



### **Making Poverty Reduction a Reality: What is Missing for Fulfilling the MDGs ?**

*Through an expansive cross-country study, a new IPC publication analyses the gap between strong political commitment and slow progress towards meeting the MDGs.*

**Brasilia, 24 October 2008** – In [Are the MDGs Priority in Development Strategies and Aid Programmes?](#)

[Only a Few Are!](#) Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr analyses whether the gap between strong political commitment and slow progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is due to a weak appropriation of the MDGs by developing countries. Based on 22 developing countries' Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the policy frameworks of 21 bilateral programmes, this IPC working paper brings out two major findings:

- It highlights the common priorities of most developing countries in fighting poverty: economic growth, social improvements and good governance. It suggests that the implementation of most national MDG-oriented programmes in developing countries should be reviewed, paying more attention to some neglected objectives of the MDGs. They also should be measured by quantitative indicators.
- It contributes to the debate on the MDGs by distinguishing three functional uses of the global goals: as *consensus objectives*, as *monitoring benchmarks*, and as *planning targets*. The inclusion of the MDG agenda into a developing country's poverty reduction strategy is not necessarily a sign of "ownership" of the MDGs. Actually, very often, these targets are not accompanied by coherent action plans. The author concludes by calling on the international community to develop a more consistent approach towards the local incorporation of MDGs into national planning.

Read the full publication at: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper48.pdf>



At the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, world leaders from rich and poor countries alike committed themselves - at the highest political level - to a set of eight time-bound targets that, when achieved, will end extreme poverty worldwide by 2015.

The IPC has been increasingly concentrating its applied research on the MDG agenda. It has also been gearing up to provide more training on MDG-related analysis and policymaking.

See below a list of recent publications:

**Can we Accurately Project MDG Indicators?**

Clic: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager68.pdf>  
Rafael Guerreiro Osório. One Pager# 68. October 2008.

**Alternatives for Projecting MDG Indicators**

Clic: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCTechnicalPaper2.pdf>  
Rafael Guerreiro Osório. Technical Paper # 2. April 2008.

Additional information:

<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/mdg.do>

**Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**

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As a development economist, her work focuses on policies for equitable development using a multidisciplinary approach. Between 1995 and 2004, she was director of the annual UNDP Human Development Reports. She is founding editor of the Journal of Human Development: Alternative Economics in Action and is on the editorial board of Feminist Economics. She spearheaded UNDP's policy work on technical cooperation effectiveness and capacity building. She led the 1993 publication "Rethinking Technical Cooperation, Reforms for Capacity Building in Africa"—one of the most comprehensive reviews of the subject, and the 2002 revisit, "Capacity for Development; Old Problems, New Solutions." She has held management positions in UNDP in Africa and worked at the World Bank as an agricultural economist.

Photo: The New School University  
Text adapted from the New York School University website.



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