



MICAH Challenge is a global campaign to mobilize Christians against poverty. The campaign aims to (1) deepen Christian engagement with impoverished and marginalised communities, and (2) to influence leaders of rich and poor nations to fulfil their promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These two aims - one looking **inward** and calling on Christians, and the other looking **outward** and calling on leaders - are **interlocked**. For many Christians, churches, and Christian organisations, engagement in political advocacy with poor communities will be a new step built upon a new understanding of Christ's mission for the church. Micah Challenge is encouraging these Christians to **explore and embrace 'integral mission'**. While for many Christians who are already engaged in work with poor communities, Micah Challenge offers a global framework for speaking up with the poor, particularly for achievement of the MDGs.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

During the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000, all 189 UN Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration, which contained a group of goals and targets that have since become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals, working together, aim to halve poverty by 2015.

The Goals include measurable, time-bound targets addressing poverty and hunger, education, maternal and child health, the prevalence of diseases including HIV/AIDs, gender equality, the environment, debt, trade justice and aid.

The Millennium Declaration

The MDGs are derived from the broader "Millennium Declaration" that was signed in 2000 by all UN member states. Please take a moment to scan the Millennium Declaration. It reaffirms values including equality, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for the condition of all peoples. It relates the MDGs to an even a broader context, including peace and human rights.

Goal 1: Hunger

- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2: Ensure access to primary schooling for all children

- 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

- 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

- Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the number of children 5 years old or younger who die from preventable illnesses

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the number of women who die giving birth

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- 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 (trade/aid/debt)

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
- Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) [Includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) for countries committed to poverty reduction]
- Address the Special Needs of landlocked 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 22nd special session of the General Assembly)
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries
- In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications