

# Poverty Reduction

A holistic UN effort to slow the cycle of poverty.

By Rachel Hainline  
East Chapel Hill High School  
February 5th, 2011

**One sixth** of the world's population lives in extreme poverty, which Jeffrey Sachs, author of *The End of Poverty*, defines as “too ill, hungry, or destitute even to get a foot on the first rung of the development ladder.”

- 600 million children worldwide live on less than \$1 a day.
- Almost 2 out of 3 people who lack access to proper drinking water make \$2 a day or less.
- An estimated 1.02 billion people are undernourished worldwide.

In order to effectively combat poverty, the UN must make a concerted effort to attack some of its root sources. This project attempts holistic poverty reduction by integrating **economic development** with providing **medical care** and **clean, safe water supplies**.

# Step 1: Improve Access to Medical Care and Treatments

“A village clinic with one doctor and nurse for the five thousand residents would provide... antimalarial medicines; treatments for HIV/ AIDS and opportunistic infections (including highly effective and low-cost Bactrium); antiretroviral therapy...birth attendants, sexual and reproductive health services.”

--*The End of Poverty*

# Funding clinics: a web-based approach

## Online UN Donation-Based Funding

- Existing clinics post supplies they need, and cost.
- Anyone-- a country, organization, person-- can donate money or supplies to specific clinics, or to the website in general.
- For general donations, recipients will be decided on number patients, severity of prevalent ailments, clinics' need for medical supplies, and clinics' location in proximity to other clinics and population centers.

# Step 2: ensure a **safe drinking supply**

- Works under same website as clinics, with the same oversight mechanisms
- In areas where clinics are established, funding can be provided to create sustainable sanitation and drinking supplies
- For increasing access to water: stand posts, boreholes, protected spring or well, or collected rain water
- For improving sanitation: hooking up villages to septic tanks, digging simple pit latrine or ventilated pit-latrine, and buying water filters for village wells and individual families

# Plans for Oversight

- Clinics post results on the website for donators to see (e.g. number of patients treated with antiretroviral medications)
- Annual inspections by UN officials
- Random audits and visits by UN officials for clinics receiving over \$25,000 annually

# Step 3: economic development through microfinance

- \$10-\$500 loans. First-time loan recipients cannot receive more than \$100.
- Recipient must demonstrate marketable skill and fundamental business skills (e.g. sewing, opening a produce stand, making jewelry that someone will buy)
- Focus on giving loans to women
  - lessens spread of AIDS-- fewer women trading sexual favors for money
  - studies have shown that women exhibit more fiscal responsibility
- Once recipients have paid back entire loan, they are eligible to apply for a larger one to upgrade their business (in fact, encouraged to do so and employ more locals)
- These loans will be funded by the ECOSOC
- Loan recipients must report progress to ECOSOC officials at 3-month intervals

# Bibliography

*The End of Poverty* by Jeffrey Sachs. Penguin Books Copyright 2005.

[water.org](http://www.water.org)

United Nations World Water Development Report, "[Water in a Changing World](#)"

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_poverty\\_economics/](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/) (UN Women)

<http://www.unicef.org/mdg/poverty.html>

[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/wsh0404summary/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/wsh0404summary/en/index.html)

[www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm](http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/podcast/transcript012411.html>

<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7359.pdf>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/01/women-are-more-responsible-with-money-studies-show/70539/>