

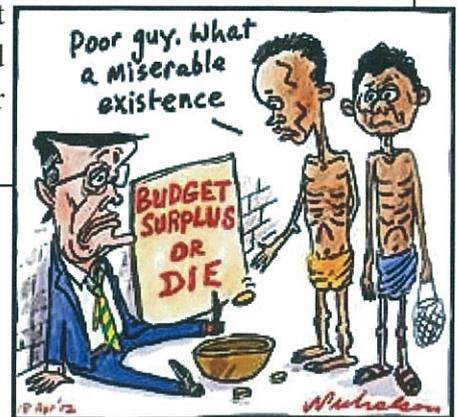
# CHECK OUT

CCJP

May 2012

## Our Millennium Goals Promise and the Budget

At the Millennium Summit in 2000 world leaders including Australia promised to achieve the 8 Millennium Goals (MDGs –see below) by 2015. Poor countries pledged to reform policies, improve governance and to channel resources to development objectives as embodied in the first 7 Goals. Rich countries promised to deliver more effective aid, faster and deeper debt relief and fairer trade rules as embodied in the 8<sup>th</sup> Goal.



### Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & 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.

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

### What Happened on Budget Night?

The Government decided not to increase aid to 0.5% of Gross National Income by 2015. Instead, it has decided to defer that commitment by one year. The Government will not increase aid to 0.38% of Gross National Income in the coming year as previously indicated. Instead, a much smaller increase of around \$300 million will see aid remain static at 0.35% GNI.

### What Will this Mean for the World's Poorest People?

In order to save \$2.9 billion over four years, the Government has chosen to break a promise it made to the Australian public and to the world's poor. Our aid will continue to do good (and more on this over the page), but we will be saving fewer lives, helping fewer children receive basic education, helping fewer communities recover from disaster, than we had committed to. The child who can't attend school today will just have to wait another year. The community that is afflicted by hunger today will just have to wait. The woman who goes through the trials of pregnancy and childbirth without skilled assistance today, well she can wait because *Australia needs a surplus*.

## Some Positives

At the same time as releasing the budget, the Government launched its new [Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework](#). This four-year framework sets headline targets for what Australian aid is intending to achieve, and performance indicators for how this can be done strategically, cost-effectively, and accountably.

If the targets are realised, Australian aid will help to vaccinate more than 10 million children by 2015. It will help more than 8.5 million people access safe water and more than 5 million people access basic sanitation. Australian aid will help 4 million more children enrol in school, and it will provide humanitarian assistance in conflict or crisis situations to 30 million people. The Government has also established an Independent Evaluation Committee to hold the aid program more accountable.

### Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

The Government has increased spending on water, sanitation and hygiene to \$164 million in 2012-13, with a commitment to spend \$1 billion between now and 2015. This falls short of the \$500 million needed annually, but it is a very substantial investment in an area that could [save more lives than any other health intervention](#).

A related piece of good news that was overshadowed by the budget campaign is that [Australia has signed on to the international Sanitation and Water for All Partnership](#). Although we have not yet committed any new funding through this increasingly significant and effective global partnership, Australia now sits at the table with developed and developing countries as they seek to develop, fund and implement strategies to provide safe drinking water to the 780 million people who still live without, and decent sanitation to the 2.5 billion people who don't have it.

## % of Budget Australians think is spent on Foreign Aid



### % of Budget believed spent on foreign aid

Actual foreign aid budget = 1.3%

## What Can You Do?

In a world of plenty, it is unacceptable that so many men, women and children continue to live in conditions of abject and dehumanising poverty. Australian aid is not the only solution to poverty, but it is a critical part of the Australian Government acting globally to "defend the rights of the poor and needy".

Join with other concerned groups (see websites below) to lobby Labor and the Opposition to keep their MDG promise to lift Australia's aid to 0.7% by 2015.

[www.aidwatch.org.au](http://www.aidwatch.org.au)

[www.micahchallenge.org.au](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au)

[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

Should you wish to receive further **CHECK OUTS**, contact Cecily May, CCJP, PO Box A21 Enfield South 2133, ☎/Fax 9745 0820 Email: [ccjp@bigpond.com](mailto:ccjp@bigpond.com) Web: [www.ccjpoz.org](http://www.ccjpoz.org)

### Information for this Checkout from:

AidWatch;

The Micah Challenge;

Caritas;

United Nations Millennium Goals Report 2011