

BACKGROUND

Thanks to the significant efforts of all the people worldwide who steadfastly act on behalf of the



“the least” among us, our world is making progress. For the first time in decades, there are fewer than 1 billion people living on less than \$1 a day. And for the first time since 1960, fewer than 10 million children under five die each year. And now two million people are receiving antiretroviral medications for HIV/AIDS, extending their lives and their ability

to work and raise their children. But \$1 a day is too little, and even one child dying from hunger is too much. There is still much to be accomplished.

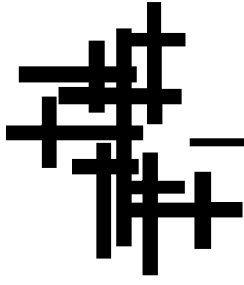
We find that in 2008 we are past the critical halfway point toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals, (established in 2000), to cut global poverty and hunger in half by 2015. And now we in the U.S. find that passage of the Global Poverty Act would focus our development assistance on achieving the goals setup by these campaigns.

ACTION

Good Shepherd Voices for Justice joins Bread for the World this month in the 2008 Offering of Letters to ask Congress to increase poverty-focused development assistance. This funding would be invested in agricultural development, nutrition, education, health care and clean water. In addition, our letters would ask our Senators to cosponsor and pass the Global Poverty Act, so that our assistance would have the maximum impact for those with the greatest need. (The House passed this bill in 2007.)

Email, call or write your Senators and Representative, urging the increase of U.S. assistance for poor countries by \$5 billion in 2009. Also urge the Senators to pass the Global Poverty Act, so our assistance will have the maximum impact for those in greatest need.

(A sample letter follows. You are encouraged to add your own words.)



SAMPLE LETTER

Date: _____

Dear: _____

(Senator or Representative Name Here)

Consistent with the United States' commitment to aggressively participate in the funding for the Millennium Development Goals, please do all you can to increase poverty-focused development assistance targeted for these goals by at least \$5 billion in fiscal year 2009.

(When writing to your senator—

I urge you also to sponsor and support S.2433, the World Global Poverty Act so that our assistance will have the maximum Impact on those with greatest need.)

Nearly a billion people worldwide live on less than \$1 a day. We in the wealthiest nation can better their lives with effective poverty-focused development assistance. Please take your part to assure that our country is in a leadership position in fighting world poverty through these initiatives.

Sincerely,

<p>Representative Sensenbrenner 2449 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-4905 Phone: (202) 225-5101 Fax: (202) 225-3190</p>	<p>Senator Kohl 330 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4903 Phone: (202) 224-5653 Fax: (202) 224-9787</p>	<p>Senator Feingold 506 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4904 Phone: (202) 224-5323 Fax: (202) 224-2725</p>
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