



United Nations  
P a k i s t a n 

*Improving lives and helping people*

*ISSUE NO. 05/2010 (28  
May 2010)*

*A monthly Newsletter,  
published by the UN  
Information Centre, covering  
the global and local UN  
News on Thematic Working  
Areas and the Cross Cutting  
Themes of the United  
Nations -Pakistan*



## Humanitarian Assistance / IDP's in Pakistan

### Humanitarian consequences of the Hunza Landslide of January 2010

The water levels are rising in the lake created by the massive landslide that came down on 4 January 2010, across the Hunza river and Karakoram Highway at Ataabad, 15 kms east of Karimabad (Hunza-Nagar district). The lake is now 16.5 kilometers long and nearly 100 meters deep. The local authorities are creating a non-reinforced spillway across the landslide site to facilitate water outflow from the lake, which is likely to occur by the last week of May, or even earlier.

However, the situation poses a danger to 36 villages downstream of the lake and the local authorities are relocating 1600 vulnerable families into camps in safer locations.

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Submerged pillars of an under construction bridge

Upstream the expanding lake has inundated Ainabad, Shishkat and Gulmit, which are now partially under water. Nearly 300 IDPs affected by the landslide and the expanding lake are being provided with emergency relief support, by the authorities. This number is likely to rise. Moreover, 25,000 people from Tehsil Gojal in Upper Hunza are isolated due to the severance of the Karokaram Highway and are in need of humanitarian support. .

The humanitarian community in Pakistan has offered its assistance to the local and federal authorities and stands ready to provide help as required.

#### **UNHCR welfare center in Swat helps conflict survivors find new hope to live**

SWAT DISTRICT: Shahnaz, a 22-year-old war affected young lady, has recently returned home in Kanju - a small town some 6 kilometers from Swat's capital Mangora in northern Pakistan. After spending three months as an internally displaced person in Peshawar, going through many miseries in this young age, she has now found a new hope to live. While trying to survive conflict, poverty, displacement and a throat cancer, young Shahnaz has lost her father during the war in the picturesque valley of Swat district.

Her countless woes had stirred a sense of suicidal inclination in her young mind but she is no longer suicidal as she wants to live and this is because she got treatment and counseling from one of the UN refugee agency funded welfare centres in Swat.

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UNHCR and its partners have established 15 welfare centres in Swat and Lower Dir where psychologists counsel people suffering from trauma. Community meetings are used to spread the word about the centres and the help they provide. More than 30,000 vulnerable people have been helped since November. Another two centres operate in Peshawar.

"Before the war started in Swat, our living condition was quite good and I used to study in school and wanted to become a teacher and help my family. The war disturbed everything," shared Shahnaz.

"On the other side, throat cancer had badly affected my life as I have suffered a lot," she recalls. Shahnaz had seven sessions of 45 minutes at the welfare centre for over two months.

She says during the conflict, her father was killed in shelling and nobody extended help to them. 'I cannot afford to live as our neighbors pay for our rent. Even I cannot afford to manage my food like juices,"

Shahnaz, under treatment for throat cancer, says their family spent some three months in Hayatabad, Peshawar with her neighbors uncle while displaced.

"Earlier I had suicidal inclinations but after counseling, I abandon those negative thinking. Now I am enjoying the real taste of life. I am really grateful to the doctor of this welfare centre, who taught how to live," she says.

Laila Shah Nawaz, a psychologist at Kanju Welfare Centre, says when there is any disaster, whether manmade or natural disaster it has physical and psychological effects as well.

"In Swat, the people of the community are affected by the conflict and they have developed some symptoms of depression and of PTSD. There are case of OCD, PST, Phobia, anxiety, some symptoms of conversion as well while we have some cases as psychosis, skyzophrenia and others," she says.

According to the psychologist they are giving the people self hope and selfencouragement.

"Because of the psychotherapy and counseling, things are improving now."

End

## Agriculture, Rural Development, and Poverty Reduction

### Employment creation key to poverty reduction in Africa – UN report



18 May 2010 – High unemployment rates continue to hinder poverty reduction efforts in Africa, the United Nations says in a new report released today, stressing that African countries must give priority to diversifying their economies to create decent jobs to boost social development.

"Africa's long-term growth prospects and ability to sustain high rates of employment generation and broader social development depend on success in economic diversification," according to the Economic Report on Africa 2010, published by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (**ECA**) and the African Union Commission.

The current global economic crisis offers African countries an opportunity to lay the foundation for sustainable, employment-intensive economic growth, says the report.

"The recession should work as a wake-up call for Africa to deal with its vulnerabilities and introduce further reforms to promote growth, but more particularly employment creation to promote social development in the region," said Rob Vos, Director of Development Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), at the launch of the report in New York.

The report – whose theme is "Promoting High-level Sustainable Growth to Reduce Unemployment in Africa" – recommends investment in infrastructure and human capital, renewed efforts to mobilize domestic resources, market reforms, incentives to support private-sector employment and efforts to increase productivity and incomes in the informal sector.

It warns African countries against continuing to depend on traditional drivers of economic growth, such as exports of raw commodities, foreign investment and development aid, saying those sources of resources were unpredictable.

Gross domestic product (GDP) in African economies declined from 4.9 per cent in 2008 to 2.4 per cent in 2009, but is expected to grow by 4.8 per cent in 2010, the report says.

Commodity prices, an important determinant of growth in many African economies, fell at the beginning of 2009, but have since rebounded and are expected to stabilize in 2010 and rise moderately in 2011, according to the report.

The rebound in commodity prices observed in 2009 was, however, mainly due to increased petroleum prices, resulting in part from increased demand from China following its stimulus package as well as the upward revision of expected world demand, the report notes.

However, as a result of the depreciation of the United States dollar, 2009 commodity prices were below their 2008 levels in real terms.

The document reveals considerable regional variations in growth in 2009 across African regions and countries. Growth was highest in West Africa at 5.5 per cent, partly as a result of a boost in oil output in the Delta region of Nigeria following the reduction in hostilities.

East Africa posted a 4.3 per cent growth, much higher than the earlier estimate of 3.9 per cent, while North Africa posted a GDP growth rate of 3.6 per cent.

The worst hit region was Southern Africa where GDP declined by 1.1 per cent, followed by Central Africa with a paltry 1.8 per cent growth rate.

Africa's other major challenge is climate change, according to the report, which states that agricultural output is expected to decrease by 50 per cent on the continent, resulting in severe under-nourishment. The health burden and conflicts will increase as populations fight over dwindling resources, the report adds.

The cost of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are, however, extremely high and beyond the means of African countries, notes the report.

It is estimated that the cost of adaptation is between 5 and 10 per cent of continental GDP, the report says, stressing that it is crucial for the international community help meet the cost of climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa.

## **UNDP Regional Director reiterates his commitment to help Pakistan face the ongoing humanitarian and development challenges**

Islamabad 12 May, 2009: Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Assistant Administrator, and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific left today on May 12th 2010 after completing a four-day visit. He was here to discuss key humanitarian and development challenges faced by Pakistan and UN and UNDP's response to them. While in Pakistan, Mr. Chhibber met with the Mr. Farooq H Naik, Chairman Senate, Dr. Hafeez Sheikh, Finance Advisor, Mr. Hameedullah Jan Afridi, Minister of Environment, Dr. Farzana Raja, Director, Benazir Income Support Programme, Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to the PM on Social Sector and other senior government officials, international donors and civil society representatives. He was accompanied by Mr. Fikret Akcura, Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative and Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Country Director UNDP.

During the meeting with the Chairman Senate, Mr. Chhibber appreciated the efforts of the Chairman to further deepen democracy in Pakistan and acknowledged increased women representation in the Parliament which compares favorably with other countries in region. UNDP pledged to support projects to strengthen the capacity of Parliament and Senate to deepen democracy.

In his meeting with Mr. Hafeez Sheikh, Finance Advisor to the PM, the discussion focused on social security, regional cooperation and aid effectiveness. Social protection and regional cooperation can be instrumental in addressing some of the key challenges facing Pakistan. UNDP will work closely with the Government on social protection policy framework and strategy development. This was reiterated in the meeting with Ms. Shahnaz Wazir Ali, where UNDP was requested to provide technical support towards strengthening the social protection system in Pakistan. As part of its governance support to Pakistan, UNDP was also requested to support the Government in enhancing aid effectiveness through the Economic Affairs Division.

While discussing the Benazir Income Support Programme with Dr. Farzana Raja, Mr. Chhibber offered UNDP's services to create a monitoring and evaluation system for the programme and help devise an exit strategy. UNDP also has the cross-country experience on implementing various schemes such as conditional cash transfer mechanisms.

During his four-day visit, the Regional Director also met with Mr. Hameedullah Jan Afridi, Minister of Environment and exchanged views on several environmental issues including climate change, clean development mechanisms, natural resource and water shed management. UNDP promised support on helping build capacity in the area of climate change and access to global financing.

In his meetings with government counterparts, bilateral and multilateral donors, the Regional Director expressed his concerns over the resource challenges to the implementation of the One UN Programme. The upcoming international conference on the UN Delivering as One in Hanoi on June 14-16 will take stock the progress thus far and lessons learnt from the 8 UN pilot countries, including Pakistan and other self-starter pilots in the region.

At a meeting with the donor community, Mr. Chhibber emphasized the urgency to complete the Post Crisis Needs Assessment (PCNA) for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa/FATA and also ensure that the plan 'builds back better', takes cognizance of early recovery needs and addresses the key drivers of conflict.

<http://undp.org.pk/undp-regional-director-reiterates-his-commitment-to-help-pakistan-face-the-ongoing-humanitarian-and-development-challenges.html>

## Health and Population

### Mother and Child Health Week reaches children without access to basic health services



A newborn in a remote rural village in Pakistan receives lifesaving vaccines during Mother and Child Health Week.

UMERKOT, Pakistan, November 2009 – Sidori Churon follows with close attention the drawings of a chart while her four-month-old baby Isar sleeps on her lap. She is here to attend a health session to alert mothers like her about the signs of pneumonia in small children. The illness is one of the main causes of death of children under five in Pakistan.

Sidori is one of over 250,000 people, a quarter of the population of Umerkot District in Sindh Province, who do not have access to a primary health care clinic or a Lady Health Worker. She, like her fellow villagers, belong to the country's small Hindu population, and this information session, held in her tiny village, is the first time she has had the opportunity to learn about modern care practices for children.

To address the lack of access to basic health services of mothers like Sidori, UNICEF supports the government's Mother and Child Health Weeks, which enable the delivery of a package of high-impact, low-cost child survival interventions. During the initiative, children, especially in rural areas, receive immunizations and deworming medicines. Mothers are counselled on household practices like breastfeeding and basic hygiene, and on how to identify and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea, which could potentially prevent thousands of deaths.

For Sidori the initiative brings to her neighbourhood the first doses of BCG, pentavalent and polio vaccine for her only living child and the first dose of tetanus for herself. This young mother of about sixteen years of age has already gone through four pregnancies: two ended in miscarriage and one baby died seven days after birth. In rural areas of Sindh Province, in Pakistan's southeast, where Sidori lives, 51 per cent of girls are married before they are eighteen and a quarter before sixteen. Newborns are not registered at birth and women and girls do not know their age.

Due to the lack of women health workers in the district, one of Sidori's neighbours is running the health session. Dahi Bheel has been trained by one of UNICEF's implementing partners as a community resource worker. While Dahi never had the chance to go to school, she agreed to participate in the initiative "to improve the women and children's health since there is no health facility in this area," she says emphatically.

As with many mothers living in this semi-desert zone near the Indian border, Dahi has seen countless children suffering from illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. Water is scarce and villagers store rainwater for drinking. The nearest health facility is more than forty kilometres away and no public transport is available. But little by little, Dahi has seen Mother and Child Weeks starting to have an impact: "Now many women know about diarrhoea, pneumonia and the importance of handwashing. And it is making a difference in the health of the children."

"Pneumonia is a seasonal calamity, taking the lives of 52,000 Pakistani children every year," says Martin Mogwanja, the UNICEF Country Representative for Pakistan. "If mothers know how to prevent pneumonia and care for ill children, then we could save many of these lives."

Umerkot is one of most disadvantaged areas of Sindh Province. Over 12 children out of 100 die before the age of five, a much higher rate than in urban areas of the province or the country as a whole. A majority of these deaths occur in the first four weeks of life. Pakistan as a whole has the eighth highest neonatal mortality in the world, largely attributable to lack of access to health services and their poor quality when available.

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About 15 million children under five years of age and 3.4 million pregnant women are the target of this Mother and Child Week, an initiative of the Ministry of Health with the support of UNICEF and other partners. During the first week of November, 90,000 Lady Health Workers and 3,500 supervisors held health sessions

for families, especially mothers, in 134 districts on how to protect their children from pneumonia and other health threats in the coming winter.

"We have seen through our work in other countries like Ghana, as well as in Pakistan, that we can save thousands of lives and improve the health of millions at very low cost through Mother and Child Weeks," says Mr Mogwanja. "By working together, the government, Pakistan's health workers, development agencies and families can use and strengthen our existing infrastructure to make sure that every family can protect its children from pneumonia and other potentially deadly diseases."

## Environment

### UN unveils campaign to make cities more resistant to disasters



Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

27 May 2010 – With the recent wave of natural hazards – from the devastating January earthquake in Haiti to volcanic eruptions in Iceland wreaking havoc with air travel in Europe – exposing the need for cities to implement disaster reduction plans, the United Nations is launching a campaign to boost the resiliency of urban areas.

The two-year scheme, called *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready*, calls on leaders and local governments to commit to a 10-point checklist.

"A resilient city and its citizens can benefit greatly from the opportunities presented by urban risk reduction actions," said Margareta Wahlström, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Reduction. "When successfully mobilized, resilient cities may benefit from growth and employment, business opportunities, balanced ecosystems, better health and improved education," she added.

The campaign, to be launched in Bonn, Germany, on Sunday, seeks to bring more than 1,000 local government leaders around the world to step up their investment in urban planning; infrastructure and building safety; reinforcing drainage systems to reduce flooding; and installing early warning systems, among other measures.

The mayors of five cities – Bonn; Mexico City, Mexico; Saint Louis, Senegal; Karlstad, Sweden; Larreynaga-Malpaisillo, Nicaragua; and Albay, Philippines – will be the first to commit to at least one of the checklist's 10 points.

"It is fundamental that we as local leaders are conscious about the risks," said Enrique Gomez Toruño, Mayor of Larreynaga-Malpaisillo. "We learned a lot during the recent influenza epidemics and before that from Hurricane Mitch, floods and landslides. We learned we have to invest more time, more capacities to reduce our risks."

The new campaign also urges community groups, planners, academics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to join efforts to enhance the resiliency of cities.

"Urban risk reduction is an opportunity that cities and their populations cannot afford to miss," Ms. Wahlström said.

The Secretariat of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (**ISDR**) is coordinating the initiative, with the UN Human Settlements Programme (**UN-HABITAT**), the UN World Health Organization (**WHO**) and the UN Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) also playing a key role.

### Biodiversity loss brings ecological systems closer to a tipping point, Ban says



22 May 2010 – Despite repeated global commitments to protect the planet's species and habitats, the variety of life continues to decline at an unprecedented rate, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today, urging action to curb the root causes of biodiversity decline.

"Biodiversity loss is moving ecological systems ever closer to a tipping point beyond which they will no longer be able to fulfil their vital functions," he said in his message on the occasion of the International **Day** for Biological Diversity, observed on 22 May.

"Communities everywhere will reap the negative consequences, but the poorest people and the most vulnerable countries will suffer most," he added, noting that this year's theme is "biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation."

Some 70 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas, and depend directly on biodiversity for their daily sustenance and income.

World leaders vowed in 2002 to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The commitment was incorporated into the seventh of the eight Millennium Development Goals (**MDGs**), the series of anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline.

The Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) report released earlier this month by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Environment Programme (**UNEP**) showed that world leaders had failed to deliver on their target.

"The deadline has arrived, yet the deterioration of our natural resources continues apace," the Secretary-General said in his message today.

He urged world leaders to create a new vision which promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits from its use.

He also urged recognition of the close links between "our natural capital and our development objectives."

The General Assembly has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and will discuss the issue of biodiversity at its high-level debate in September in New York.

The topic will also take centre stage at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in October, attended by the 193 parties to the CBD, which entered into force at the end of 1993 and addresses threats to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Meanwhile, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) **announced** that Italy has contributed 1.2 million euros to a scheme aimed at helping the world's poorest farmers conserve and propagate crop varieties.

The scheme is being managed by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Italian grant was unveiled to coincide with the International Day for Biological Diversity.

## Disaster Risk Management

## Pakistan setting up earthquake and tsunami warning system

Pakistan is setting up an earthquake detection and tsunami early warning system supported by UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).



Installed at Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) centres in Karachi and Islamabad, the system can issue information on seismic activity within five minutes of its occurrence. Besides providing early warnings of land-based earthquakes to civil defence authorities, the system enables the national tsunami warning centre at PMD to send out speedy tsunami alerts for the Pakistani coastline.



The system is based on a sophisticated software package called "SeisComp3", originally developed for Indonesia by Geoforschungszentrum (GFZ) Potsdam. UNESCO/IOC provided both hard- and software for the system as well as training for staff. In preparation is a cooperation agreement with GFZ Potsdam, to make Pakistani broad-band seismometers part of the internationally accessible seismic network of the Indian Ocean region. Pakistan will thus, through real-time data sharing, contribute significantly to the effort led by UNESCO/IOC to establish an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system.

Pakistan suffered a particularly devastating earthquake in October 2005, which killed over 80,000 people.

## Cross Cutting Themes / Other Issues

### Brazil: UN rights expert urges stepped up efforts to fight slavery



Gulnara Shahinian, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

29 May 2010 – An independent United Nations human rights expert has called urged Brazil to strengthen efforts to close loopholes perpetuating the practice of slavery, including forced labour in the vast South American nation's rural areas.

"Slavery is a crime that should not go unpunished," said Gulnara Shahinian, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, including its causes and consequences, at the end of her visit to Brazil. The Government has taken commendable action to combat the scourge, including publishing a so-called 'Dirty List' of all farms and companies using slave labour, excluding them from accessing public funds, she said. But "some landowners, businesses and intermediaries, such as the *gatos*, have found a way to avoid criminal prosecution by taking advantage of legal loopholes that delay justice and foster impunity," the expert said. Civil penalties have been successfully applied to some landowners and companies but criminal penalties have not been enforced, with jurisdictional conflicts and delays in the judiciary system resulting in the lapsing of the statute of limitations, she pointed out. Although forced labour is considered a serious crime, first-time offenders might only face house arrest or community service.

Brazil could shortly become the world's fifth largest economy, but the Special Rapporteur cautioned that this ascendancy should not come at the expense of people's rights.

Forced labour in rural areas, which she said is a "slavery-like practice," is most wide-spread in the cattle ranching and sugar cane industries, and the victims are mostly men and boys over the age of 15. In Brazil's urban areas, forced labour takes place largely in the garment industry.

"In all these situations the victims of forced labour work long hours, with little or no pay," Ms. Shahinian said. "They are threatened with, or subjected to physical, psychological and sometimes sexual violence."

During her visit, she held talks with Government authorities, international organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and visited communities in São Paulo, Cuiabá, Imperatriz, Açailândia and Brasília. In rural areas, she met with people subjected to forced labour and slavery-like practices in the cattle ranching and sugar cane industries, and she also spoke with garment workers.

The expert called for the adoption of schemes that ensure that the people most vulnerable to performing forced labour can enjoy basic rights, such as the rights to food, water and education to allow for their rehabilitation and reintegration into economic life and social protection networks.

Education should also include vocational training and literacy programmes, which should be complemented by Government action to safeguard the right for indigenous groups and others "to work without having to succumb to forced labour," she stressed.

"The strongest message that the Brazilian Government can send to Brazilians to show that the crime of slavery will not go unpunished is to pass the constitutional amendment" which would allow for the expropriation of land where forced labour is used," the Special Rapporteur emphasized.

"This expropriation would occur without compensation and the land would be re-distributed, with priority being given to those workers previously held in conditions analogous to slavery."

Passing this amendment, she said, "will show that Brazil is indeed strongly committed to fighting slavery."

### UNDP launches "We Can End Poverty" photo contest

Johannesburg, 14 May 2010— The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Olympus Corporation and the Agence France-Presse (AFP) Foundation, launched the second annual Picture This: We Can End Poverty, This photo contest today in Johannesburg, South Africa. The contest, titled Picture This: We Can End Poverty, seeks to show the inspirational work that is being done in many countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight goals agreed on by world leaders to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

"Through the photo contest this year we want to show that the MDGs can be reached, even in the poorest and most disadvantaged countries," said Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, at the launch of the contest. "We hope that the contest will bring much needed attention to the quickly approaching deadline for achieving the MDGs, and motivate people and governments in developed and developing countries to redouble their efforts in the fight against extreme poverty."



This year's competition is particularly important, as it coincides with the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals to be held in September in New York. The Summit will bring together world leaders to boost progress against poverty and commit to a concrete action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015. UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and internationally-acclaimed actor Antonio Banderas is one of five judges who will choose the winning photos. "We are at a defining moment in the fight against poverty. The challenges of achieving the MDGs cannot be overcome by a single person, organization or government. All sectors of society need to be mobilized in a call to action for the big push to 2015. This photo contest is the type of initiative that will bring all these different groups together in order to focus attention on the urgency of achieving the MDGs."

An exhibit featuring the winning photos will be held during the Summit to put a human face on the MDGs. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers worldwide. Contestants may submit up to three different photographs, focusing on progress towards one of the eight MDGs, preferably in a developing country.

The eight goals are:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

The deadline for entries is by midnight EST 16 July, 2010.

The other four judges who will choose the winning photos are professional photojournalists: Alexandra Avakian and John Isaac, both award winning photographers, as well as Mark Garten, Head of UN Photo and Paola Messana, AFP Bureau Chief in New York.

In addition to three winners in each of the professional and amateur categories, there will be one "People's Choice" award. The winner of this category will be selected by the public, who can vote on the photo entries displayed on the Picture This website. The top rated three photos in each of the professional and amateur categories, as well as the "People's Choice" winning image will be displayed on the sponsors' websites and shown in at least two exhibitions in Japan and the United States.

The first prize winners in the professional and amateur categories and the "People's Choice" winner will be flown to an awards ceremony and launch of an exhibition in September in New York.

"The AFP Foundation is once again very pleased to support this photo contest," said Robert Holloway, Director of the AFP Foundation. "We believe it will give an opportunity to amateur and professional photographers everywhere to show the world how ordinary people around the world are dealing with achieving their most pressing development challenges."

President of Olympus, Tsuyoshi Kikukawa, said from Tokyo, "We hope that through this initiative, people around the world will be inspired by images showing that the simplest of actions, no matter who you are or where you live, can make a real difference in the effort to halt extreme poverty. The time has come for the world to realize that we all have a role to play to achieve the Goals, and that regardless of where we live or what we do, we all have the potential to contribute to human development in our countries, communities and villages."

The 2009 Africa-centred Picture This: Caring for the Earth competition resulted in an international traveling exhibit (Geneva, Johannesburg, New York, Osaka, St Louis in Senegal, and Tokyo), and extensive media coverage for the contest itself, its winners and participants, as well as the issue of climate change and environmental degradation in Africa.

For more on the 2010 Picture This: We Can End Poverty photo contest, visit: <http://picturethis.undp.org>

For more on the Millennium Development Goals and the September MDGs Summit, visit:

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

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