

# What Can We Do to Promote Human Security?

*"Human security means to be free from fear of being killed, persecuted or abused; free from the abject poverty that brings indignity and self-contempt; free to make choices. As threats to national and international security emanate more and more from internal sources rather than external aggression, it is important to shift attention from the security of states to that of people."*

—Sadako Ogata

In 2000, leaders from every country agreed on a vision for the world's future. They agreed to take action to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) designed to reverse the grinding poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people. The goals provide a framework for development and define targets to measure progress by 2015.

The MDGs have inspired exceptional efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest—and there is much more to do.

You can find out more about the MDGs and their targets and what you can do to support the goals.

[www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html)

## Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

### DOLLARS AND SENSE

We spend more than \$1 trillion a year on global military expenditures and the arms trade, an average of \$173 for each person on the planet. The United States spends almost half the world total.

It is estimated that an additional annual expenditure of \$19 billion on basic services could eliminate starvation and malnutrition globally.

An additional \$12 billion annually could educate every child on earth.

And \$23 billion a year could reverse the spread of AIDS and malaria.

We could meet the basic human needs of every person on earth if \$70–\$80 billion—less than 10% of the world's military spending—was redirected to that purpose.

Which is safer—the heavily armed world we live in now, or a world in which all people's basic needs are met?

