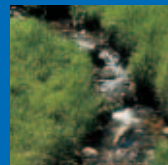
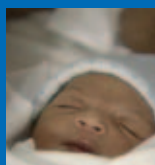


# Urban poverty is a challenge for the whole world



## The Alliance - a response to the challenge of poverty

**The Alliance is a worldwide network of cities set up by UNDP to help municipalities face up to the challenge of poverty on the spot.**

The network makes it easier to build bridges between municipal authorities by enabling them to take advantage of pooling their experience. It also provides a framework for pooling their human, material and financial resources in order to achieve specific objectives that make it possible to reduce poverty and reduce its effects.

It does not carry any constraints, and is made freely available to the cities. The benefit they gain from it is all the greater once elected representatives and municipal civil servants get into the habit of using it as a resource to be used in favour of their strategies and programmes for combating poverty.

The Alliance is rooted in UNDP, and this expands the prospects for municipal action and gives municipalities access to all the experience, skills and even the resources of the range of the United Nations agencies and their partners.

### The Alliance – a contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In September 2000, 189 governments signed the "Millennium Declaration" on which are based the eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that are known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first goal in this international commitment involves halving extreme poverty and hunger. This cannot be achieved without the contribution of the municipalities.

The Alliance enables elected representatives and municipal staff – and, beyond them, the fabric of local businesses and associations – to contribute to achieving the MDGs.



**UNDP – the United Nations Development Programme** – is the global development network of the United Nations. It advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

At the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, giving priority to the overarching goal of halving poverty by 2015.

The UNDP network coordinates the efforts made at national and international level with a view to achieving these goals.

#### UNDP mainly focuses its activities on:

- democratic governance
- poverty reduction
- crisis prevention and recovery,
- energy and environment, and
- HIV/AIDS

### Appeal of the Cities against Poverty

We, cities of all countries, cities of a world in which poverty still kills thousands of human beings every day, endangers natural resources indispensable to life, and compromises the future of all the planet's children,

request:

**that our societies make the fight against poverty an absolute priority;**

that to do so they mobilise more human resources as well as the additional national and international financial means needed while assuring the transparency of their use;

that they give substance to the commitments made by the heads of State and government of every continent during the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and to the programme of action adopted by the international community on that occasion;

that they take up this challenge together, in an enduring partnership

**It is a matter of human dignity**

# Making the commitment to combat poverty together



## Why take action ...

Poverty constitutes a violation of Human Rights.

Eradicating it means reducing hunger and disease, reducing exclusion and lack of security, preventing social conflict, and providing better protection for the environment.

## ... within the Alliance?

To benefit from the experience of other municipalities.

To pool resources.

To increase the skills of the municipalities' elected representatives and employees.

To amplify the appeal to make combating poverty an absolute priority at every level in our societies.

*A city joins the network once its Municipal Council has ratified the Appeal of the Cities against Poverty and starts to take part in global information campaigns on poverty, paying a contribution commensurate with its resources.*

## How to join the Alliance ?



### **World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty**

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva (Switzerland)

Tel. +(41) 22 917 85 34

Fax +(41) 22 917 80 05

E-mail : [mohand.cherifi@undp.org](mailto:mohand.cherifi@undp.org)

[www.ch.undp.org/wacap](http://www.ch.undp.org/wacap)



**World  
Alliance  
of Cities  
Against  
Poverty**

# **The Millennium Development Goals at the heart of municipal action**

## **By 2015 :**

- 1. Reduce poverty by half**
- 2. Provide all children with primary education**
- 3. Eliminate gender disparities in school**
- 4. Reduce by two-thirds infant mortality**
- 5. Reduce by three-quarters maternal mortality**
- 6. Reverse the progression of AIDS and malaria**
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development**

# World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty



## What is it?

**A global network of municipalities** to help combat poverty.

**A means of communicating**, promoting awareness and mobilising the general public so that combating poverty becomes a priority for all.

**A privileged link with a neutral partner**, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), making it easier to gain access to global skills, experience and resources.

## What is it for?

**Its aim is to achieve the first of the Millennium Development Goals** – to halve extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 – **by helping to reduce poverty** in cities.

## How?

**By reinforcing the skills of municipal structures by pooling the experience** of elected representatives and municipalities in all the continents and multiplying their interaction with the various players in the fight against poverty: civil society, governments, businesses, universities, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), etc.

**By promoting and developing every kind of cooperation and partnership** between municipalities and other players that could reduce poverty or minimise its effects at the local level.

## Who is it?

**Elected representatives and municipal employees** are the keystones of the network's effectiveness. The cities gain even more advantage from belonging to the network if they circulate the information and experiences of other municipalities that they receive through the Alliance to all the elected representatives and municipal employees concerned.

This, of course, demonstrates that the cities communicate their experiences to the focal point of the Alliance and even offer their material help to those that are in greater difficulty.

*"We, municipal representatives, recognise that our municipalities have an important role to play in meeting the challenges posed by poverty. We shall intensify our exchanges so that the experience of each becomes the wealth of all!"*

Declaration by the cities at the Forum in Lyon, 1998.

## Why the municipalities?

They are **an essential part of the fight against poverty**. They constitute the scale of public action that is closest to the citizen. This proximity enables them to increase awareness among local players, associations and the private sector and mobilise them with a view to achieving tangible results.

The municipalities are also able to express the fundamental values of society and act as a relay with the national institutions so that higher priority is given to combating poverty in that country and worldwide.

# The added value of the Alliance



## Goals

### Connecting

Global and regional forums give municipal officers from every continent the opportunity to meet and discuss matters, and also to keep in touch with other key players in the fight against poverty.

It gives them the opportunity to obtain direct information on the successful experiments of other municipalities and thus enables them to respond to local requirements more effectively.

Between the forums, UNDP circulates to municipalities that are members of the network examples of action that could be adapted in other places and encourages direct city-to-city contact.

**Pooling experience.**

**Developing the skills of elected representatives and municipal employees.**

**Improving the management of local affairs.**

### Energising

UNDP facilitates city-to-city cooperation and the municipalities' access to the skills and support available to them from the United Nations institutions, governments and various private players in the development field.

**Reinforcing the cities' resources for combating poverty.**

**Creating international partnership.**

### Mobilising

The information circulated on the network enables municipalities to make their inhabitants aware effectively and advisedly and to mobilise economic and social players to take action locally or in favour of international solidarity.

The Alliance also enables the cities to make their recommendations heard more readily by national and international authorities.

**Mobilising and involving citizens, associations, businesses and governments in the fight against poverty.**

**Passing messages on to the people, national authorities and international bodies.**

### Innovating

The network encourages municipalities to seek together ways and means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the local level.

**Translating the MDGs into local goals and action plans.**

# Tangible results

## Besançon (France) / Douroula (Burkina Fasso)

### Problems encountered in Douroula:

The drinking water supply is insufficient and the level of literacy – particularly among women – is low.

### Solutions proposed:

Besançon provided Douroula with the technical skills and financial resources to provide access to water for all. Cooperation between the two local authorities has also made it possible to set up a literacy programme for the citizens of Douroula.

### Results obtained:

Access to drinking water is now easier, substantially improving living conditions, particularly for women.

### Furtherance of the MDGs:

**MDG 3:** Promoting gender equality and the independence of women.

**MDG 7, target 10:** Halving by 2015 the proportion of the population with no permanent access to a supply of clean drinking water.

## Bamako (Mali)

### Problem encountered:

Growth of the urban population is causing problems with waste management.

### Solution proposed:

The municipality has signed a contract with a women's cooperative that organises rubbish collection combined with a system of participatory collection. They also provide education on health, hygiene and nutrition.

### Result obtained:

The project has improved the quality and hygiene of the population's living conditions.

### Furtherance of the MDGs:

**MDG 4:** Reducing infant mortality.

**MDG 7:** Ensuring environmental sustainability.

## Delhi (India)

### Problem encountered:

The distribution of municipal social services is ineffective and discriminatory.

### Solution proposed:

The city's inhabitants have been invited to take part in the management of public affairs. To do this, a mediation service, a "citizen-guardian" scheme and an

advisory group of experts have all been set up.

### Results obtained:

The poorest people have benefited from access to basic social services and improved social benefits. The local authorities have also become more aware of their responsibilities and there has been an improvement in local governance.

### Furtherance of the MDGs:

**MDG 1:** Reducing extreme poverty and hunger.

### MDG 7, target 11:

Improving by 2015 the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

**MDG 8:** Commitment in favour of good governance.

## Norwich (England)

### Problems encountered:

A third of the population – mostly women – live below the poverty threshold. Moreover, access to credit and productive resources is impossible for women who have no guarantee to offer banks, despite their human potential.

### Solutions proposed:

A micro-credits scheme that includes training and assistance has been set up. To make sure that the scheme works properly, an awareness campaign directed at the poorest women has been launched and partial aid has been granted to the poorest families to help with the cost of childcare.

### Results obtained:

Thanks to the training leading to a qualification, 30 women have been able to create their own economic activity, thereby ensuring a degree of independence for themselves as well as social recognition among their families and friends and from the local authority.

### Furtherance of the MDGs:

**MDG 1:** Reducing extreme poverty and hunger.

**MDG 3:** Reducing extreme poverty and hunger.

## The network is expanding all the time; it currently has nearly 200 members in 59 countries on 5 continents.

New municipal initiatives are being set up as a result of city-to-city collaboration on combating poverty.

### Example:

The "Samu Social" programme set up by the City of Paris in favour of the homeless has been copied by a number of towns in Belgium, Cameroon and Algeria already.

Further to information circulated by UNDP to municipalities in the network, a number of large cities, including Mexico City, Ouagadougou, Bamako and Phnom Penh, have expressed their interest in the scheme.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Forum in Lyon in 1998** provided an opportunity to point to the difficulties encountered by African cities in coping with poverty. As a result, the Conference of African Cities was held in Algiers in 1999 to coincide with the summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum in Geneva in 2000** produced specific goals, including the creation of an international solidarity fund under the auspices of the cities of Bamako, Geneva and Lyons and the compilation of a guide to city-to-city cooperation focusing on poverty reduction.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum in Huy in 2002** made it possible – thanks to partnerships and the pooling of experiences among the municipalities – to support action intended to improve the living and working conditions of socially disadvantaged women living in various conurbations.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Forum in Rome in 2004** will look at ways of enabling elected municipal representatives to share and seek together ways of helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on a municipal scale.

## Mobilising resources

### At government level

In Essaouira, Cotonou, Dakar and Niamey, micro-credit programmes directed primarily at women have been set up, making use of new information technology.

First results: 187 women have developed activities that provide them with a steady income.

### In the private sector

In Kuala Lumpur in Malaya, 150 women have benefited from micro-credit and training programmes for micro-businesses enabling them to ensure their own professional activity.

In Ethiopia and in Eritrea, thanks to private-sector funding for social projects, UNDP has been able to set up a drinking water supply network.