





Global express

The rapid response information series for schools
on world events in the news

Where to now... to make poverty history?



© Aubrey Wade / Panos Pictures

-  Outcomes of the Gleneagles G8 Summit
-  Millennium Development Goals

AFTER SO MANY SCHOOLS AND PUPILS TOOK PART IN THE MAKE POVERTY HISTORY CAMPAIGN in the lead up to the G8, it might be tempting now to sit back and feel the job is done. But, with the Millennium Development Goals sidelined at the UN Summit, campaigners believe it is now vital to engage young people in the fight against poverty. **Global express** explores the events of this year and highlights the key issues of aid, debt and trade.

What is
Global express?

Global express helps you teach about topical global issues and events.

Contains

Instant photocopiable classroom activities for 8 to 14 year olds.

Primary

Thinking about poverty
Goals for development

Secondary

G8 Bingo quiz
Cartoon activity
Millennium Development Goals

Curriculum

Literacy
English
Citizenship
PSHE
Geography

2005 - an opportunity to make poverty history

With only 10 years to go until 2015, the deadline for reaching the Millennium Development Goals, 2005 has been hailed as a crucial year for making a breakthrough in the fight against poverty. This year has seen the emergence of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, a worldwide alliance committed to making world leaders live up to the promises they made in 2000. In the UK, as part of this initiative, **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** (MPH) was formed to mobilise around key opportunities to drive forward the struggle against poverty and injustice. 2005 was chosen as it provided the unique opportunity of three high level world leader meetings:

- **G8 Summit**, Gleneagles, Scotland, July 2005
- **UN Summit**, New York, September 2005
- **World Trade Organisation Ministerial Meeting**, Hong Kong, December 2005.

During 2005 global issues have come to the forefront of the public's attention in the UK. The unprecedented response to the Tsunami disaster at the end of 2004 moved people into action and has been seen by some as creating a new era of solidarity between rich and poor. 2005 also saw the UK government's pledge to focus international attention on Africa and climate change through its Commission for Africa and its presidencies of the G8 and European Union. There were huge expectations around the world that this year could herald real change.



Live 8 - what do you think?

The Live 8 concerts to raise awareness about poverty reached a massive global audience of three billion. Many more people are now aware of the G8 and the ability of rich nations to help or hinder the fight against poverty. It has, however, also raised many questions:

- Live 8 aimed to raise awareness (not money), but do people really understand the issues? Does it matter?
- Were critics justified in calling the decision to have African musicians performing at the Eden Project and not Hyde Park 'musical apartheid'?
- Through its publicity, imagery and concerts did Live 8 challenge or perpetuate negative stereotypes of Africa (e.g. Africans as victims)?
- Was it about making poverty history or making entertainment history?
- Did Live 8 move people to action or distract them from the protests in Edinburgh and Gleneagles and the outcomes of the G8?

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

is a unique UK alliance of more than 500 charities, trade unions, campaigning groups and celebrities. The white band is the symbol of the campaign. The three key messages are:

Trade Justice
More and Better Aid
Drop the Debt

Events and actions in 2005:

- Send My Friend to School campaign, 3 million 'buddies' sent to G8 leaders
- Nelson Mandela speaks at Trafalgar Square rally
- White Band Days
- Edinburgh rally - 225,000 people
- Live 8 concerts
- Trade Justice lobby of MPs

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

In 2000 all 191 UN member states pledged to meet eight goals by 2015. MPH is calling for pressure to be put on nations to fulfil their promise to achieve the MDGs. The goals are:

- 1 **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:** *Halve the number of people living on less than \$1 a day.*
- 2 **Achieve universal primary education:** *Ensure every child has a good, free, basic education.*
- 3 **Promote gender equality and empower women:** *Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education.*
- 4 **Reduce child mortality:** *Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate of under fives.*
- 5 **Improve maternal health:** *Reduce by three quarters the number of deaths of women in childbirth.*
- 6 **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:** *Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria.*
- 7 **Ensure environmental sustainability:** *Targets include halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.*
- 8 **Build a global partnership for development:** *Targets include debt relief, fairer trade rules and more aid.*

These goals (the MDGs) are all interrelated and of equal importance. However, the eighth goal is essential to achieve the other seven. Kofi Annan has emphasised that 2005 is the year to realise Goal 8 to ensure that the other seven can be achieved.

N.B. Below each goal we have included one of its targets (in italics). These are only some of the 14 targets. See www.un.org/millenniumgoals

What happened at the G8?

At the 2005 G8 Summit at Gleneagles in Scotland, 6-8 July, Africa and climate change were the primary agenda items. 225,000 people marched in Edinburgh to make poverty history - the biggest march the Scottish capital has ever seen. The G8 meeting received massive media coverage beforehand, but, because of the bombs in London on 7 July, there was significantly less information about, and analysis of, its outcomes than was expected. MPH recognises that G8 2005 marks a turning point in the fight against poverty. However, aid agencies and campaigners across the world are disappointed that neither the sense of urgency nor the historic potential was grasped by the G8.

AID

G8 promised to increase aid to US\$50 billion with half of this going to Africa by 2010.

But MPH is concerned that the quantity of aid and the speed of delivery falls far short of what the UN says is needed to end poverty. Also MPH assesses that no more than around \$20 billion is new money, but rather is a restatement of previous commitments.

DEBT

G8 promised significant debt relief for 18 of the world's poorest countries.

But MPH is concerned that this is not the 100% cancellation of debts called for by MPH for 60 countries, and many indebted countries are not included. The deal is still to be ratified and delivered.

TRADE

G8 promised little, except for agreeing to reduce domestic subsidies and eliminate export subsidies in the future.

MPH is concerned that no concrete actions were agreed and no date was set to end damaging export subsidies.

CLIMATE CHANGE

G8 promised little, but all G8 members agreed for the first time that climate change is happening and urgent action must be taken.

But MPH is concerned that no specific targets were set for CO₂ emissions.

What happened at the UN Summit?

The UN Summit in New York, 14-16 September 2005, brought together world leaders in what was expected to be an official review of progress towards the MDGs. In his pre-summit report, Kofi Annan stated "The MDGs can be met by 2015 – but only if all involved break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate and scale-up action now". For this to happen, as the last of the MDGs recognises, a genuine global partnership for development needs to be forged. However, campaigners are disappointed that this opportunity was missed, and that the MDGs were not even centre stage at the summit: terrorism and security led the agenda.

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY official statement on the UN Summit

"We are sorely disappointed that the UN World Summit has failed to agree anything near the historic development deal that campaigners had hoped for.

It has done little more than recognise the limited steps taken by the G8 and demonstrated insufficient commitment to the urgent action needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Despite pressure exerted by **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** and campaigners worldwide, leaders are signing up to a document that promises little advancement, without time bound objectives and filled with get-out clauses.

There has been progress this year and we acknowledge that the pledges made at the G8, now affirmed, are a small step in the right direction. But while we recognise the efforts of some governments, the world leaders in New York have collectively failed to be bold, imaginative or visionary enough to deliver the action needed to make poverty history. Progress is welcome but more action is crucial."

Also in 2005 - WTO meeting

The World Trade Organisation's Ministerial Meeting will be held in Hong Kong in December. These talks will be crucial for the aims of the MPH campaign. They could either move forward or thwart the professed commitments of world leaders to reform trade rules to allow people to work their way out of poverty. Continued pressure by MPH supporters is therefore critical.

What is the WTO?

- It has 148 member countries.
- Countries negotiate on trade issues.
- Headquarters are in Geneva.
- Countries often find it hard to reach agreement.

Critics argue that its support of 'free trade' (removal of restrictions) hands too much power to global corporations to the detriment of workers, local industries and the environment. There are also concerns that many countries of the South are under-represented, some having no negotiators.

"On an average day there are 10 or 12 meetings, on different issues, all starting at the same time. It's not workable... I've been attending meetings for four years, and it's hard to write two lines about how my country has benefited."

African negotiator, speaking to CAFOD



© Jerome Ming / GCAP

"The voices of millions of people around the world calling for action will need to be heard again."
Barbara Stocking, Director of Oxfam GB

Fact file

Aid: did you know?

- Today, rich countries give half as much aid (in proportion to their income) as they did in the 1960s!
- In 1970 rich countries agreed to spend 0.7% of their Gross National Income on aid by 1980. But in 2005 almost all rich countries have failed to reach this target.
- In 2004 the UK only spent 0.36% of its GNI on aid and aims to increase to 0.7% by 2013.
- But, if the UK met the 0.7% target by 2008 an extra 1.5 million people could be lifted out of poverty by that year.

“Had we come to the G8 Summit in Scotland to ask for charity, we could have been grateful... But we came to demand justice... it is not about charity but about a 35 year old commitment of 0.7% made by rich countries.”

Kumi Naidoo

Global Call to Action Against Poverty

Debt: did you know?

- Some countries in the South are still having to spend more on debt repayments than on the most basic needs of their own people.
- In Tanzania and Benin, the primary school population has increased by thousands since significant debt relief was granted. Imagine how much more could be done with total debt cancellation.
- The MPH campaign called the G8 deal on debt “a small step compared to the giant leap that was called for”.

“The question is who owes what to whom? These debts were amassed because of colonialism, plunder, unequal trade and financial systems designed to favour the rich G8 countries”

Trevor Ngwane

South African anti-privatisation forum

Trade: did you know?

- Trade rules currently work in favour of rich countries which subsidise their own industries and therefore can sell their products more cheaply than producers from poorer countries.
- Making trade fair could alleviate poverty much more than increased aid: it is estimated that fairer trade could be worth over three times the value of aid currently given by rich countries.
- Unfair trade rules deprive poor countries of £1.3 billion a day.

“Day after day, their hunger feeds our supermarket shelves... We will not make poverty history until Africa has the right to feed itself before it feeds us.”

Alan Simpson MP

Fact File - did you know?

Africa is the only continent not on track to meet any of the MDGs.

G8 agreements are not enforced and are left up to individual country members to carry out.

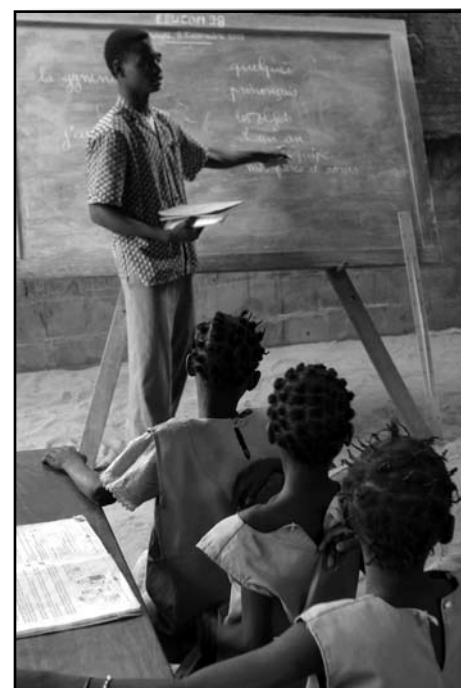
G8 meetings have frequently attracted passionate protests. Because of this the G8 now meet in more secluded locations such as Sea Island, USA and Gleneagles, UK.

2005 was the first G8 meeting at which non-governmental organisations and charities played a high profile role in the lead up.

There is a G77. It was established in 1964 with 77 member countries but is now comprised of 132! It is the largest coalition of Southern countries in the UN.

12-16 June 2005 saw the global South's largest ever gathering of heads of state or government. The Second South Summit took place in Qatar. Did you hear about it on the news?

Corruption is not just an African issue, it is prevalent in governments and businesses throughout the world. No G8 country has signed up to the UN Convention Against Corruption.



Schoolchildren in Benin, one of the countries that has benefited from debt relief.

© Jacob Silberberg / Panos Pictures

“I was wrong. Free market trade policies hurt the poor... the rules of international trade are rigged against the poorest countries.” Stephen Byers, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

IDEAS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Curriculum links

PRIMARY

Literacy: non-fiction.

English: speaking and listening; group discussion and interaction.

Citizenship: discuss, debate topical issues; participate.

Geography: interdependence; how decisions affect people's lives.

SECONDARY

English: speaking and listening; non-fiction texts; information texts; writing to analyse, review, comment.

Citizenship and PSHE: topical issues; participation and responsible action; personal opinion.

Geography: interdependence and global citizenship; issues of topical significance; clarify and develop values and attitudes.

G8 bingo

Age range: 11-14

Purpose: An interactive exercise to get pupils thinking about the G8 and the MPH campaign and to share their knowledge.

Give each pupil MPH 2. Ask them to find other pupils who know the answers. They need to find a different pupil for each answer. Go through each question and answer with the class.

1 Gleneagles, Scotland. 2 Make Poverty History. 3 Madonna, Mariah Carey, Coldplay etc. 5 Producers are paid fair prices. 6 Raise awareness about the need to combat global poverty (aid, debt relief, fairer trade). 7 Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK, USA. 8 E.g. Nelson Mandela, Bono, Bob Geldof.

Changing the news cartoon

Age range: 11-14

Purpose: To encourage critical analysis of the media and to explore issues of power and global inequalities.

Give pupils MPH 2. Start by asking for a volunteer to read out the cartoon in character. Ask pupils to answer the questions. Discuss in pairs and feed back to the class.

Live 8: what's your verdict?

Age range: 11-14

Purpose: To encourage pupils to reflect critically on the aims and outcomes of Live 8.

Give pupils MPH 3. Ask them to read through the statements and select two to focus on, listing three reasons why they agree or disagree with each of the statements. Share in pairs or small groups and feed back to the class.

Why wear a white band?

Age range: 11-14

Purpose: To encourage pupils to explore the phenomenon of wrist bands and critically engage with the reasons behind their own choices.

Give pupils MPH 3. Ask them to number the statements in order of importance or tick all that apply to them. Ask them to answer the questions and share in pairs or small groups. Invite feedback to the class.

Thinking about poverty

Age range: 8-14

Purpose: To encourage pupils to explore their feelings and opinions about, and better understand, some of the dimensions of global poverty.

Sit pupils in a circle. Give each pupil MPH 1 and ask for volunteers to read out the quotes. Give pupils time to reflect. In pairs ask them to formulate an open question for discussion based on the quotes e.g. 'Why are people poor?' and write their question on the board. Ask the class to vote on a question for discussion. The pair whose question is chosen can open by explaining their reasoning and initial ideas. End the discussion with a closing round of final thoughts.

Based on Philosophy for Children methodology. See www.sapere.org.uk

Millennium Development Goals

Age range: 8-14

Purpose: To raise awareness of the MDGs and encourage pupils to engage with them.

Discuss the word 'goal'. Ask pupils about their personal goals. Display the MDGs and explain the background (see page 2 - you could simplify the goals for younger pupils). Ask pupils to pick out two goals which they feel are really important and write down three reasons why these goals must be achieved. In small groups pupils could rank the goals in order of importance and compare results. Tell pupils that UN specialists believe all goals to be equally important and interrelated.

Adapted from *Change the World in Eight Steps*, Oxfam

Personal promises

Age range: 11-14

Purpose: To encourage pupils to feel that change is possible through individual action and that we all have a responsibility as global citizens to work towards achieving the MDGs.

This exercise is best done when pupils have begun to engage with global issues or the MDGs and feel strongly that something needs to be done.

Ask pupils to say how they feel when they think about poverty or the MDGs. Suggest to pupils that we can all be involved in making a difference by changing our lifestyles in small ways. Discuss promises we make in life and why they may be hard to keep.

Give each pupil MPH 4. Ask them to tick the promises they would like to commit to and cross any they wouldn't. Ask them to fill in the blank box. Share in pairs and feed back.

You could end this activity with pupils making individual promise cards which can be displayed and revisited.

Adapted from *One World Week 2005 Action Kit*

Recommended resources

AVAILABLE MAIL ORDER FROM DEP
Postage and packing will be extra

Challenge of Globalisation: A handbook for teachers of 11-16 year olds. Oxfam, £14

A close look at some of the moral and ethical issues which globalisation raises and which young people should consider as global citizens.

Change the World in Eight Steps. Oxfam, £12.99

A set of posters and activities for 7-14 year olds investigating the UN Millennium Development Goals, the eight goals set by world leaders in 2000 to eradicate world poverty by 2015.

Promises, Promises. One World Week Action Kit for 2005, £8.50

This kit is divided into three sections, each looking at promises intended to tackle poverty and make the world a fairer place; how we make these promises, how we keep them and how we ensure promises made by others are kept. The pack contains a mixture of drama, games, projects, information, ideas, discussions, stories, reviews of other resources and case studies.

Do the Right Things: A practical guide to ethical living. New Internationalist, £7.99

A few simple acts can help change the world. The information you need to make sensible, socially responsible choices.

Make Poverty History: How you can help defeat world poverty in seven easy steps. Penguin Books, £2

A short guide that tells you how to make a difference, become part of history, insist on more and better aid, get to grips with trade justice, and get your questions answered.

Young Lives, Global Goals: Children, poverty and the UN Millennium Development Goals. SCF, £22.50

This pack for children aged 11-14 aims to raise issues, stimulate debate and generate discussion on the MDGs. The activities further explore the underlying issues, focusing on the lives of eight young people from four countries.

Useful websites


- www.makepovertyhistory.org/schools Part of the MPH official website with resources for schools.
- www.whiteband.org Global Call to Action Against Poverty website.
- www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/teachers/mph A mini site dedicated to learning about the issues behind MPH, with free online resources about the MDGs.
- www.un.org/millenniumgoals Official UN site about the MDGs.
- www.millenniumcampaign.org A UN campaign site on the MDGs.
- www.millenniumcampaign.org/youth Interactive youth site about the MDGs.
- www.youthoftheworld.net A site for young people, encouraging them to campaign on the MDGs.
- www.sendmyfriend.org Campaign site about MDG 2, (universal primary education) with a useful teachers' section.
- www.g8.gov.uk UK Government official G8 website.
- www.unicef.org.uk/c8 Children's version of the G8, run by UNICEF.
- www.raisedvoices.net Testimonies from the global South on the effects G8 policies have on their lives.
- www.oneworldweek.org Site for the annual One World Week. This year's theme is Promises, Promises, relating to the G8 and the MDGs.
- www.globaleducationderby.org.uk/newsummer2005.pdf Teaching resource for an in-depth critical debate about poverty.
- www.globaldimension.org.uk A site to enable teachers to bring a global perspective to teaching.
- www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk Jubilee Debt Campaign.
- www.tjm.org.uk Trade Justice Movement.
- www.wdm.org.uk World Development Movement.
- www.liberaljudaism.org Free downloadable MPH teaching pack with excellent, easy to understand background information plus pupil activities.
- www.learningafrica.org.uk A site that offers support for teachers wishing to explore Africa in the classroom.
- www.focusweb.org Focus on the Global South website.

Global express aims to enable young people to gain a greater understanding of the context in which news stories from the countries of the South happen, and to build links between their experience of life in the UK and their understanding of development issues. Editions provide materials that help answer young people's questions and increase their critical awareness of how the media can influence their image of the South.

Other partners are the Panos Institute, London, UK; Centrum voor Mondiaal Onderwijs, Nijmegen, Holland, Centro Educazione Mondialita, Brescia, Italy, Intermón Oxfam, Barcelona, Spain and Curriculum Development Unit, Mary Immaculate College -UL-, Limerick, Ireland.

Pages MPH 1 to MPH 4 are photocopiable for classroom use.

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You can also download this edition in full (in .pdf format) from Oxfam's Cool Planet website: www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet

Visit the **Global express** web site: <http://www.dep.org.uk/globalexpress>

Previous editions

Some editions (*) are out of print and can be downloaded from our website. Back copies of other editions may be ordered. Send a cheque to DEP (address below) for £4.50 for each edition ordered.

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Edition 1, *Tune into the News*, is a 16-page edition which has activities on the media and exploring controversial issues.