



**The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).** In September 2000, 189 countries signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration and committed themselves to eradicating extreme poverty in all its forms by 2015. A set of 8 goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators were created for measuring progress between 1990 and 2015. The eight goals are:

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

The MDGs finish in 2015 and the Prime Minister has been asked to chair a United Nations committee to create a new set of millennium development goals.

**Aid recipients.** In March 2011, DFID announced the results of a review into bilateral aid to individual countries. They concluded that we should refocus our aid programme into fewer countries, targeting UK support to where we can have the biggest impact on tackling poverty.

To that end, by 2016 DFID will have closed significant bilateral programmes in 16 countries: China, Russia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Moldova, Bosnia, Cameroon, Lesotho, Niger, Kosovo, Angola, Burundi, the Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq and Serbia.

This will allow them to focus bilateral resources in the following 27 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Delivering Aid.** *'Big infrastructure projects are best left to multilateral bodies while bilateral aid was more successful when it concentrated on smaller, targeted projects, but within a long-term agenda. NGOs have a key role to play in delivering small, targeted projects which can have a real effect on the ground'* (Sectoral meeting: Trade and Aid).

### **Questions for discussion**

1. What should be the purpose of international aid?
2. What would you like to see included in the next international strategy for development?
3. To what kinds of countries should we give international aid? What types of country should definitely not receive aid?
4. Should our aid be conditional? For example, should we deny aid to countries with poor human rights records, including persecution of homosexuality?
5. Should less funding be channelled through multilateral agencies and more be delivered bilaterally, including through the intermediary of NGOs?
6. Should more be done to tell the public how their money is spent? Would this make the public more willing to support the aid programme?
7. How should we balance moves towards greater trade liberalisation with considerations such as protecting British farmers? Is it hypocritical to promote the economic development of poor countries while at the same time as restricting access to Western markets?
8. Should the international offices of state work together more closely? Would this create a more strategic approach to our foreign affairs, or muddy the aims of each organisation?
9. Should our spending on development aid be decided as a proportion of GNI or in some other way?