

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS – ACTION PLAN

The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women has a mandate “to know Christ and to make him known”. The 11th Assembly’s Action Plan Committee sees the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as focusing on physical, intellectual and spiritual constraints which inhibit or limit human potential, that is, to teach and experience what God intended for us. In order to try to minimise or eradicate the constraints we look to God for direction and guidance. Psalm 24:1 states “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” If all creation belongs to God, then we have the confidence that the God who charges us with our mandate has accomplished all in Christ, and we, his followers, claim that victory. As those who are to put the plan into action we need to adopt the humility of Christ – the frame of mind which enables us to break the strongholds of the enemy and make a difference in the next quinquennium (Philippians 2:8).

In order to identify the actions necessary for each of the 8 goals, discussions and deliberations were led by chair persons and experienced presenters in eight groups: The Millennium Goals / Making a Difference groups. Each group submitted to the Action Plan Committee a record of the results of their discussions and deliberations. The members of the Action Plan Committee, having processed the submitted results, drew up a format, categorising results into objectives and actions. In this manner the actions to achieve each goal can easily be identified in comparison to descriptive or narrative forms of presentation. This led to the format in which the Millennium Goals – Plan for Action is presented.

<u>Millennium Development Goals</u>	<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Actual actions to be carried out in each unit in 2006-2011</u>
1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<p>1. World Federation receives stories of self-help projects from areas suffering extreme poverty and hunger and posts them on the website and “Tree of Life” newsletter.</p> <p>2. World Federation will have a study during the 2006-2011 quinquennium on</p>	<p>a) Local Units send in stories to be posted on website and where possible in “Tree of Life”. b) W.F. Sec through the Office of Vice-President will list on the website links to NGO’s related to extreme poverty and hunger issues. c) Area Presidents will provide information to Units where necessary. d) Local Units to partner NGO’s where able.</p> <p>a) The study writers will address the connection between corruption and poverty and the inter-generational aspects of poverty. b) The study is used by all Local Units. c) Contextualising the study material, local Units will research and produce data on older</p>

	<p>extreme poverty and hunger and how it impacts older adults.</p> <p>3. Extend credit to women deemed not credit-worthy.</p>	<p>adults and extreme poverty in their area.</p> <p>d) Local Units will use this data to lobby their Governments for social pensions.</p> <p>e) W.F. Sec, through the Vice-Pres. Office, lists on the website links to the NGO's that address older adults and extreme poverty.</p> <p>a) Local Units use creative ways to set up micro-finance projects.</p> <p>b) Stories of successful projects to be posted on W.F. website through the Secretary.</p>
<p>2) Achieve Universal Primary Education</p>	<p>1. Advocate for free and compulsory Universal Primary Education.</p> <p>2. Child-education-friendly local Churches.</p> <p>3. Every child to have the necessary educational supplies in your area.</p>	<p>a) Units will lobby local government bodies and education agencies.</p> <p>b) Provide space for schools and tutoring programs, e.g. using church buildings and members to be volunteer tutors.</p> <p>c) Lobby local governments and agencies to provide appropriate education for children with special needs.</p> <p>a) Implement a "safe child policy" which includes an age-appropriate physical, mental, emotional and spiritual learning environment.</p> <p>a) Local Units partner with governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) which supply educational materials.</p> <p>b) Contact and obtain from local schools recyclable and excess materials to be shared with schools in need.</p>
<p>3) Promote Gender equality and empower women.</p>	<p>1. Gender equality in family, church and society.</p> <p>2. The local area will promote equality within families.</p>	<p>a) Recognise God's gifts of leadership in their sisters.</p> <p>b) Encourage women to be in leadership at all church and community levels and support those already in leadership with our prayers.</p> <p>c) Use gender inclusive language.</p> <p>d) Provide opportunities for women to learn to use appropriate technology.</p> <p>e) Educate girls and boys in gender equality, e.g. teach boys child care and home-making skills and teach girls to be decision-makers.</p> <p>f) Promote economic independence for women through acquisition of skills.</p> <p>a) Teach women to value themselves as children of God.</p> <p>b) Teach women their human rights.</p> <p>c) Teach men and boys to respect women.</p> <p>d) Provide emotional and material support for women who are victims of domestic violence.</p>

	<p>3. World Federation will have a study during the 2006-2011 quinquennium on women making a difference in gender equality.</p>	<p>e) Provide spiritual support which will help women to balance their professional and their personal lives.</p> <p>a) The writers of the study will address gender inequalities in church leadership among other gender equality issues.</p> <p>b) The writers of the study will include stories of our spiritual foremothers and biblical examples of empowered women.</p> <p>c) The writers of the study will use inclusive language.</p>
<p>4) Reduce child mortality.</p>	<p>1. Promote the health and welfare of pregnant women.</p> <p>2. Promote the health and welfare of new mothers and babies.</p> <p>3. Provide mentoring programs for new mothers and fathers.</p>	<p>Local Units will:</p> <p>a) Provide nutritional counselling for pregnant women.</p> <p>b) Encourage pre-natal healthcare visits as early in a pregnancy as possible.</p> <p>a) Encourage women to consider all aspects of family planning.</p> <p>b) Provide church space and/or support for well-baby clinics.</p> <p>a) Partner experienced mothers with mothers-to-be to provide emotional and spiritual support.</p> <p>b) Welcoming the baby as a child made in the image of God.</p>
<p>5) Improve maternal health</p>	<p>1. Improve maternal health at the local level through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention of unwanted pregnancy • prevention of complications during pregnancy • appropriate management of any complications that do occur 	<p>a) Provide sex and relationship education programmes in schools, church and home.</p> <p>b) Local Units / Churches review cultural traditions and keep those that enhance the life of women and remove those that endanger and impair; e.g. female genital mutilation.</p> <p>c) Local Units to lobby government and church bodies to improve availability and accessibility of people resources, health-care facilities, equipment and drugs.</p> <p>d) Provide counselling and support to women of all ages.</p> <p>e) Raise money such as giving all your loose change for a month, to purchase and send Mama kits.</p> <p>f) Act as role models for the next generation.</p>

<p>6) Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases.</p>	<p>1. Eradication of preventable diseases in your area.</p> <p>2. Eradication of the stigma and persecution surrounding persons with HIV and AIDS in your area.</p> <p>3. Recognition of HIV and AIDS as a pandemic.</p> <p>4. Demonstrate Christ's love.</p>	<p>a) Local Units will lobby governments to implement school entry requirements regarding inoculations and immunisations.</p> <p>b) Local Units will lobby governments and pharmaceutical companies to provide free and/or inexpensive drugs for all in need.</p> <p>c) Local Units will lobby governments to legislate for prosecution of any person who intentionally inflicts another person with HIV.</p> <p>d) To raise awareness and funds to: provide mosquito nets and sprays. Improve sanitation, clean up swamps and standing water, lobby for clean water. The above to be linked with health education. <i>(Further work to be done)</i></p> <p>a) Examine our own views in light of the Gospel.</p> <p>b) Hold seminars to educate others including young people about HIV and AIDS.</p> <p>c) Provide church space as a safe place for HIV testing.</p> <p>a) Local Units will hold public seminars about the consequences of unprotected sex and needle sharing.</p> <p>b) Produce and post signs and banners about the consequences of unprotected sex and needle sharing.</p> <p>a) Local Units to engage in care and support of persons with HIV and AIDS.</p> <p>b) Local Units to produce or fund the purchase of health-care kits to be distributed.</p>
<p>7) Ensure environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>1. Support fair trade in local areas.</p> <p>2. Reverse the loss of environmental resources.</p>	<p>Members, Local Units and churches only buy fair trade logo products or locally produced merchandise where possible.</p> <p>a) Integrate the principles of sustainable development into home, church and work situations and programs.</p> <p>b) Pledge to say no to non-biodegradable items.</p> <p>c) Careful use of electricity, water and oil.</p> <p>d) Encourage companies to produce organic and biodegradable materials.</p> <p>e) Include the care of God's Creation in Sunday School curriculum.</p> <p>f) Use environmentally sustainable products in all aspects of life, work, church and home.</p>

	<p>3. Safe drinking water for all.</p> <p>4. Improve the lives of people.</p>	<p>g) Lobby governments to integrate the principles of sustainable development into their policies.</p> <p>a) Educate that water is a basic human right to be shared and enjoyed by all God’s people.</p> <p>b) Local Units partner with NGOs to provide funding for wells.</p> <p>c) Local Units educate families on the importance of saving rain water.</p> <p>d) Approach local NGOs to provide micro-financed water containers for families.</p> <p>e) Lobby tourism industry in your area to place water saving/laundry reduction notices in all rooms and train employees to observe them.</p> <p>f) Plan meetings / conferences in eco-friendly facilities.</p> <p>g) Local Units lobby governments to implement good water management by all entities and corporations.</p> <p>h) Lobby for laws that require companies accessing water to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit plans for purifying any waters potentially to be used before a permit is granted. 2. Be fined should pollution occur. 3. Clean up any polluted water and land. <p>a) Support the development and training in the use of environmentally sustainable technology, e.g. solar ovens, water collection, food production.</p> <p>b) Lobby governments and companies to provide job-skill training in environmentally sustainable industries.</p> <p>c) Develop resources (e.g. a manual) that teach/show that all aspects of life are interconnected for a sustainable environment, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biblical • economic • political • spiritual • cultural • local and • global
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<p>8) Development of global partnerships for development.</p>	<p>1. Support fair trade.</p> <p>2. Continue World Federations NGO status at the United Nations.</p> <p>3. World Federation will have a study during the 2006-2011 quinquennium on the United Nations in our everyday life.</p> <p><i>(Further work to be done.)</i></p>	<p>a) Local Units will advocate for fair trade.</p> <p>b) Lobby with appropriate NGOs for producers to meet fair trade standards.</p> <p>c) Use fair trade items in church, work and home.</p> <p>a) Nominate persons to serve as World Federation’s representatives to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland; New York, United States and Vienna, Austria.</p> <p>a) The writers of the study will address how the U.N. affects daily living, e.g. the World Federation’s involvement in CONGO (Conference on Non-Governmental Organisations) & UNICEF’s role in the eradication of polio.</p> <p>b) <i>(Further work to be done.)</i></p>
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To further assist the Units to strategise and plan actions in terms of activities in the time frames of the next quinquennium, the Action Plan Committee has come up with a Matrix of Actions. This Matrix of Actions might assist Units and Areas to strategically plan how to achieve the Millennium Goals within the time frame of the next quinquennium 2006-2011.

Preparation	1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger	2 Achieve Universal Primary Education	3 Gender Equality & Empower Women	4 Reduce Child Mortality	5 Improve Maternal Health	6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Diseases	7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability	8 Develop Global Partnerships for Development
2006								
2007								
2008								
2009								
2010								
2011								

Please note prior to each strategy of action are three important stages

- i) Prayers for guidance in strategising.
- ii) Identifying and prioritising goals.
- iii) Carrying out of surveys or research, the results of which will inform and guide actions, needed to make a difference.

Madame President, I submit this report on behalf of the Action Plan Committee and the three members co-opted to help in the editing of the report where names are listed here:

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