



Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the 2002 Iraqi crisis. We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally. We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com

Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 4 pm at Laura's for now; call 250 42 0434 for information. We changed the time to accommodate some members to attend and hope to attract others.

To Do

Naomi Klein @ the Brilliant Cultural Center in Castlegar on April 11th @ 7:30 pm. Get tickets in Grand Forks at Selkirk College. **Adults \$32, Seniors \$26, Students \$26.**

It is always easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.

Alfred Adler

Poverty Experts Want New Thinking on Development Goals

by Barbara Crossette
June 3, 2013-- Pass Blue

If 2015 comes and goes with a significant number of **Millennium Development Goals** failing to meet their targets, questions will abound over whom or what to blame. There will also be skepticism over reports that a few of the goals have already been met with 100 percent success. In general, specialists in development have already been suggesting that there is much room for improvement in the design, measurement and analysis of progress or failure of these actions.

Some — including the scholar Thomas Pogge, who has been conducting innovative global research among the poor — are calling for fundamental, even drastic changes if new goals are to be made for the post-2015 world. There isn't much time left for rethinking, and this isn't going to be an easy fight. There are institutional hurdles to jump.

On May 31 at the United Nations, an expert panel appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a [report](#) that bluntly identified what the Millennium Goals missed. The report will now circulate for comment and is expected to be the centerpiece of discussion in the fall at the next General Assembly session. "They did not focus enough on reaching the very poorest and most excluded people," • the report said of the goals.

"They were silent on the devastating effects of conflict and violence on development. The importance to development of good governance and institutions that guarantee the rule of law, free speech and open and accountable government was not included, nor the need for inclusive growth to provide jobs." Most seriously, the panel said, the goals did not address "the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production." •

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The goals and their targets for judging how nations are doing grew out of the **2000 UN General Assembly Millennium summit**. Almost immediately, gaps were exposed. Advocates for women's reproductive rights, for example, demanded to know why the promises of the **1994 Conference on Population and Development** were left out, given that the participation of women was widely seen by then as crucial to the progress of nations. The sensitive issue of good governance was nowhere to be found, although national mismanagement of development was on display in numerous countries.

The past could haunt any new efforts to toughen up and change the nature of post-2015 goals — a subject that opens for international debate at the UN in September. Member countries, poor or rich, are not likely to back enhanced scrutiny of their roles. That is the nature of the General Assembly. (It was the World Bank that later managed to get a target on women's access to reproductive health services added to the goal of reducing maternal mortality, even as a backlash was building in the UN against the Cairo consensus.)

A year ago, the **Center for Global Development**, a Washington-based international research organization, published a report pointing out, moreover, that agreement on the current MDGs took 10 years of UN meetings to achieve — "a luxury which will (largely) not be available for a second round if it begins in 2015."

The center's report — "**MDGs 2.0: What Goals, Targets, and Timeframe?**" — Also focused on a more substantive issue: who will be consulted in determining the needs of developing countries? It noted that nongovernmental organizations are demanding broader inclusion of people whose lives are directly affected by poverty, marginalization

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and injustice. Government data and institutional surveys are no longer enough.

The authors of the report — Jonathan Karver, Charles Kenny and Andy Sumner — compiled a table showing what areas are covered by the goals, whether these are adequately addressed and what the current goals leave out. Among the missing pieces that greatly affect people and nations are war, terrorism, transnational crime and arms exports. Many wars are small scale and local, disrupting lives. The MDGs also do not deal with human rights, democracy and good governance. The report adds that it may be time for a section on the special needs of Africa.

In devising new methods for better consultation with people living in deprivation and thus best placed to assess their needs, some of the most energetic work is being done by Thomas Pogge, a professor of philosophy and international affairs at Yale University and the author of **“World Poverty and Human Rights.”** Pogge has designed and is already carrying out a project to measure poverty from the bottom up and dig deeper into the differences in experiences and perceptions between men and women.

Pogge, a critic of World Bank global poverty data and claims of large successes, says in a preliminary draft paper on his project that the bank’s poverty line is set too low and based too narrowly on income or consumption data.

“Although income can be used to purchase many goods and services, or prices can be imputed for the consumption of these goods and services, simply measuring income or consumption-expenditure tells us very little about whether a person is free from violence, has access to adequate leisure time, is able to control the important decisions that affect her life, is able to secure contraception, and so on,” he wrote in the draft, which was just released to PassBlue.

He is also critical of **the UN Development Program’s Human Development Report** and its reliance in recent years on the multidimensional poverty index designed by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, led by Sabina Alkire**, a well-known specialist in development studies. Pogge finds gaps, for example, in examining and understanding different perceptions and levels of poverty *within* households, which weaken the credibility of generalities — or do not adequately refine and question large assertions.

On just one of numerous issues, Pogge wrote: “For example, both educational indicators [in the multidimensional poverty index] are about enrollment, but these do not provide any information on the quality of that schooling, and a person’s actual education achievements.” In the towns and villages of many developing countries, any educator will tell you that enrollment does not necessarily mean attendance — by pupils or even teachers.

It is a tall order to cover all the bases and corners of life Pogge wants to hear about from villagers and the urban poor to build more realistic data not just about what makes people poor

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but what they think makes them poor or not. He likes the word “hardship” better than poverty because it seems to reflect better how many people view their situations.

Conducting his research through teams in the field on 18 sites in 6 countries — Angola, Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique and the Philippines — he is aware of the difficulties of generalizing about the local conditions that inform local people’s views. “If a community in Ethiopia identifies not having working livestock as an indicator of poverty, and a group in Peru identifies not owning land for farming, it is not clear how these two indicators can be used to make comparative assessments between the two groups” he wrote. “Furthermore, over time community members may identify different indicators of poverty.” And obviously, of course, the attitudes of only a miniscule fraction of the global population can be measured in very localized research.

The answer, Pogge proposes, is a marriage of what he calls “public reason” and more traditional measurements, which he does not reject wholesale. “We believe that improved measurement of poverty and gender equity can build from the strengths in existing measures of poverty and gender equity while responding to existing flaws,” he wrote. “But the design of new and better measurement is not merely a matter for isolated academic discussion. Rather, our project is committed to the idea that important tools of social valuation must be developed through a process of public reason. The measurement of the deprivation among the worst off must be particularly sensitive to the stated views and preferences of poor men and women.”

Pogge made a point of using what he describes as “an explicitly feminist methodology to develop a new measure of poverty and gender disparity” that made gender central to measuring poverty. Among the many questions interviewers asked individuals were: What makes life hard for women? Do the same things make life hard for men, or are there differences? (Full reports of the research from field sites can be found at **www.genderpovertymeasure.org**.)

An enormous amount of information and a striking variety of perceptions have already been collected and analyzed, often from multiple interviews. Briefly, Pogge’s team found that some common concerns ranked highest across a wide spectrum, including food, water, shelter, health care, education and sanitation.

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When Pogge's team had sifted, resifted, analyzed and winnowed, the researchers arrived at 15 categories that local people had identified as measures affecting their definitions of hardship at various levels: Food/hunger, water (source and quantity), shelter materials, health care, education, energy (cooking fuel and access to electricity), toilets, family relations/decision-making, clothing/personal care, violence (experience and risk), family planning (access and use), environment, voice in the community, time use/labor burden and work status/risk.

Looking specifically at women — something the current Millennium Goals do very gingerly — the subject of violence engendered discussion with these questions, which while not restricted to women, certainly would have touched on their experiences: *"In the past year, did you experience being hit, slapped, shoved, pushed, punched, or kicked? In the past year, did you experience being beaten, stabbed, burnt, throttled, or otherwise attacked with a weapon, such as a bottle, glass, knife, gun, club, hot liquid, or explosive device? In the past year, did anyone use physical force or threats to make you or try to make you have sexual intercourse or perform other sexual acts against your will?"*

All told, the range of responses from people who are poor as to what they think of as poverty or hardship — or, conversely, wealth — are breathtaking and thought-provoking in this preliminary report. The final study should stir up a lot of discussion, commentary and controversy.

By comparison, think of this: The MDGs now measure poverty and its alleviation in three short targets: to halve between 1990 and 2015 the *proportion* of people living on less than \$1.25 a day; to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people; and halve, between 1990 and 2015, the *proportion* of people who suffer from hunger. The people keeping score at the UN have already declared victory on the first target, even as they admit that while the proportion of poor may have shrunk, the numbers are still growing.

Barbara Crossette is a fellow of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center of CUNY as well as the United Nations correspondent for The Nation. She is also a board member of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Crossette won the George Polk award for her coverage in India of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and the 2010 Shorenstein Prize for her writing on Asia.

Book & Film Recommendations



Books

This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate

By: Naomi Klein ©2014-12-21

Publisher: Knopff Canada (Random House Canada)

Everything you think you know about global warming. The really inconvenient truth is that it's not about carbon—it's about capitalism. The convenient truth is that we can seize this existential crisis to transform our failed economic system and build something radically better.

We have been told the market will save us, when in fact the addiction to profit and growth is digging us in deeper every day. We have been told it's impossible to get off fossil fuels when in fact we know exactly how to do it—it just requires breaking every rule in the "free-market" playbook: reining in corporate power, rebuilding local economies, and reclaiming our democracies. We have also been told that humanity is too greedy and selfish to rise to this challenge. In fact, all around the world, the fight for the next economy and against reckless extraction is already succeeding in ways both surprising and inspiring.

Climate change, Klein argues, is a civilizational wake-up call, a powerful message delivered in the language of fires, floods, storms, and droughts. Confronting it is no longer about changing the light bulbs. It's about changing the world—before the world changes so drastically that no one is safe. Either we leap—or we sink.

Ed. Note: *If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel is of interest or informative please let us know. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to Laura at l4peace@telus.net. Thank you.*

We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace in Vietnam and for justice throughout the developing world, a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Conscience and the Vietnam War" in *The Trumpet of Conscience* (1968)

World hunger easing but 1 in 9 people undernourished: food agencies

By Isla Binnie Sep 16 2014-- Thomson Reuters

ROME (Reuters) - The number of hungry people in the world has fallen sharply over the past decade but 805 million, or one in nine of the global population, still do not have enough to eat, three U.N. food and agriculture agencies said on Tuesday.

The number of chronically undernourished people dropped by more than 100 million, equivalent to a country the size of the Philippines, according to a report by the United Nations food agency (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP).

Government drives to improve nutrition have helped the developing world move towards a U.N. goal of halving the number of people suffering from hunger between 1990 and 2015, said the report entitled "The State of Food Insecurity in the World".

But success stories such as Brazil mask struggles in countries like Haiti, where the number of hungry people rose from 4.4 million in 1990-92 to 5.3 million in 2012-14.

"We cannot celebrate yet because we must reach 805 million people without enough food for a healthy and productive life," WFP executive director Ertharin Cousin said in Rome.

The Ebola virus threatens food security in western Africa, while conflicts in places including Iraq and Syria have meant that people who once had enough food could lose reliable supplies "in just a matter of weeks", she said.

The ambitious goal to halve the absolute number of chronically undernourished people between 1990 and 2015 has been met by 25 developing countries, but there is not enough time for the whole world to get there by next year, the report said.

Brazil, Indonesia and Malawi, among others, have already achieved another development goal of halving the undernourished proportion of their populations through investments policymaking in areas from agriculture to school meals.

But the agencies urged more efforts elsewhere, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and southern and western Asia, to reduce the hungry share of the population in developing countries to 11.7 percent, from 13.5 percent today, by the end of 2015.

"A world without hunger is possible in our lifetimes, but this report is also a call for action," Cousin said

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(From last column) World hunger easing CONFLICTS AND CRISES

Ebola, which has killed more than 2,400 people this year, endangered harvests and sent food prices soaring in West Africa, is rapidly creating a major food crisis there, Cousin said.

FAO issued a food security alert this month for Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, which were all net cereal importers even before the Ebola outbreak prompted border closures and quarantine zones, contributing to farm labor shortages.

Ongoing conflicts in Syria, South Sudan and the Central African Republic are preventing humanitarian efforts to help people affected, Cousin said, adding that WFP and other agencies needed an increase in donations.

Meanwhile, the advance of Islamic State fighters in Northern Iraq has caused concern over the availability of wheat, which FAO says is the most important food grain for humans.

"We are concerned about the fact that (IS) controls two of the major grain facilities in the country," Cousin said. "These are very worrying trends, when you have a party that can control the food that is required by the poorest in the country."

FAO raised its global cereals output forecast for 2014 earlier this month, partly due to unexpectedly high wheat crops in major producing countries, and said global food prices hit a near four-year low in August.

But this is not necessarily good news for the world's poor and hungry, FAO director general Jose Graziano Da Silva said, in part because farmers earn less from their crops.

"Low prices do not ensure that the poorest will get more food," he said. "If there is not ... access, low prices will not be enough."

No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic country.

Alexis de Tocqueville

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles. All articles are the responsibility of the author and may not be common consensus. To submit an article, contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **L4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for emails of all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>