

# MDG Progress Report 2013: Goal 1 To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



Progress to date	
<b>Target</b>	<p>Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.</p> <p>Achieve full and productive employment for all, including women and young people.</p> <p>Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.</p>
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Extreme poverty is declining in every region.</p> <p>The poverty reduction target has already been met.</p> <p>There has only been a slight decrease in vulnerable employment over the past 20 years.</p> <p>Hunger remains a challenge globally.</p>
<p>For the first time since people started recording them, poverty rates and the number of people living in extreme poverty has fallen in every developing region. This includes sub-Saharan Africa, where rates are highest. The proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day in sub-Saharan Africa (known as the global poverty rate) has decreased from 47 per cent in 1990 to 24 per cent in 2008, a reduction of more than 0.6 billion.</p> <p>Estimates show that the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day worldwide (known as the global poverty rate) fell to less than half of the 1990 rate in 2010. If these figures are true, the first target of the MDGs (reducing the extreme poverty rate to half its 1990 level) will have been met before 2015.</p> <p>Vulnerable employment is when people are working for their families without being paid, or trying to earn money on their own rather than working for a company. In 2011, 58% of people were doing this kind of work, a small decrease from 67% in 1990. Women and youth are more likely to have insecure and poorly paid work than other people.</p> <p>Hunger remains a challenge globally. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, 850 million people went hungry between 2006 and 2008, equivalent to 15.5 per cent of the world's population. This high level has continued and reflects the lack of progress on hunger in several regions, despite income poverty decreasing. There also hasn't been very much progress in reducing child under-nutrition. In 2012, nearly one third of children in Southern Asia remained underweight.</p>	
<p>Source: Millennium Development Goals Report 2012 (<a href="http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/mdg-report-2012.html">http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/mdg-report-2012.html</a>)</p>	

**CASE STUDY 1****Marina with her daughters, Jessica and Yeimi in Guatemala**

This picture shows Marina Ixtalaban del Telvina (left), with her two daughters Jessica (right) and Yeimi (center) where they live in the village of Willwood, Guatemala. They don't have enough to eat even though they live in a fertile farming area. Most of the local men earn low wages working on plantations growing crops that are exported to other countries.



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Oxfam predicts that the average price of **staple foods** in Guatemala will double by 2030. People are going hungry because of increasing food prices, climate chaos, rising demand when there aren't enough resources, and markets that help large companies but not small farmers.

Oxfam's new research predicts that the international prices of key food staples will more than double in the next 20 years. The world's poorest people will be hit the hardest as they spend up to 80% of their income on food. The global food system is broken and its power structures must be overhauled.

**LEDCs** such as Guatemala are on the frontline. Half of all the nation's children under five are **malnourished** – one the highest rates of **malnutrition** in the world. Yet the country has food in abundance. It is the fifth largest exporter of sugar, coffee and bananas. Its rural areas are witnessing a rush for palm oil production as international traders take advantage of demand for **biofuels** created by US and EU policy and subsidies. But despite selling food and **biofuels** to other countries, half of Guatemala's 14 million people live in poverty on less than \$2 a day. And it is getting worse. The money made from food, as in most poor countries, goes to rich people and **transnational corporations** rather than poor farmers.

Source: Oxfam



Picture for Case Study 2: Catarina Gomez Ixmatá. To be revealed to pupils before the case study.

**CASE STUDY 2****Catarina Gomez Ixmatá prepares traditional food for delegates for the World Food Day forum in Guatemala**

This picture shows Catarina Gomez Ixmatá from the San Cristobal community (in Totonicapá, South West of Guatemala) preparing traditional food to share with delegates of the "National Encounter and Forum for Food Right and Food Sovereignty" on World Food Day. The food fair was run by women from community organisations, outside the meeting room at the national university cultural centre where the forum was taking place. This campaigning event gave local people the opportunity to share their opinions and stories on the food crisis with the delegates.



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'We are preparing a traditional food from my region called 'quichon' (mixture, in English). The ingredients must be prepared, mixed up and cooked very carefully to keep the tone and taste of the sausage, to which we will then add chicken meat. The final touch is the cocoa, a sacred ingredient to our ancestors. Currently we can prepare this food just on special occasions because we can't always afford the high price of the main ingredients: maize, tomatoes, onions and meat. The price of all of them have increased beyond our capacity to pay. It's sad and we need to find a solution to this problem. When we talk about **food security** we must have this in account: that we must be able to take care of our health. But the high costs of the food are not allowing us to do so. Currently we are between the sword and the wall. That's the consequence of the high cost of the basic food basket.'

Source: Oxfam

## ACTIVITY

<b>Aim</b>	To encourage pupils to think about the complexity of issues, such as poverty and hunger.
<b>You will need</b>	The progress update, case study 1 and case study 2.  Words that are in <b>bold</b> are defined in the glossary.
<b>Title</b>	Tackling poverty and hunger
<b>Age</b>	11-14
<b>Task/s</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have pupils read the update information on MDG1. What questions do they have about reducing poverty and hunger? Is it a hard thing to achieve? Why?</li> <li>• If they were to give MDG1 a <i>traffic light</i> colour, what would it be?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Red (way off)</li> <li>○ Amber (mixed progress)</li> <li>○ Green (good progress)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ask pupils to read case study 1 on food in Guatemala and discuss what they think about it. How do they think the family in the photograph feels?</li> <li>• Ask them to discuss how this links to the hunger and poverty challenges for MDG1. Are there clues in the case study to why hunger still exists? Are they difficult problems to solve? How could it be done?</li> <li>• Introduce pupils to the person in the photograph from case study 2 (Catarina Gomez Ixmatá). Ask pupils what they think she is doing, and how it may link to the problems they have discussed. Encourage them to obtain evidence from the photograph.</li> <li>• Now reveal the information in the case study. Did they guess what the link was?</li> <li>• Discuss how what she is doing could help address the problems they discussed. Why do they think she chose to do this? What impact might it have and why? Why might she have done this rather than something else to address the problem?</li> <li>• Who might she be targeting to do something, and why them?</li> </ul>

## FURTHER WORK

<b>Age</b>	11-14.
<b>Task/s</b>	<p>Encourage students to think about the causes of, and ways of overcoming, poverty and hunger.</p> <p>Points for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we have met the poverty reduction target for MDG1, does that mean we don't have to worry about poverty anymore?</li> <li>• How many people are still poor today? Why might this be?</li> <li>• Why are there so many hungry people in the world?</li> <li>• How can we prevent people from being hungry?</li> <li>• How are poverty and hunger interlinked?</li> <li>• What would you now do to address poverty and hunger?</li> </ul>

# Glossary of terms

**Biofuel:** Any fuel that is produced from organic matter, such as biodiesel, which is made from plants and used to fuel cars.

**Food security:** When people always have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to keep them healthy.

**Income Poverty:** When poverty is defined by a person financial income. Someone earning less than \$1.25 a day is said to be living in poverty.

**LEDCs:** Less Economically Developed Countries.

**Malnutrition:** A condition which happens when a person does not eat enough food, or enough of the right sorts of food. Malnourished people are more vulnerable to infection and disease.

**Staple foods:** Food that is eaten regularly and makes up a large portion of the standard diet in any given population. Most people live on a diet based on just a small number of staples.

**Transnational corporation:** A corporation that is registered and operates in more than one country at a time. Also called a **multinational corporation**.

**Under-nutrition:** Inadequate nutrition resulting from lack of food or failure of the body to absorb nutrients properly.