

## Facts and figures: minorities and the MDGs

By Bernadett Sebály

The 2008 financial and food crises have jeopardized the realization of the MDGs and undermined the progress towards them which has been made to date.<sup>1</sup> As a result of the crises, it is estimated that an additional 64 million people will be living in extreme poverty by the end of 2010,<sup>2</sup> 260,000 children under the age of five could die unnecessarily in 2015,<sup>3</sup> 350,000 more children will be unable to complete primary school in 2015,<sup>4</sup> and 100 million more people will remain without access to safe drinking water.<sup>5</sup>



A Cham shopkeeper near Boeung Kak lake in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2010. Carl Soderbergh/MRG.

### The following MDGs are seriously off track:

- eradicate hunger (*MDG1c*): the crisis has led to an increase of more than 105 million hungry people,<sup>6</sup> and the number of people suffering from hunger may now exceed 1 billion.<sup>7</sup>
- primary school completion rate (*MDG2*).
- under-five mortality rate (*MDG4*).
- maternal mortality (*MDG5*).
- access to sanitation (*MDG7c*).

The region suffering the greatest impact of the crises is Sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, in the EU, a survey conducted in 2005 found that 88 per cent of EU citizens *had never heard of the MDGs*.<sup>8</sup>

## MDG 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

### Progress

The number of people living in extreme poverty *fell* from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005 (from 46 per cent to 27 per cent of the global population). But it remains to be seen whether we will reach the target of a 15 per cent reduction in extreme poverty to meet the first MDG by 2015.<sup>9</sup>

### Challenges

Population growth means the *number of undernourished people is rising*, from 817 million in 1990-1992, to 830 million in 2005-2007. It is estimated that today this figure is over 1 billion.<sup>10</sup>

In *India*, the poverty rate fell from 51 per cent to 42 per cent, but due to population growth, between 1990 and 2005 the number of people living in extreme poverty rose from 436 million to 456 million. This pattern was repeated in many other countries.<sup>11</sup>

Based on current projections, *Sub-Saharan Africa will not meet the poverty target*. In *Burundi*, *Liberia* and *Tanzania*, more than 80 per cent of the population survive on less than \$1.25 a day.<sup>12</sup>

## Why are minorities and indigenous peoples vulnerable?

Minorities and indigenous peoples often live in remote areas with poor infrastructure, which means they have less access to information, employment and social services.<sup>13</sup> Children from communities living in rural areas are nearly twice as likely to be underweight as those in urban areas.<sup>14</sup> Many minority and indigenous communities are pastoralists or farmers, so they are directly experiencing the impacts of climate change. Minority communities are particularly affected by conflict. During conflicts, they may be evicted or displaced from their homes, and lose their property or land. In many communities, women are denied the right to ownership of land, which can contribute to their impoverishment.<sup>15</sup>

### Case study 1: Poverty reduction through social enterprises in Kenya (MDG 1)

*'We are delighted that the African Commission has recognized the wrong that was done decades ago. This decision is the result of a sustained campaign for the recognition of the Endorois as a distinct indigenous community and the restoration of our ancestral land.'*

Wilson Kipsang Kipkazi, Endorois Welfare Council (EWC) after the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights stated that eviction of Endorois from their land was a violation of their land rights

Endorois are a semi-nomadic indigenous community in Kenya, of approximately 60,000 people. For centuries, they have herded cattle and goats in the Lake Bogoria region in Central Rift Valley. However, a government decision in the 1970s allowed for the development of ruby mines and a wildlife reserve in the community's homeland. As a result, Endorois communities were evicted and relocated to an area stricken with drought. This meant that they were unable to follow their cultural practices anymore, as these are linked to their ancestral lands. This was detrimental to the social and cultural cohesion of the community and pushed them into poverty. The relocation, exacerbated by the effects of climate change, resulted in a huge loss of livestock. Consequently, members of the Endorois communities are very much reliant on food relief.

A few years after the eviction, community members began to organize to address these issues. An advocacy body, the Endorois Welfare Council (EWC), was set up to begin legal action against the unlawful eviction and to help the community to deal with the economic challenges of the new environment and to diversify their livelihoods.

Beekeeping, a traditional activity, created an opportunity for some Endorois people to develop social enterprises. A consortium of men and women from three Endorois villages

established the Rachemo Beekeepers Association in 1996 in order to reduce poverty through income generation. With the help of civil society organizations, they managed to obtain a grant which allowed them to set up a honey processing plant.

The economic activity is important from a gender perspective as well. Traditionally, women are not allowed to gather honey, but now those involved in the project can buy their own beehives and employ men to gather honey. They also produce candles and ointments from the wax for the market. These activities endow the women who are involved with a new status in the community, which is important in a society where women are considered inferior and where gender discrimination is prevalent, resulting in harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

So far, as the enterprise works at the community level, turnover has been small, but there is great potential for growth. To provide an environment to enable this, the government will need to ensure that development funds reach marginalized communities like Endorois, and involve them in debates about national development strategies. But at the moment, community leaders claim that the flow of money is not transparent, and that large amounts destined to support the beekeepers are not reaching the community. The small amount of money allocated for the district in the state budget goes on government employee wages, with very little spent on social services or community support.

- **Listen to Cynthia Morel, a lawyer working on the issue of the Endorois discussing the landmark ruling on indigenous land rights:** <http://www.minorityvoices.org/news.php/en/338/cynthia-morel-discusses-a-land-mark-ruling-on-indigenous-land-rights>
- **Read more:**
  - Report:** 'Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: failing minorities and indigenous peoples'  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/10140/reports/poverty-reduction-strategy-papers-failing-minorities-and-indigenous-peoples.html>
  - Press release:** 'Landmark decision rules Kenya's removal of indigenous people from ancestral land illegal'  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/9587/press-releases/landmark-decision-rules-kenyas-removal-of-indigenous-people-from-ancestral-land-illegal.html>
  - Briefing paper:** 'Landmark ruling provides major victory to Kenya's indigenous Endorois'  
<http://www.minorityrights.org/10226/briefing-papers/landmark-ruling-provides-major-victory-to-kenyas-indigenous-endorois.html>

## MDG 2 – Achieve universal primary education

### Progress

As of 2008, 89 per cent of primary-school-age children were enrolled at school in developing countries. This was an increase from 82 per cent in 1999.<sup>16</sup> The total number of children not attending school *decreased* from 106 million in 1999 to 69 million in 2008.<sup>17</sup>

### Challenges

Progress is uneven and there are countries where the number of out-of-school children *increased*. These included Chad, Haiti, Nigeria and Sri Lanka.<sup>18</sup> Enrolment rates remain low in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.

### Why are minorities and indigenous peoples vulnerable?

More than 50 per cent of the 69 million children *out of school* and a quarter of the 776 million adults who are illiterate are members of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, or are indigenous peoples.<sup>19</sup> There are many different reasons for this. *School fees* or *indirect costs* (such as food, transport, textbooks or school uniforms) impose a huge financial burden on poorer families from minority or indigenous communities, especially those living in rural areas. The language of instruction in schools is in most cases the dominant, *official language* which may not be understood by children from minority and indigenous communities who speak *local languages* at home. Finally, minority children are often *segregated* in classrooms and during meal times, and are more likely to be subjected to corporal punishment by teachers.<sup>20</sup>

## MDG 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women

### Progress

In 1999, 91 girls for every 100 boys were enrolled in primary school in developing regions. At secondary level, 88 girls were enrolled for every 100 boys.<sup>21</sup> By 2008 this *ratio* had climbed to 96 girls per 100 boys at primary level, and 95 per hundred boys at secondary level.<sup>22</sup> In the global ranking of countries by the proportion of seats held by women in single or lower houses of national parliaments, *Rwanda* occupies 1st position, and *South Africa* occupies 3rd position. 2nd place is held by Sweden.<sup>23</sup>

### Challenges

National parliaments have *no women* in 9 countries.<sup>24</sup> Globally, only 1 in 4 *senior officials or managers* are women.<sup>25</sup> Paid employment opportunities for women are the lowest in *Western Asia* and *Northern Africa*.<sup>26</sup>

## Why are minorities and indigenous peoples vulnerable?

In 2006, 70 per cent of the 60 million girls who were not attending primary school were members of *ethnic minority groups* or other excluded groups.<sup>27</sup> *Minority women face multiple forms of discrimination*. A girl from a minority or indigenous community who also comes from a poor family and lives in a rural area faces *further disadvantages* that make it more likely that she will not complete her education. Children living in *rural* areas are twice as likely to drop out of school as children living in urban areas,<sup>28</sup> and girls of primary-school age from the *poorest* 60 per cent of households are 3 times more likely to be out of school as those from the wealthiest households.<sup>29</sup> *Cultural attitudes* among some communities, such as those attaching more importance to boys' education while promoting *early marriages* for daughters, can also put girls at a disadvantage.<sup>30</sup>

### Case 2: Empowering Maasai women and children in Kenya (MDG 3)

*'Certain traditions should be preserved, but female genital mutilation, polygamy and forced marriage undermine the adaptability of the community and causes a lot of harm to the women.'*

Esther Somoire, Centre for Indigenous Women and Children (CIWOCH)

Maasai are a semi-nomadic community of approximately 850-900 000 people who live in rural areas of Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania. Women and children are among the most vulnerable groups in this marginalized community, for many reasons. Among counties with a significant Maasai population, extensive water shortages pose big challenges to women and children, who are responsible for collecting water for the family. This often means walking 20-30 km to fetch water, leaving little time for other work or for school. During these long walks, women are at risk of sexual harassment and assault, exposing them to the danger of contracting HIV.

Discriminatory cultural practices also put Maasai women at a disadvantage. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is still widely practised in the community. Young girls usually undergo the procedure around the age of 10, and by the time they are fifteen, most have married and given birth to at least one child. In the rural areas where Maasai communities live, there are not enough nurses, meaning that women experiencing complications arising as a result of FGM, pregnancy and childbirth are often left without treatment. This can be fatal. In addition to the health consequences, early marriage means female children are more likely to drop out of school.

CIWOCH, a grassroots community-based organization fights for the rights of these women and children. Esther

Somoire, herself from the Maasai community, talks to families who have young daughters and persuades mothers of the value of education over early marriage or FGM. FGM is still a very common practice, and challenging it is a very sensitive issue. So CIWOCH has to be careful not to antagonize the community, while at the same time reaching out to families and encouraging them to allow their daughters to finish school.

The organization began the programme two years ago, and since then the school drop-out rate for girls has fallen noticeably. CIWOCH is in contact with 300-400 girls. The organization also has adult male members, who talk to boys about HIV and AIDS, sanitation, and relationships between men and women.

This kind of work is crucial to the development of a marginalized community like Maasai. CIWOCH however, says results can only be sustained if other development projects in the area improve access to education, health care, water and sanitation. School buildings with no proper sanitation and water discourage children, especially girls from attending school. And in order to be able to identify the real needs of the community, development investors need to draw on the knowledge of local civil society organizations. CIWOCH is an advocate for the involvement of communities in the planning and implementation of development projects. Participation at all levels enhances trust and ownership, as well as helping to reduce and resolve conflict.

- Listen to CIWOCH's Esther Somoire talk about grassroots organizations' limited access to European Commission (EC) delegations in Kenya: <http://www.minorityvoices.org/news.php/en/450/maasai-activist-says-access-is-limited-to-ec-delegations-in-kenya>
- Listen to CIWOCH's Esther Somoire and European Commissioner Pieter Bangma discussing the role of the EC in development programmes: <http://www.minorityvoices.org/news.php/en/451/maasai-activists-and-ec-representative-discuss-ec>

## MDG 4 – Reduce child mortality

### Progress

Globally, the total number of children who died before their fifth birthday *fell* from 12.5 million in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2008.<sup>31</sup> This still means though that 24,000 children under the age of five *died* each day in 2008.<sup>32</sup> Low-cost prevention methods or medicines (such as insecticide-treated mosquito nets, immunization programmes, antibiotics) are available for the diseases that most commonly kill young children. With political commitment and sufficient funding, most lives can now be saved.

## Challenges

Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for *half of the deaths* among children under five worldwide in 2008. 4.4 million children died in the region in 2008.<sup>33</sup>

## MDG 5 – Improve maternal health

### Progress

In 181 countries, maternal mortality – death resulting from complications during pregnancy or childbirth – saw a *decrease* from about 526,300 in 1980 to 342,900 in 2008.<sup>34</sup>

### Challenges

The annual rate of decline is too slow to reach the target, due to inadequate funding from donors for reproductive and pregnancy-related health care programmes.<sup>35</sup> More than half of maternal deaths occur in six countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.<sup>36</sup>

The highest birth rate among girls aged 15-19 is found in *Sub-Saharan Africa*.<sup>37</sup> This is significant because young girls are more likely to suffer complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

## MDG 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

### Progress

The number of people dying from AIDS-related illnesses annually is *decreasing*, from 2.2 million in 2004 to 2 million in 2008.<sup>38</sup> *Mosquito nets* can save many lives: in 26 African countries in 2008, 22 per cent of children slept under insecticide-treated mosquito nets. In 2000, this number was just 2 per cent.<sup>39</sup>

### Challenges

In 2008, there were 2.7 million new HIV infections,<sup>40</sup> while 33.4 million people were living with HIV.<sup>41</sup> This included 2.1 million children.<sup>42</sup> In addition, the rate of new HIV infections continues to *outstrip the expansion of treatment*, and an estimated 17.5 million children under the age of 18 lost one or both parents to AIDS in 2008.<sup>43</sup> These children are *more exposed* to other social and health problems such as *malnutrition, child labour, and sexual exploitation*, and also suffer *stigma and discrimination*. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 72 per cent of all new HIV infections in 2008.<sup>44</sup>

## Why are minorities and indigenous peoples vulnerable, in regard to meeting MDGs 4, 5, and 6?

*Disadvantages add up* for minorities and indigenous peoples.

Those living in *rural* areas, including *children and women*, have *less* access to health-care services. Women in the richest households in developing countries are *three times as likely* as women in the *poorest* households to be attended by professional health-care practitioners when they give birth.<sup>45</sup> Adolescents with *low levels of education* who come from poorer families living in rural areas are more likely to become pregnant and give birth.<sup>46</sup> Use of *contraception* is the lowest among the poorest women and those with no education.<sup>47</sup> Cultural practices among some communities, such as *child marriage*, can put girls at a disadvantage, as it means they are more likely to start having children before their bodies have matured.<sup>48</sup> Finally, widespread sexual violence against women puts women at *greater risk* of contracting HIV.<sup>49</sup>

## MDG 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability

### Progress

The proportion of people with access to safe drinking water *increased* from 77 per cent in 1990 to 87 per cent in 2008 globally.<sup>50</sup>

### Challenges

The rate of progress is insufficient to meet the sanitation target: in 2008 globally, 2.6 billion people did not have access to a proper sanitation facility (i.e. safe excreta disposal facilities).<sup>51</sup> There are still 828 million people living in slums, compared to 657 million in 1990 and 767 million in 2000.<sup>52</sup> In *South America* and *Africa*, about 4 million and 3.4 million hectares of forest were cut down each year in the period 2000–2010.<sup>53</sup>

### Why are minorities and indigenous peoples vulnerable?

People belonging to minority and indigenous communities face *multiple disadvantages*. Globally, eight out of ten people without access to safe drinking water live in *rural* areas.<sup>54</sup> Minorities and indigenous peoples are more likely to live in environmentally insecure areas; therefore they are *more exposed to natural disasters* and the huge burdens that these place on communities.<sup>55</sup> *Conflict* is leading to an increase in slum living: in Western Asia, the number of people living in slums has increased from 2.9 million in 2000 to 10.7 million in 2010, as a result of the Iraq War.<sup>56</sup> During conflicts minorities are often targeted for persecution: during the conflict in Iraq, a large proportion of the 2 million refugees fleeing Iraq belonged to minority communities, such as Christians, Circassians, Sabian Mandaeans, Shabaks, Turkmens and Yazidis.<sup>57</sup>

### Case study 3: Evictions in the name of development (MDG 7)

*'In August 2008, we were evicted. [...] The day before we left I went to the company's office and received US\$500 to transport the materials to Kampong Cham. Then we dismantled our home. They forced us to tear down the house in the rain, and we were not allowed to leave anything.'* Vit (55), evicted. (Interview with Nora Lindstrom (STT) and Eang Vuthy, Bridges Across Borders Cambodia)

Vit is just one of the thousands of people who have already been forced to leave their homes in the vicinity of Boeung Kak Lake (BKL) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Another 4,000 spread around the 133 hectare lake have lived in constant fear of forced eviction since a private company, Shukaku Ltd, launched plans to transform the area into a shopping district for tourists. In order to realize the project, the company has already evicted 1,000 families, and pumped tons of sand into the water to fill up the lake. The development project was financed by a US\$ 23.4 million loan from the World Bank to the Government of Cambodia.

The community have strong legal claims to the land under Cambodian Land Law. They have requested an investigation from the World Bank, in the hope that they will at least receive fair compensation. Currently, the community are appealing for the international community to intervene. Peaceful demonstrators are silenced by police using violence, and people who are about to be evicted are intimidated into not revealing the contents of the eviction notices to NGOs or the media.

A number of the residents affected by the evictions belong to the Muslim Cham minority, who are clustered in their own neighbourhoods. The disruption of their community will entail a denial of their cultural rights as well: after they have been forced to leave, it is likely that their mosque will be torn down.

BKL had the status of State Public land, which means that any transfer to private ownership should not have exceeded a 15-year lease, and that during that time, any change to the function of the land should have been prohibited. In 2007, when the residents became aware that despite this, their neighbourhood was included in the area covered by the development project, they requested an investigation. Shortly after this, in order to get round the restrictions, the Municipality of Phnom Penh signed a 99-year lease with the company covering the BKL area in February 2007. The contract released the management of the area to the private developer. A year and a half later (in August 2008), the Government converted the area into State Private land.

In 2008, Shukaku Ltd began putting pressure on people living around the lake to leave the area so that it could begin work. Some residents did leave. In 2009, residents who had remained received formal eviction

notices. They were offered the choice of three compensation options: cash compensation, relocation to another area, or relocation to temporary onsite housing until new houses had been constructed. Residents had just a week to decide.

Without the opportunity or time to make an informed decision, Vit (quoted above) chose the relocation option. Now, as a result of the eviction, her life has been completely disrupted. Earlier, she grew glories (a type of flower) on the lake and made ends meet by selling them. Her life was closely entwined with her neighbourhood: being illiterate, the support she received from other residents was invaluable. Now she lives in a more marginalized area. Her disabled husband has no access to health care, her children go to a school where the quality of education is low, and she has no access to the market.

In August 2008, further pressure was put on the remaining residents to leave their homes when the company started to fill the lake with sand. The environmental damage brought about by the project then became obvious, as people's houses became flooded with water. This raises the very real danger that some of those residents who remain will drown.

As a result of prioritizing profits over the interests of the community and the protection of the environment, at least 1,000 families (like Vit's) have been evicted and an iconic lake is in danger of disappearing. The case is waiting to be heard before the World Bank's Inspection Panel, after which the investigation report will be published. But the residents' lives have already been disrupted, and their plight is sad and desperate. And despite the residents' claims to the land, the Government and the investor can act with total disregard for their interests.

- Listen to Bridges Across Borders' Vuthy Eang talking about their advocacy work for the rights of members of minority and indigenous groups affected by the project: [http://www.minorityvoices.org/news.php?action=view&id=436&media\\_id=1342](http://www.minorityvoices.org/news.php?action=view&id=436&media_id=1342)
- Read more about the BKL case:  
MRG blog post: 'Confronting the end of a minority community in Cambodia' <http://minorityrights.wordpress.com/2010/07/13/confronting-the-end-of-a-minority-community-in-cambodia/>  
World Bank Inspection Panel: 'Cambodia: Land Management and Administration Project (2009)' <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTINSPECTIONPANEL/0,,contentMDK:22512162~pagePK:64129751~piPK:64128378~theSitePK:380794,00.html>  
Amnesty International: 'Cambodia: Lake filling must not lead to forced evictions' <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/cambodia-lake-filling-must-not-lead-forced-evictions-20080827>  
Save Boeung Kak Campaign: <http://saveboeungkak.wordpress.com/about-the-save-boeung-kok-campaign>

## MDG 8 – Develop a global partnership for development

### Progress

Five donors met the UN target of contributing 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) for aid in 2009: Sweden (1.01), Luxembourg (1.0), Denmark (0.83), the Netherlands (0.8) and Belgium (0.7).<sup>58</sup>

### Challenges

The actual amount of total aid given by developed countries dropped from \$122.3 billion in 2008 to \$119.6 billion in 2009.<sup>59</sup>

*New EU Member States* are far behind the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for aid set to be achieved by 2010. In 2009, Overseas development aid (ODA) as a proportion of GNI was just 0.09 per cent for Hungary and 0.08 per cent for Poland.<sup>60</sup> Both of these countries will hold the EU Presidency in 2011.<sup>61</sup> Hardly any money goes to Sub-Saharan Africa from new Member States' development budgets, despite the commitments that these states made to send aid to African countries when they became members of the EU.<sup>62</sup> Money flows are not transparent in many new Member States such as Hungary: distribution of aid from the state budget is simply not transparent and not accountable.<sup>63</sup>

The principles of the human rights-based approach to development, for instance linking to human rights, accountability, empowerment, participation and non-discrimination are not implemented consistently into development strategies.<sup>64</sup>

Regarding the target of making new technologies more available, in 2008, 68 per cent of people in developed regions but only 15 per cent in developing regions had access to the *Internet*. This is equivalent to one in six people.<sup>65</sup>

### Why are minorities and indigenous peoples vulnerable?

*Development aid* often does not reach those people who are most in need, and minorities often do not reside in investor-friendly areas. Recognizing this, donors led by the World Bank and IMF attempted to address the failure of policies to reach highly marginalized communities by asking countries in receipt of aid to ensure the *participation of communities* in their poverty reduction strategy. Minorities and indigenous peoples, however, are often left out of planning and decision-making.<sup>66</sup>

Participation is especially crucial for minority and indigenous women who may face discrimination from within their own communities, or may be subject to harmful customs such as FGM.<sup>67</sup> Their situation will not improve unless they can participate actively and represent the interests of the female members of their communities in consultations and decision-making bodies.

## Notes

- 1 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank, *World Bank's Global Monitoring Report 2010*, Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2010, available at: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2010/Resources/6911301-1271698910928/GMR2010WEB.pdf> (retrieved 6 December 2010); United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, New York, United Nations,, 2010, available at: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/MDG\\_Report\\_2010\\_En\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/MDG_Report_2010_En_low_res.pdf) (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 2 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank, *op cit.*, p. viii.
- 3 *Ibid.*, p. 6.
- 4 *Ibid.*, p. 7.
- 5 *Ibid.*, p. 7.
- 6 Fanzo, J. and Pronyk, P. 'An Evaluation of Progress Toward the Millennium Development Goal One , Hunger Target: A country-level, food and nutrition security perspective', New York, Center for Global Health and Economic Development, The Earth Institute of Columbia University, 2010, p. 3.
- 7 *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- 8 European Commission, Special Eurobarometer. Attitudes towards Development Aid, Brussels, European Commission, 2005, p. 4, available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_222\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_222_en.pdf) (retrieved 6 December 2010),
- 9 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 4.
- 10 *Ibid.*, p. 11.
- 11 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank, *op cit.*, p. 15.
- 12 World Bank, 'An online atlas of the Millennium Development Goals', Washington, D.C., World Bank, no date, <http://devdata.worldbank.org/atlas-mdg/> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 13 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Marginalised Minorities in Development Programming*, New York, UNDP, 2010, available at: <http://hrbaportal.org/wp-content/files/1282077542marginalisedminoritiesindevelopment.pdf> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 14 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 14.
- 15 Minority Rights Group International (MRG) *Human rights-based approaches to development education: A toolkit for activists in new EU member states*, London, MRG, 2009a, p. 60, available at: <http://www.minorityrights.org/10036/guides/human-rights-based-approaches-to-development-education-a-toolkit-for-activists-in-new-eu-member-states.html> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 16 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 16.
- 17 *Ibid.*, p. 17.
- 18 BOND, *Towards the UN MDG Review Summit 2010*, London, BOND, 2010, p. 10, available at: [www.bond.org.uk/data/files/MDG\\_2010/bond\\_mdgs\\_full.pdf](http://www.bond.org.uk/data/files/MDG_2010/bond_mdgs_full.pdf) (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 19 MRG, *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2009*, Education Special, London, MRG, 2009b, p. 13, available at: <http://www.minorityrights.org> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 20 *Ibid.*, p.17.
- 21 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 20.
- 22 *Ibid.*
- 23 ChartsBin, 'Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments', no date, <http://chartsbin.com/view/r80> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 24 *Ibid.*
- 25 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 24.
- 26 *Ibid.*, p. 24.
- 27 MRG, 2009b, *op cit.*, p. 14.
- 28 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 18.
- 29 *Ibid.*, p. 21.
- 30 MRG, 2009b, *op cit.*, p. 17.
- 31 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 26.
- 32 *Ibid.*
- 33 *Ibid.*, p. 27.
- 34 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank, *op cit.*, p. 16.
- 35 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 40.
- 36 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank, *op cit.*, p. 16.
- 37 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 34.
- 38 *Ibid.*, p. 40.
- 39 *Ibid.*, p. 48.
- 40 *Ibid.*, p. 40.
- 41 *Ibid.*, p. 41.
- 42 *Ibid.*, p. 46.
- 43 *Ibid.*, p. 46.
- 44 *Ibid.*, p. 40.
- 45 *Ibid.*, p. 32.
- 46 *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- 47 *Ibid.*, p. 37.
- 48 MRG, 2009b, *op cit.*, p. 17.
- 49 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 44.
- 50 *Ibid.*, p. 58.
- 51 *Ibid.*, p. 61.
- 52 *Ibid.*, p. 62.
- 53 *Ibid.*, p. 53.
- 54 *Ibid.*, p. 59.
- 55 MRG, *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2008*, Climate Change Special, London, MRG, 2008.
- 56 United Nations, *op cit.*, p.64.
- 57 MRG, *Uncertain Refuge, Dangerous Return: Iraq's Uprooted Minorities*, London, MRG, 2009c, available at: <http://www.minorityrights.org/8165/press-releases/uncertainty-and-injustice-for-minority-refugees-from-iraq-new-report.html> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 58 *Ibid.*, p. 67.
- 59 *Ibid.*, p. 66.
- 60 Data downloaded from Organisation for Cooperation and Development (OECD), OECD.Stat Extracts, <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx> (last accessed 22 December 2010).
- 61 MRG, 2009a, *op cit.*, p. 15.
- 62 *Ibid.*, p. 35.
- 63 *Ibid.*, p. 30.
- 64 *Ibid.*, p. 17.
- 65 United Nations, *op cit.*, p. 72.
- 66 MRG, *Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: failing minorities and indigenous peoples*, London, MRG, 2010, available at: <http://www.minorityrights.org/10140/reports/poverty-reduction-strategy-papers-failing-minorities-and-indigenous-peoples.html> (retrieved 6 December 2010).
- 67 *Ibid.*

# working to secure the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples

minority  
rights  
group  
international

## **Facts and figures: minorities and the MDGs**

© Minority Rights Group International, January 2011

**Acknowledgements** Author: Bernadett Sebály, Media, Communications and Outreach Officer, MRG Europe. Editor: Joanna Hoare. Production coordinator: Kristen Harrison. Typesetting: Kavita Graphics.

**Minority Rights Group International** (MRG) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working to secure the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities worldwide, and to promote cooperation and understanding between communities. MRG has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. MRG is registered as a charity, no. 282305, and a company limited by guarantee in the UK, no. 1544957.

**ISBN** 978 1 907919 06 0. This briefing is published as a contribution to public understanding. The text does not necessarily represent in every detail the collective view of MRG or its partners. Copies of this study are available online at [www.minorityrights.org](http://www.minorityrights.org). Copies can also be obtained from MRG's London office.

**Minority Rights Group International** 54 Commercial Street, London E1 6LT, United Kingdom  
Tel +44 (0)20 7422 4200 Fax +44 (0)20 7422 4201  
**Email** [minorityrights@mrgmail.org](mailto:minorityrights@mrgmail.org) **Website** [www.minorityrights.org](http://www.minorityrights.org)