

50 MILLION CHILDREN WILL DIE OF POVERTY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

A decade has passed since the first UN Day for Eradication of Poverty was marked in Jersey on 17th October 1996. Many factors perpetuate poverty including: injustices in global trade; the huge burden of debt; insufficient and ineffective aid; political instability and violent conflict; corruption and governance failures; and inappropriate economic policies imposed by rich countries.

Where are we now?

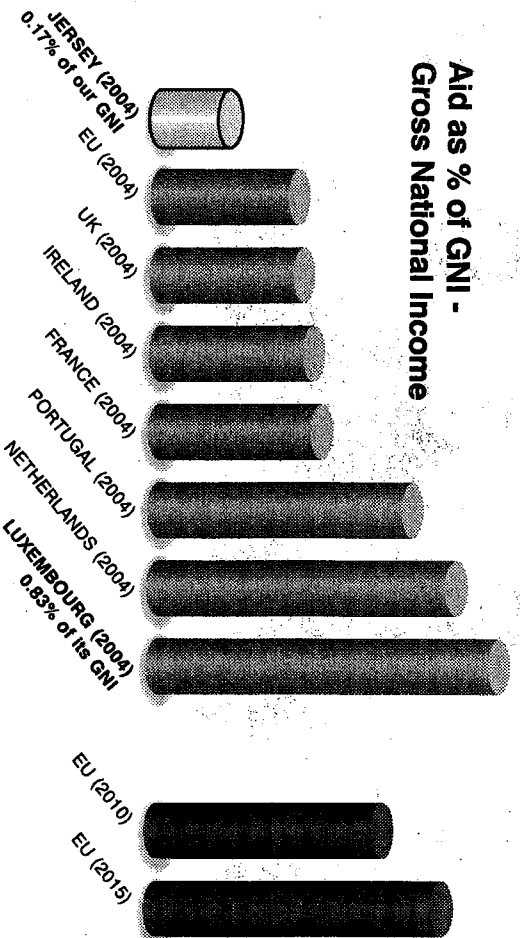
Progress in poverty eradication over the decade has been mixed. At the global level, the proportion of poor people living on less than one dollar a day in developing countries declined from 27.9% to 21.3% between 1990 and 2001. If current trends are maintained, the number of people living in extreme poverty would just fall below 735 million by 2015, from about 1.22 billion in 1990.

However, this global picture masks important disparities. Global poverty reduction has been driven by the success of East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia, who are on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target of halving extreme poverty at the national level by 2015. China, in fact, has already achieved the poverty reduction target: the number of people living in extreme poverty there fell from 377 million to 212 million between 1990 and 2001.

All other regions have experienced setbacks since 1990. Some countries are at severe risk of falling short of the goal. Sub-Saharan Africa is the least likely to achieve the income poverty target, having made no progress in reducing the incidence of poverty in the 1990s.

In 2005 unprecedented global campaigning helped pave the way for significant new commitments by the wealthy nations to cancel debt and increase aid. However, little progress was made on trade or other issues.

Aid as % of GNI - Gross National Income



What about Aid?

- At the 2005 G8 Summit fifteen members of the EU set themselves the goal of spending 0.56% of GDP on world development aid by 2010, and reaching the UN target of a minimum of 0.7% of Gross National Income ("GNI") by 2015
- Fifteen EU member states have pledged to spend 0.7% of GNI on Overseas Development Aid. Denmark, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have already reached or exceeded this target. Ireland has made a commitment to fulfil the target by 2007, Belgium by 2010, France and Spain by 2012, the UK by 2013, and Germany by 2015. In total this amounts to 0.56 per cent of EU GNI by 2010.
- In 2004 average EU spending on world development aid was 0.35% of GNI
- Between 1996 and 2006 Jersey's aid budget increased by around 29%. In 2004 it had risen to 0.17% of GNI and will be increased to an estimated 0.2% of GNI in 2008. However in 2004 Luxembourg's aid budget was 0.83% of its GNI – almost five times Jersey's level.

Sources: Jersey in Figures 2005, Development Assistance Committee World Development Report 2005, Review of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), E/CN.5/2006/3

**WORLD
POVERTY
DAY 17th
OCTOBER**
www.makepoverty/history.org

FIRST UNITED NATIONS
DECADE FOR THE

eradication of poverty



But what can I do?

- If you want to see Jersey follow Luxembourg's lead on aid tell your States representatives and your friends! Jersey's aid budget is due for review in 2008: if voters do not show support it could be cut back.
 - Support national and international campaigning to eradicate world poverty.
 - Contact major charities.
 - Visit www.makepoverty/history.org or find out about the Make Poverty History – Jersey Coalition by emailing mauricelakeman@jerseymail.co.uk
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