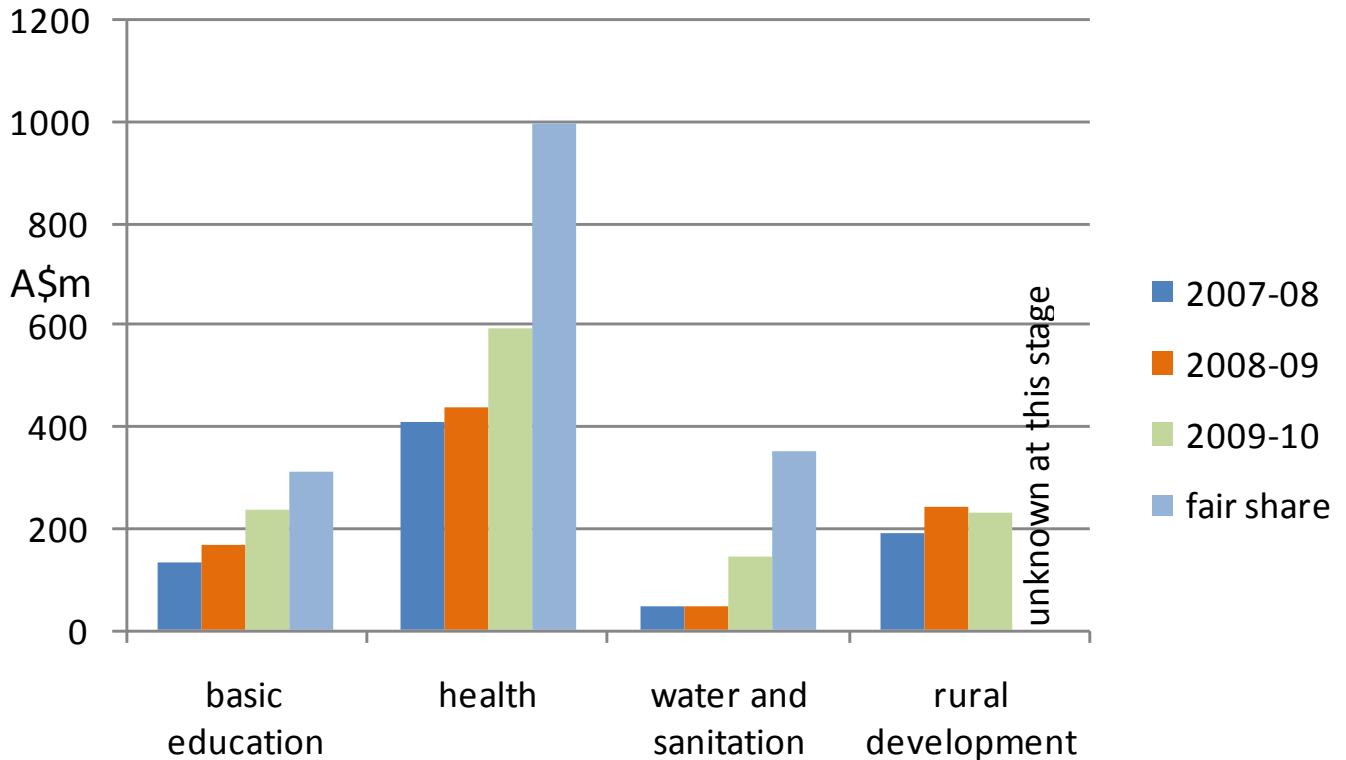
Progress since the last report - There has been significant improvement in this area with: integration of the MDGs into country plans; greater support for multilateral MDG initiatives; large increases in funding for basic education, health, water and sanitation; greater cooperation with the NGO sector in promotion of the MDGs.

Opportunities for improvement - Further work is needed to integrate the MDGs more into planning, monitoring and evaluation and to support the MDG plans of developing country partners. Sanitation and water in particular need to be given a stronger presence in AusAID planning and country strategies and would benefit from having an annual sector review as occurs for other sectors and increased advisory resources on sanitation and hygiene. AusAID should also report expenditure on sanitation separately from water as sanitation progress is lagging and requires greater focus from governments.

Further increases in funding are also required for basic social services and food security to reach our fair share of this funding and even greater efforts should be made to support gender equity in our developing country partners.

The chart below shows the significant recent increases in health and education funding and highlights the distance yet to go to reach our fair share of funding for these key sectors.

Figure 4 Trends in key sector funding compared with our fair share⁹



Source: AusAID budget papers and MPH fair share calculations

I - Aid aligned with developing country plans and systems and harmonised with other donors

Aligning aid around each recipient country's development plans and systems and harmonising support amongst donors is critical to improving the effectiveness of aid. In 2005 donor and recipients countries signed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness – in doing so they agreed to greatly improve the alignment and harmonisation of aid by 2010.

Progress since the last report - There has been continued progress in this area, however from a low base. The Government has significantly increased cooperative action with other donors, extended the use of partner country financial and procurement systems and moved to improve the relevance and quality of technical assistance

The OECD review of Paris Declaration commitments found that Australia had improved in several areas but still had some way to go.

Table 3 Summary of Australian compliance with Paris Declaration commitments¹⁰

	2005	2007
Aid flows are aligned on national priorities	29%	25%
Co-ordinated technical support	23%	36%
Use of country public financial management systems	6%	13%
Use of country procurement systems	5%	16%
Aid is more predictable	33%	39%
Aid is untied	54%	100%
Joint missions	7%	41%
Joint country analytic work	25%	78%

Opportunities for improvement – Australia should increase the level of aid to the international volume targets, further integrate the MDGs in planning, continue to build greater alignment with developing country plans and systems and enhance cooperation with other country donors and multilaterals. It is also critical that Australia's aid is more predictable and long-term so that developing nations can plan better around it.

J - Adequate MDG monitoring and reporting

Progress since the last report - The MDGs are being progressively integrated into country strategies, AusAID is reporting on MDG performance of Pacific countries and supporting initiatives for greater community involvement around aid and the MDGs.

Opportunities for improvement - The Office of Development Effectiveness should place MDG performance at the centre of its review processes. The detail and timeliness of AusAID publications and web documents should be further improved, it is currently not possible to obtain an up to date view of activity level spending. Communities that host Australian aid programs should have more say in their evaluation. Australia should provide further assistance to Pacific countries to adequately monitor their MDG performance.

K - Sustainable debt and financial systems

Progress since the last report – There has been little change in overall debt issues with developing countries, however the Australian government has committed to a health for development swap with Indonesia.

The Australian government has been promoting the G20 as the body to coordinate the global economic response to the financial crisis. Although the G20 is an improvement from the G7 in terms of representation, to date it has promoted solutions that are inadequate.

Opportunities for improvement - Australia needs to seek solutions more actively to developing country debt and financial problems and to help lead initiatives in this area.

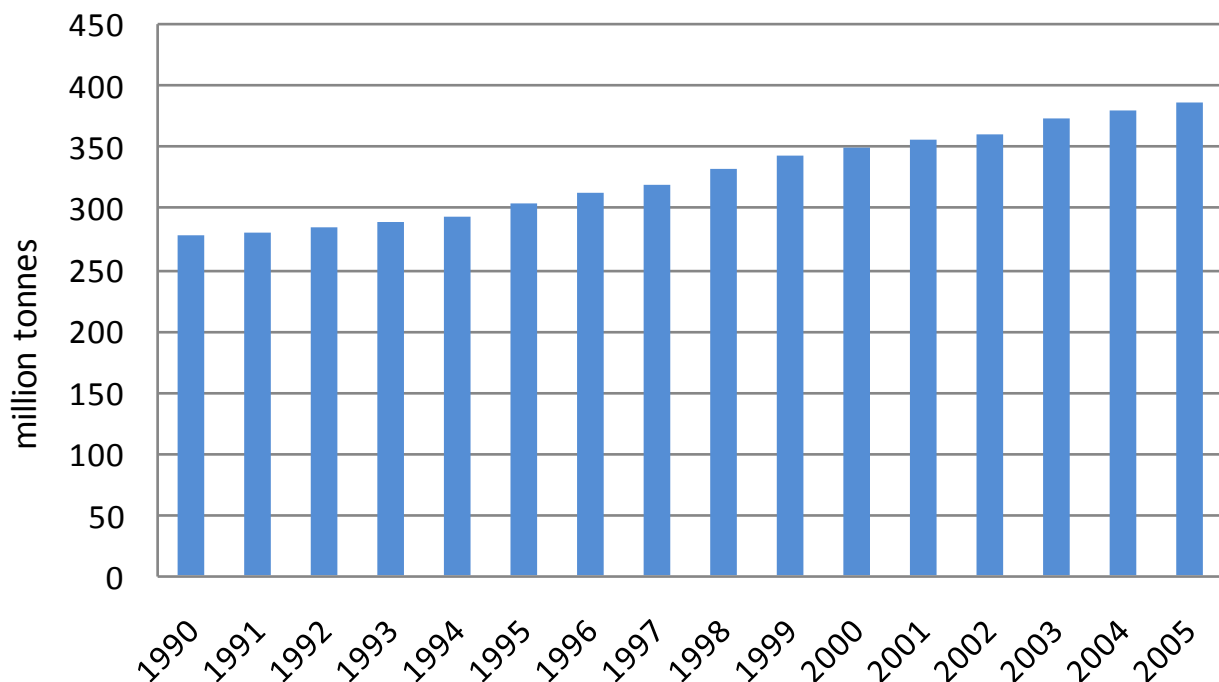
As well as promoting adequate financial support and debt handling for countries during and after the financial crisis, Australia should work with other nations to:

- establish fairer international financial rules including more democratic global governance structures
- reduce opportunities for capital flight and tax avoidance
- reform the Bretton Woods Institutions to make them more accountable and transparent
- reduce IMF macroeconomic constraints on essential services in low income countries, and
- strengthen the UN's role in managing the global economy.

L - Environmental sustainability

Progress since the last report – Australia has provided some support for climate change adaption measures in our region.

Figure 5 Growth in Australian CO2 emissions



Source: UNFCCC via UNDP Millennium Indicators database

Opportunities for improvement - Increased aid is required to finance the new AusAID environment strategy. Assistance for developing countries to adapt to climate change effects should be rapidly increased in line with need and be additional to current aid commitments to reach 0.7% of GNI.

Since the last report the science has indicated that the situation is deteriorating more quickly and that the need for substantial action is now urgent. Australia should play an active role in the Copenhagen deliberations to obtain:

- an agreed international strategy that reduces temperature increases to no more than two degrees Celsius, and
- adequate international financial support for mitigation and adaptation measure in developing countries. The funds should be distributed through a UN coordinated mechanism and be provided as grants rather than loans in order to avoid creating future debt problems for developing countries and also because these countries did not contribute significantly to creating the problem.

Effective action should also be taken to reduce Australia's greenhouse emissions by 40% by 2020. The chart above shows the recent rapid increases in Australia's already high level of emissions.

M - Generating productive work for young people

Progress since the last report – There have been continued efforts to improve economic governance, some small scale enterprise funding and continued efforts in vocational education support. The Government also established a trial seasonal worker program and plans to expand microcredit funding.

Opportunities for improvement – Australia should continue to expand its vocational education support, provide much greater microfinance funding and lift the proportion of Australia's aid budget spent within developing countries.

N - Access to lifesaving medicines

Progress since the last report – There is now much greater support for health systems and multilateral health initiatives as well as better coordination with other donors on health issues. The Government has also continued support for drug procurement and distribution in the Pacific.

Opportunities for improvement – Health funding needs to increase further from the approximate \$600m this year to around \$1000 million. Australia could also play a more active role to protect people's right to essential medicines and do much more to support relevant public and private health research. AusAID should consider greatly expanding funding opportunities for Australian and other scientists to focus on meeting the health needs of people in developing countries; should join with other countries in future Advance Market Commitments and consider developing a prize scheme to encourage research and innovation in this area.

O - Access to modern technology

Progress since the last report – There has been little progress.

Opportunities for improvement – AusAID should increase funding for research into developing country priority needs, provide greater encouragement of corporate action to assist developing countries and provide assistance with information technology to improve MDG monitoring. Australia should also provide much greater support for the sharing of renewable energy technologies with developing countries and work to reach an effective international agreement on this in international climate change negotiations.

References

- ¹ FAO Food Price Index. <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/FoodPricesIndex/en/> - accessed March 26, 2009.
- ² FAO 2009 *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008*. The World Bank's *Global Monitoring Report 2009* estimates that despite a fall in food prices since mid-2008, 100 million of those pushed into poverty by high food prices would remain poor.
- ³ World Bank 2009 *The Global Economic Crisis: Assessing Vulnerability with a Poverty Lens* and World Bank (Feb 2009), "Crisis Hitting Poor Hard in Developing World, World Bank says" <http://go.worldbank.org/PGNOX87VO0>
- ⁴ World Bank, <http://go.worldbank.org/VRETHAGHE0> - accessed March 26, 2009.
- ⁵ Quantum Market Research 2009 *World Vision Island Nation Research Report*, July 2009.
- ⁶ UN *Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries* Brussels, 2001.
- ⁷ OECD DAC *Development Cooperation Report 2009* Table 7.
- ⁸ See Note 9.
- ⁹ Fair share calculation is based on Australia's fair share being 2% of the best available estimate of total aid required for each sector and 70c exchange rate with US dollar. Australia has approximately 2% of OECD donor income.
- ¹⁰ OECD 2008 *DAC Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration* Table C.3.

Photos courtesy of World Vision Australia

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS

Goal 1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Target 1a: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Target 1b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Target 1c: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Target 2a: 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 3a: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Target 4a: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Goal 5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Target 5a: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Target 5b: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

Goal 6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Target 6a: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target 6b: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Target 6c: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Target 7a: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Target 7c: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Target 7d: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Goal 8 DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Target 8a: 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

Target 8b: Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

Target 8c: Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

Target 8d: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Target 8e: In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Target 8f: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

Target 8g: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Source: www.developmentgoals.org



Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge are coalition campaigns supported by more than 60 aid and development groups in Australia.

The campaigns call on our leaders to make the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a reality – so we can see global poverty halved by 2015.

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