



## **Women and Poverty**

Poverty has a woman's face, and the key to the eradication of poverty is the fulfilment of women's rights and gender justice. Societies where women are more equal stand a much greater chance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015. MDG 3 reaffirms gender equality and women's empowerment as essential ingredients of achieving sustainable human development and underlines their importance as a means of achieving all the other MDGs.

### **MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**



#### ***Targets***

- 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day*
- 2. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people*
- 3. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger*

#### **Quick Facts**

- \* With an already estimated 70% of the world's poor being women, the economic crisis is expected to push another 64 million more people, many of whom are women, into extreme poverty in 2010.*
- \* In New York City, poverty rates have jumped sharply since 2009, with an for female headed households.*
- \* "The U.S. Census Bureau report showed increases in poverty for whites, blacks and Hispanic Americans, with historic disparities continuing." NYTimes, 9-17-10.*



feminist task force

**The Feminist Task Force (FTF)** was launched in 2005 when leaders of international women’s rights groups gathered in New York City for the UN Commission on the Status of Women annual meetings. The global launch marked the start of a new alliance aimed at ending poverty among women and putting gender equality at the core of poverty eradication. Established under the umbrella of the **Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)** the Feminist Task Force focuses on raising awareness around women’s issues and calling for “**Gender Equality to End Poverty**”.

Ten years ago, when the Millennium Declaration outlined the eight MDGs, many women’s organizations viewed them as “minimalist development goals”; as simply watered-down commitments of the internationally agreed development goals of the UN conferences of the 1990’s. Since then, reports indicate mixed progress, with the new crises worsening the feminization of poverty.

Now, with only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, the UN MDG 2010 Review Summit in September provides an opportunity to critique the progress of governments in fulfilling the MDGs, and also offers women’s organizations the time to emphasize once again the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women in achieving all the MDGs and sustainable human development.

Women’s groups will critically assess how the MDGs have or have not served women, and examine the impact on women of interconnected crises – financial/economic, climate change, food, maternal mortality – and how they have exacerbated living conditions for women and thrown millions back into poverty.

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