CENTER FOR MDGS



Costruzione di una rete europea per la sensibilizzazione e l'educazione allo sviluppo sugli Obiettivi del Millennio nelle autorità locali e nei sistemi di educazione formale

Insieme per gli Obiettivi del Millennio: 8 modi per cambiare il mondo



Human Development and International challenges

"Human development is the expansion of people's freedoms to live long, healthy and creative lives; to advance other goals they have reason to value; and to engage actively in shaping development equitably and sustainably on a shared planet. People are both the beneficiaries and the drivers of human development, as individuals and in groups."

Taken from the Human Development Report 2010, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This is how the most recent Human Development Report, published in 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), reaffirms and redefines the idea of human development, spotlighting and magnifying an innovative concept that is more relevant today than when it was first introduced in the 1990 Human Development Report. This concept revolutionised traditional ideas of development, which were previously confined to the topic of economic growth, by proposing an approach centred around human beings with our fundamental needs and aspirations and attentive to the potential of development strategies to secure equal opportunities

for future generations as well. The progression of this concept in recent years, while remaining faithful to the original understanding of human development as "enlarging people's choices," has also shown how crucial it is that a development focused on people be long-lasting and sustainable. In other words, it must be able to maintain positive results over time and attack the core systems that minimize those in poverty and perpetuate conditions of oppression and structural injustice. This approach highlights fundamental aspects of the human development strategy such as equality, justice, sustainability, respect for human rights, and empowerment. Human development also means giving people the opportunity to make personal choices and participate in decision-making processes including collaboration on development policies. Hence, this approach can be applied to all contexts in all countries, both rich and impoverished, and set a standard for the new century.

Starting with the first Human Development Report in 1990 and its revolutionary conception of development, the '90s were a period of great turmoil as seen in the long series of back-to-back United Nations World Summits that brought international attention to many issues essential to the creation of human development policies. Especially memorable were the following: the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993; the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994; the World Conference on Women held in Beijing and the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995; and the 1996 publication of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's DAC report "Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Cooperation" which defined seven goals underlining the



fundamental importance of active participation by all governments in the international community in managing globally relevant issues. These same objectives would be taken up again in 2000.

These intense worldwide debates, reinforced by the annual Human Development Reports put out by the UNDP, gradually brought the primary players in the international community to a new awareness and a greater maturity regarding global challenges. It began to be understood that these challenges could only be addressed effectively if everyone took an active responsibility for reaching a clear set of shared objectives.

This brings us to September of 2000 at the historic Millennium Summit, during which 189 heads of state and government leaders ceremoniously gathered in the United Nations' General Assembly and adopted the Millennium Declaration, a commitment to eradicate extreme poverty by the year 2015 through a definite and time-tabled plan of action summarised in eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The international political scene from 2000 until today has been characterised by major shifts and new challenges concerning the environment, climate change, global economic crises, and Official Development Assistance. Throughout it all, the discussion on human development continues to evolve; in 2002, the issue of sustainable development was taken on at the World Summit in Johannesburg; in 2005, Paris hosted the extremely significant High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, during which the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was adopted; and finally, the 2008 Summit on the Efficiency of Development Cooperation was held in Accra. As part of the Paris Declaration in 2005, representatives of more than 100 countries and agencies pledged to make aid more effective, planning out a new form of co-responsibility and collaboration between those actively involved in development cooperation. The Paris Declaration laid out a series of specific actions and indicators to evaluate progress and marked an unprecedented accord between donors and recipients on the best way to improve the impact of development cooperation.

The conference in Accrain September of 2008—which was attended by more than 1,700 persons including ministers, heads of state, and representatives from multilateral institutions, United Nations agencies, global funds, foundations, and civil society organisations—was aimed at monitoring the progress of the Paris Declaration. The Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), endorsed on September 4th 2008, reflects international commitments to adopt the necessary reforms, increase the effectiveness of Official Development Assistance, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Most recently, in September of 2010, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York analyzed the progress made in the ten years since the Millennium Summit and reiterated the UN's desire to reach the goals scheduled for 2015. The Millennium Development Goals and the new parameters established in Paris and Accra for improving aid effectiveness provide an essential frame of reference for all those who, at one level or another, are engaged in international cooperation.

The Millennium Development Goals

In September of 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders from 189 countries adopted the Millennium Declaration in which they pledged to free every human being from poverty and make the right to development a reality for each individual. These commitments were laid out as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight concrete objectives to be reached by 2015 to affirm the rights and improve the lives of the people across our planet.

The eight Millennium Development Goals are as follows:



- **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**: Between 1990 and 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day; achieve full and productive employment and respectable work for all, including women and young people; and finally, by 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people suffering from hunger.
- Achieve universal primary education: By 2015, ensure that all boys and girls can complete a full course of primary schooling.
- Promote gender equality and empower women: Eliminate gender disparity within primary and secondary education by 2005, and eliminate it at all levels by 2015.
- Reduce child mortality: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five years old.
- Improve maternal health: Reduce by three quarters the mortality rate of pregnant women, and, by 2015, make reproductive health services accessible to all.
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases: Halt the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus and other major diseases, begin to reverse the spread of these viruses, and guarantee universal access to treatment.
- Ensure environmental sustainability: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into na-

tional policies and programmes; reverse the loss of environmental resources; reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water or basic sanitation systems; and lastly, by 2010, significantly improve the living conditions of at least one hundred million slum-dwellers.

- Develop a global partnership for development. This eighth objective most directly concerns prosperous countries, calling them to the following particular responsibilities:
 - To increase each country's Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of its gross national product (GNP);
 - To improve the effectiveness of aid in line with the principles expressed in the Paris Declaration;
 - To further develop a rule-based, predictable, and non-discriminatory trading and financial system. This includes a commitment to good governance, development, and the war on poverty, both on national and international levels;
 - To address the special needs of less-developed countries, putting the needs of the weakest populations at the centre of development policies. This involves allowing tariff- and quota-free access to these countries' exports, enhancing debt-relief programmes for heavily indebted countries, cancelling official bilateral debt, and providing more generous Official Development Assistance to countries committed to the reduction of poverty;
 - To provide, in cooperation with pharmaceuti-

cal industries, access to essential drugs in developing countries;

- To make available, in cooperation with the private sector, the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies;
- To ensure respect and economic worth for traditional knowledge.

The Millennium Development Goals represent a global development pact in which individual responsibilities are clearly defined: less-developed countries have the primary responsibility of achieving the first seven goals while wealthier nations have a critical role in the eighth objective. The two sides form an alliance for development, and it is necessary that each does its part to increase the quantity and quality of aid and improve its effectiveness.



The Role of Territories in Human Development

The sharp social, economic, and environmental imbalances across the world, together with globalisation processes already in action, emphasize the interdependence between the North and the South, the local and the international, and highlight the urgency of increasing development awareness and involvement by all. Development cooperation cannot make the necessary changes alone, but in connection with strengthened economic, political, social, and cultural relations between countries, it is an instrument for meeting the challenge of human development on a global level.

This great global effort of fighting poverty and building a world in which development is a right for all was clearly expressed at the Millennium Summit in September of 2000.

The eighth Millennium Development Goal in particular—which confirms the need to assemble a great global development partnership—calls ALL, without exception, to shoulder their own responsibilities and play their own parts: international institutions, national governments, local governments, civil society, economic and social players, and academic institutions, as well as every single individual in each part of the world.

Local governments and stakeholders can play a fundamental role in this global challenge by using their own skills and resources to contribute to development goals. In recent years, local authorities have gained a key role in regional development processes; this territorial approach to local development allows for leadership and teamwork among those active in each community and opens up the opportunity for them to weigh in on global processes and participate in the international challenges of human development through decentralised cooperation.

Decentralised cooperation, understood as a liaison between local communities in both the North and the South, is a tool for promoting and strengthening the active roles of local authorities and stakeholders. In having community leaders initiate and weigh in on development processes, decentralised cooperation surpasses the traditional paradigm of a donor/ recipient relationship and proposes instead a relationship between equals, between partners working toward the common goal of human development. Decentralised cooperation was originally conceived as the direct action of local authorities independent from national governments, but it increasingly takes on the form of territorial collaboration. Through the political and institutional role of local government in development processes and cooperation strategies, the territorial players become leaders and active participants in development.

This is an innovative method of cooperation aimed at utilising the best regional resources, practises, and areas of expertise and putting them at the centre of alliances and partnerships between both northern and southern communities throughout the world. This generates innovation and interchange in support of human development processes and supplies an effective, pragmatic response to global challenges. Territorial systems - rich in history, culture, experience,

and innovation - are testing grounds for participation, development, and governance. Through the contribution and concerted action of different players, these areas are suited for trying out and implementing strategies in response to global efforts toward human development and the war on poverty.

Territorial cooperation is a research tool for finding common interests and actions that foster dialogue and cultivate solid, lasting, sustainable relationships between parties concerned, all contextualised by a Within this context, the efforts to raise awareness, inform, and educate that local authorities are called to carry out in their own territories form a fundamental part of the work. These actions help create the necessary conditions for European societies to gain a sense of global responsibility for sustainable human development and the fight against poverty. Likewise, a vital role is played by schools, which are key factors in educating new generations about world citizenship. Education about development is increasingly essential in helping young people to think and navigate within the context of growing global interrelationship and to be participants and leaders in the future. It is therefore crucial to promote cooperation between local authorities and schools in raising awareness and in educating, both strategic ways to effectively promote a culture of human development and global citizenship.

shared journey of exchange and political, economic, cultural, and social growth. In summary, territorial cooperation represents an innovative trend in bringing together these international partnership initiatives for development promoted by local governments in collaboration with community leaders, thus generating innovation and interchange in support of human development processes.



Articulation with the European Union and the Multilateral Framework

Territorial cooperation becomes an even more effective instrument for contributing to the war on poverty and to sustainable human development when it is able to combine its own actions and strategies with those of national governments, international organisations, and the European Union. This multilateral framework demonstrates the dynamics of interrelationship and harmony envisioned by the declarations of Paris and Accra.

The unification of decentralised cooperation with the broader human development strategies promoted by the European Union and the United Nations expresses a new multilateralism. Starting from the roles of territories, it promotes synergy and dialogue between both local and national governments, both community and international players, ensuring greater aid effectiveness and impact on development processes.

The European Union and the Millennium Development Goals

The European Union, one of the largest donors in the world (\notin 49 billion in 2009), is actively and decisively committing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

by improving people's living conditions worldwide and contributing to the global war on poverty.

On 20th of December 2005, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, President of the European Parliament and Tony Blair, President of the EU Council, signed a Joint Statement on Policy development of the EU: "The European Consensus on Development", which, for the first time in fifty years of cooperation, defines the framework of the common principles within the EU and its Member States will plan their development policies in a spirit of complementarities. With this declaration, the EU has taken over the Millennium Development Goals and committed itself to increase the efficiency and consistency of its development aid.

The Millennium Development Goals are an integral part of the efforts of the European Commission, which, in order to improve the effectiveness of development aid and accelerate progress toward the achievement of the MDGs, adopted an ambitious action plan in 2010. The European Commission, which allocates large sums every year for development cooperation— \in 12.3 billion in 2009—plays a fundamental role together with other global players in reaching the Millennium Development

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Goals. In 2010, it published a document which summarises the actions carried out and the principal results reached: "EU Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals." This document analyses in detail the data from programmes financed by the Commission and managed by the EuropeAid Cooperation Office and highlights the activities carried out for each of the eight goals. Its analysis shows that the Commission's aid has focused primarily on support for social infrastructures in areas like education and health followed by economic infrastructures such as transport and energy. The Commission has also actively aided the strategically significant areas of sustainable development and human rights, including the issue of gender. As regards the geographical distribution of community aid, the European Commission has primarily focused its efforts toward countries with lower income, particularly the African continent and Europe's neighbouring states.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/ millenium-development-goals/index_en.htm

The UNDP's Global ART Initiative

ART—"Articulating Territorial and Thematic Networks for Human Development"—is an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme that promotes a new kind of multilateralism facilitating the active participation of local communities in human development processes to reach the Millennium Development Goals. ART is a framework for the international cooperation of all parties concerned, allowing them to harmonize their efforts toward national and local development strategies and thus improving the effectiveness of support to development processes.

The multilateral ART programme promotes and faci-

litates interrelationship, cooperation, and dialogue between the various local, national, and international development actors on the field (national and local governments, civil society and non-governmental organisations, universities, private sectors, etc.). It also promotes a common institutional, strategic, systematic, and operational framework with the goals of improving local aid effectiveness, avoiding fragmentation, ensuring continuity, and maximising the positive impact of local development processes based on the priorities established by each country and region. This method of operation helps contextualise the effort to reach the Millennium Development Goals, clarifying the common interests of citizens, local authorities, and community leaders throughout both the North and the South worldwide.

Allying with local actors and decentralised cooperation is, therefore, a central element in the ART programme strategy. At the same time, this collaboration is a golden opportunity for decentralised cooperation actors to strengthen and maximise their own actions by coordinating with the strategies of individual countries and with the United Nations' system. ART constitutes an innovative framework rich with potential that is already increasing prospects for international cooperation in the new millennium.



The European Project "Center for MDGS"

The "Center for MDGs" project proposes to heighten awareness, approval and commitment among the main social actors towards the topics of sustainable human development and the fight against poverty, with special attention to the Millennium Development Goals.

The Center for MDGs involves Italy (Umbria and the

province of Milan), Spain (Andalusia), Bulgaria, Mozambique and numerous actors from the areas concerned, and its aim is to create a network to rally greater public support and more participation and concrete local/global actions by society in the fight against poverty and for sustainable human development.

Project goals:

- To heighten awareness and commitment of local Authorities in the fight against poverty and to promote the inclusion of concrete actions in order to achieve the MDGs in their political agendas;
- To sensitise the local actors and citizens about relationships between North and South as regards the topic of human development and the MDGs, with the aim of heightening approval and participation by society in the fight against poverty;
- To train the new generations on the subjects of sustainable human development by means of stable, annual plans for Development Education in the secondary schools involved in the project;
- **4.** To pay particular attention to the situation of sub-Saharan Africa;
- To develop collaboration between the European areas involved in the project and Mozambique, in particular between their local authorities and secondary schools;



- 6. To create a permanent network and a stable synergy between local authorities, schools and social actors in the areas involved in the project, with the aim of continuing the activities of sensitization and of carrying out local policies for human development together with concrete actions of decentralized cooperation;
- To develop collaboration between the partners in the project and the multilateral framework of the United Nations.

Project activities

The activities of the "Center for MDGs" project are structured around four main lines of action:

- 1. Sensitisation and training for local authorities
- 2. Sensitisation of local actors, civil society and citizens
- 3. Development Education in secondary schools
- 4. Collaboration with Mozambique

The activities will be carried out by the Municipality of Foligno and by the European network of the Local Authority Funds for International Cooperation – consisting of FELCOS Umbria (Fund for local enterprises for decentralised cooperation and sustainable human development), FPMCI (Provincial Fund of Milan for International Cooperation) and FAMSI (Andalusian Fund of City Halls for International Solidarity) – and by the other partners in the project: the PAIDEIA Association of Bulgaria, REDEL (Network of Local Development Agencies of Mozambique) and ANAMM (National Association of City Halls of Mozambique).



Sensitization, information and training for local authorities on the subject of human development and the fight against poverty

Three types of activities will be organized for local authorities:

Activity to inform and sensitize local authorities. Two informative days will be organised for local authorities in each area of the EU involved in the project (four in Italy, two in Bulgaria and two in Spain) to define a shared strategy. This activity will also be open to local actors and citizens.

The topics under discussion during the information days will be: "Local authorities and areas as key actors in human development and international cooperation" and "The Millennium Development Goals in local political agendas", "Structuring around the multilateral framework".

 Training activity for local authorities regarding development and international cooperation.

Specific training courses for local authorities will be held which will aim to increase the ability of local authorities to contribute to the fight against poverty, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to use decentralised cooperation for sustainable human development. Training will address the following topics: the Millennium Development Goals, the strategies and policies for human development and the fight against poverty on a local, national, European and international level, the challenges and international agreements, the role of local authorities and areas, decentralised cooperation, area partnerships and their structuring around the multilateral framework, the financial channels and instruments to programme and manage the projects. The course will be divided into a cycle of lessons totalling 25 hours and two refresher seminars. The training will be for local authority officials and administrators in the areas involved in the project..

Creation of a Road Map for decentralized cooperation.

This consists of the definition of a common pathway between the local authorities involved in the project to order to share and sign a common, political and institutional agreement entitled "Common Agenda for the Millennium Development Goals at a local level", as a commitment to carry out local development policies for human development and concrete actions for decentralised co-operation. The path of the Road Map will unroll in synergy with the multilateral framework of the United Nations, especially with the ART initiative of the UNDP and with the UNDP Millennium Campaign. Its aim will be to strengthen the structuring of decentralised cooperation around the multilateral framework, as an expression of a new multilateralism, and to guarantee a greater effectiveness and impact of policies and actions on the development processes.

The agreement will provide for a series of objectives

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and concrete commitments in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the MDGs, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and will include the addition of initiatives of decentralised cooperation and activities of sensitisation addressed at the citizens and actors in the area in the annual planning. The political and institutional process that will lead to the definition of the Road Map will be divided into three national seminars and two transnational seminars.

Sensitization of local actors, society and citizens

Local authorities are traditionally the level of government closest to the citizens and can play an important role in promoting and sensitising the social fabric about the themes of human development and cooperation, in order to create approval, responsibility and active participation by the areas. As part of the project, a campaign of sensitisation on the themes of development, the fight against poverty and the Millennium Goals will be held for citizens, civil society and the local actors in the areas. Three types of activities in particular will be organised:

Initiatives for local actors.

Three informative days will be held for each of the areas involved, one of which will be specifically dedicated to their relationship with the mass media. The topics addressed will be:

- The international situation of human development, the Millennium Goals and other international challenges;
- 2. The interdependence between Europe and developing countries, with special reference to topics of public relevance, such as: migration, commerce, security, human rights, the social dimension of globalisation, employment etc.;
- The role and the opportunities not only for local authorities and the areas, but also for local actors and people to be at the centre of attention as regards the theme of sustainable human development and the challenge for the MDGs.
- Forum on the Millennium Development Goals. A Forum will be held on the MDGs in each partner area in collaboration with the local authorities and the schools involved in the project. The forum will provide a space and an opportunity



to sensitise public opinion about the most important global and local challenges, such as the fight against poverty, sustainable human development and the Millennium Goals, as well as about the importance of active participation and contribution by all the various social actors. The Forum will include various initiatives concerning the MDGs, such as photographic exhibitions, documentaries and multimedia productions, cultural activities, debates and others.

Ad hoc meetings with the relevant actors.

During the project specific meetings will be held about sensitisation that will reflect on the themes of development and cooperation with some local actors such as: mass media, associations and NGOs, commercial organisations, chambers of commerce, enterprises, trade unions, universities and other organisations that will be contacted during the project.

These meetings will aim to sensitise and concretely involve some key actors in initiatives to create approval and in actions of decentralised cooperation between the areas.

Development Education in secondary schools

Development Education is an essential element in young people's education and it will soon become more important and necessary to help them understand and find their way through the global context of increasing interrelationships. The project proposes a permanent pathway towards a shared, appropriate and effective training module on Development Education in annual, scholastic programmes in the secondary schools in the partner areas. The specific activities to achieve this result will be:

The signing of a "Common Agreement of Collaboration"

A collaboration agreement will be signed as part of the project by the scholastic institutions of every partner area. The Common Collaboration Agreement will serve to share and define the stable introduction of Development Education in annual, educational programmes in the chosen secondary schools.

School participation

At least five secondary schools will be selected from each area to take part in the initiatives scheduled by the project.

Teacher training

The project will involve a 25/30 hour training course for two or three teachers from each of the schools involved (for a total of 40/60 teachers). The aim of the training is to give the teachers the contents, instruments and the ability to effectively set up and run the modules for Development Education in the schools. Specific educational material will be produced during the course. Training will focus in particular on the basic elements of Development Education – human rights, respect for the environment, global interdependence, cross culture, MDGs, etc. – and on the instruments capable of facilitating the students' greater understanding and need to be at the centre of attention as regards the dynamics of the globalised world, in order to transfer their enthusiasm and desire to become agents in the transformation towards a more equal, sustainable and balanced world.

Shared definition of the contents and of an educational Kit for Development Education In order to achieve the best effect from an educational point of view, the teachers involved will collaborate with experts from the project to create a specific, educational kit and to define and devise educational modules for Development Education for use in their respective classes.

The educational modules will be developed on the basis of the guide lines shared by the project partners and where necessary, the contents, organisation and coordination with the school calendar will be adapted to each national context

Implementation of the training modules in the schools

The teachers involved will be supported by the project partners so they can follow the activities of the Development Education in the chosen classes, using the previously created, educational kit. Local authorities and other stakeholders will be involved in the training activities with the students. Each educational module will be divided into 25/30 hours of lessons per year. In order to heighten the impact of the project, the partners, the regional school authorities and the

schools will draw up a plan aimed to diffuse the experience in mainstream schooling.

Collaboration with Mozambique

Sub-Saharan Africa represents one of the priorities in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the MGDs; for this reason and on the basis of the existing relationship with the Mozambique ART GOLD programme, a few of the activities in the project will be carried out thanks to the involvement of two local partners: the National Association of City Halls of Mozambique and the Network of Local Development Agencies. The partners from Mozambique will act as "sensitisation agents" and will follow the entire process to create partnerships between schools and between local authorities in Mozambique and in Europe, as scheduled in the project.

Collaboration with Mozambique will be divided into four actions:

Twinning between schools in Mozambique and schools in the European countries involved in the project

The project partners will encourage and closely follow the creation of a twinning between the 20 European schools involved and the 10 schools in Mozambique the aim of which will be to organise cultural exchanges of experiences and information between the schools.

Creation of a multimedia contest about MDGs ("MDGs Multimedia Contest")

In the final stage of the project a multimedia contest will be held, in which groups of students from Mozambigue and Europe will face each other to make videos on the subjects of development and the Millennium Goals.. The multimedia productions made by the schools will be presented by the students at an international conference: a transnational jury, consisting of project representatives, teachers, representatives from the local authorities and other experts, will give an award to the best production from each area involved. The multimedia productions will be shown on the project web site and on the partners' web sites. In order to enable this multimedia activity to take place, the project will equip the schools in Mozambique with the necessary software and hardware technologies, and it will also supply the European schools with some of the technologies.

Partnership between Local Authorities in Europe and in Mozambique.

The project includes the set-up of a network of local authorities in Europe and in Mozambique whose aim will be not only to create a space, in which ideas can be exchanged and compared between life in Europe and that of the sub-Sahara, but also to create conditions in which cooperation projects can be developed. It will be easier to set up these partnerships when they are structured around the UNDP ART GOLD Programme in Mozambique, which represents the meeting place for actors of international cooperation with their partners in Mozambique in order to support the processes of local development.

Exchange and sensitization.

As part of the project, the partners from Mozambique will carry out missions in the European areas involved so they can participate in meetings with the European local authorities, schools and other local actors in order to sensitise and reflect on the situation of development in Mozambique and to facilitate the creation of partnerships with the European areas. The partners in Mozambique will act as "sensitisation agents" able to promote knowledge of the problems of development in sub-Saharan Africa and of the issues concerning the achievement of the Millennium Goals.



CENTER FOR MDGs



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