

MDG Progress Report 2013: Goal 8 To develop a global partnership for development



Progress to date	
Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states. • Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. • Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt. • In cooperation with the private sector, make the benefits of new technologies available, especially information and communications.
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid to LEDCs from MEDCs grew throughout the decade, but fell in 2011. • MEDCs reduced the tax on things sold to them by the very poorest LEDCs (called <i>import tariffs</i>) • The amount of debt LEDCs owe developed countries has dropped a lot • Mobile phone use has dramatically increased in LEDCs. Internet use has also increased but much more slowly and unequally.

In 2011, aid to **LEDCS** from **MEDCs** was \$133.5 billion, an increase from just over \$50 billion in 2000. This is 0.31 per cent of MEDCs' overall income, but was a 3% drop from 2010, mainly due to the financial crisis in developed countries. Aid has focussed on the poorest countries, with the group of least developed countries (LDCs) receiving about one third of total aid.

LEDCs selling things to MEDCs (*exports*) is very important to allow these countries to develop. The tax for the things the very poorest LEDCs sell to developed countries (called an *import tariff*) was reduced during the decade, so in 1996 about 45% of items were taxed, but in 2010 only about 20% were. This helps the very poor LEDCs to sell their products in MEDCs by making them cheaper. The financial crisis lowered the amount of things LEDCs sold to MEDCs (*exports*), but since the crisis this has gone back up.

The amount of debt LEDCs owe MEDCs (because they borrowed money from them) has dropped through the decade. This is because of better management, more trade (*exports*) and *debt relief* (cancelling the debt) for the poorest countries. Debt relief amounted to nearly \$100billion in 2010. This has lowered a lot the amount LEDCs pay back to MEDCs, although many are still paying every year.

By the end of 2011, the number of mobile phone subscriptions had grown to an estimated six billion, so 87 per cent of people worldwide have mobile phones, with 79% in LEDCs and over 50% in sub-Saharan Africa. However while internet access has increased globally (1 in 3 people are now online) and 67% of users are in LEDCs, per person LEDCs usage is far behind MEDCs. For example, over 25% of people in MEDCs have broadband but less than 5% in LEDCs do.

Source: Millennium Development Goals Report 2012 (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/mdg-report-2012.html>)

CASE STUDY 1**Flutura and her daughters at the pasta production centre, Dibra, Albania**

This picture shows Flutura standing with her daughters in the pasta production centre, part of the pasta making women's association in Dibra, the poorest region in Albania. They make Jufka, which is a traditional and local type of pasta made of eggs, flour and milk.

With the income from the project, Flutura has been able to send her daughter, Hasje, to university, which is rare in a village where girls usually marry at 15 after leaving secondary school.



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“It seemed like an impossible dream,” Hasije, now aged 20 says. For Hasije and her three siblings, going to school was already a luxury, with their family somehow keeping afloat on a US\$40 a month disability pension.

“We had no money to buy anything,” she adds. “We were always washing the same clothes and hoping they would dry up by the next day.”

“I always told my children we could not afford sending them to university,” her mother Flutura, 41, says. “My husband’s disability pension was all we had, and the rest was all that we could cultivate on our little plot of land and from our two cows.”

“Because of this project, our lives have changed completely,” Flutura, who is now the head of the Jufka women’s producers association, says. “We can invest in the house, we eat much better food, and most importantly we can finance our children’s education.”

Source: Oxfam

CASE STUDY 2 | Jufka Vendi... Making pasta in Albania

The story of how this **cooperative**, called Agrita Vision, ended up being successful is explained by Flutura (right) and Majlinda, from a local organisation who supported it.

Flutura: “There are 12 women who work together as part of this **cooperative**. When we started we produced only 40 kilos a month. But now with this facility and the training, we generate about 400 kilos a month.”



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Majlinda: ““We received support from

Oxfam for the building, the equipment and training. The group owns all the equipment. They share their resources and produce under the same brand name – ‘Jufka Vendi’. It’s not just this group of women who are benefiting. The success of our pasta has created a chain of local suppliers, so many small-scale farmers are benefiting from the pasta too.”

Flutura explains again: “At first we gave out the jufka for free. Just to get people interested in the product. It’s a marketing technique and it worked. Before we used to have to knock the door of consumers. Now the customers are knocking on our door!”

“The whole process has to be documented. To ensure the standards are maintained. And with these standards we’d like to register as a product that’s special to this area – like feta cheese from Greece or parmesan from Italy. Once it’s registered no one can produce the jufka elsewhere.

“We have the idea that we could have a second floor on this building. But for now it’s not possible. It’s our business, our idea to expand our business. We want to do more and for more families to benefit. “

Majlinda: “We believe we can expand, make it a regional group and possibly export to Macedonia and other Balkan countries. People are already coming over the border from Macedonia to buy their jufka from us here in Diber. It’s become famous.”

This is the first product in the region to receive official certification by Albanian authorities, with a clear label guaranteeing good quality and allowing access to the market anywhere. Through national and regional fairs organised by Oxfam, the Jufka has been exhibited and tested around Albania, with demand coming from Tirana and even from Kosovo, also ensuring further sales for local farmers’ milk, eggs and wheat.

Source: Oxfam

ACTIVITY

Aim	Developing through partnerships.
You will need	The progress update, case study 1 and case study 2. Words that are in bold are defined in the glossary.
Title	How sustainable is aid/development?
Age	11-14.
Task/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask pupils to read the update information on MDG8. What questions do they have about these goals? Why do they think these 4 areas (aid, debt, trade, technology) fall into the category of ‘global partnerships’ for development? • Where has progress been made? What more needs to be done? • If they were to give MDG8 a <i>traffic light</i> colour, what would it be? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red (way off) ○ Amber (mixed progress) ○ Green (good progress) • Show pupils case study 1 about pasta making in Albania. What clues does the case study give as to what life was like for Flutura before the pasta making project? Does it sound like the family lived in poverty? Was it hard? • What has been the major benefit of the income from pasta making? Who will it have an impact on? What will the benefit of this be long term? (prompt – schooling and the longer term benefits for Hasije) • Ask pupils if they think it would have been easy for Flutura to start a pasta business? Why didn’t she do it before? • Now show case study 2 • Ask pupils to read through it and list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What things were required to enable the pasta cooperative to be successful ○ Who provided them ○ What are the links to some of the things from MDG8, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aid ▪ Trade ▪ Technology • Is the case study a good example of global partnerships helping people? Why / why not?

FURTHER WORK

Age	11-14.
Task/s	<p>Encourage students to think about why partnerships for development are important. Use these prompts:</p> <p>If someone in your community wanted to start a pasta company, what would they need? (<i>Prompt pupils</i> to think of things like access to education, training, better developed markets where they can sell things, banks which will lend them money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would they need support from someone like Oxfam? Why / why not? What things do we have access to here which people in vulnerable situations in poorer countries do not have?• Why are partnerships for development so important in helping poorer people get a head start?• Do they think this is a good use of 'aid' money? What are the most important sorts of things to spend this money on?• Do they think the amount of money their government spends on aid should be kept the same, increased or decreased?• Or do they think other things are more important? Refer back to the list of 4 targets for MDG8 for reference – you could debate between:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ aid○ trade○ debt relief○ access to technology <p>Have a discussion and maybe ask the class to vote on which they would prioritise if they had to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do global partnerships mean that people in <i>all</i> countries need to do something, including the UK? Why? Why not?

Glossary of terms

Cooperative: An enterprise or organisation that is owned or managed collectively by those who use its facilities or services.

LEDCs: Less Economically Developed Countries.

MEDCs: More Economically Developed Countries.