

The poorest 40 percent of the world's population live on less than two US dollars a day and account for 5 percent of global income. The richest 20 percent accounts for three-quarters of world income\*.

More than 26,000 children die each day due to different reasons\*\*, many of which are strongly related to poverty.

It is estimated that at least 115 million children cannot go to school. Most of them are girls.

An estimated 33,2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with 2,1 million deaths in 2007\*\*\*. Worldwide, it is estimated that more than 15 million children under 18 have been orphaned as a result of AIDS\*\*\*\*.

**Poverty is...** lack of choice, opportunities and dignity, lack of possibilities to provide for one's family, the inability to choose if and when to have children, the inability to send one's children to school, the inability to protect oneself from harm or disease, lack of access to quality health care, hunger, discrimination...and the list goes on. Poverty is not only an economic phenomenon, it encompasses many dimensions of human development:

„Human development is about much more than the rise or fall of national incomes. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests...“\*\*\*\*\*

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000.

**The Millennium Development Goals are:**

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Sexual and reproductive health and rights issues are vital to poverty alleviation and achievement of MDGs. Goals 4,5 and 6 are sexual and reproductive health goals and Goal 3 is a closely linked to improvement of sexual health and rights situation. It is impossible to achieve the MDGs without devoting resources to reducing child and maternal mortality, combating HIV/AIDS and improving gender equality. Universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information has to be ensured to all women, men and young people in order to improve the living conditions and support human development worldwide.

*Resources used:*

\* *United Nations Development Program, „Human Development Report 2006“*

\*\* *UNICEF, Child survival and development, May 2008*

\*\*\* *UNAIDS & WHO, AIDS Epidemic Update 2007*

\*\*\*\* *UNAIDS, 2008, "Report on the global AIDS epidemic"*

\*\*\*\*\* *United Nations Development Program, „Human Development reports, 2004“*

*FACT SHEET „Poverty and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Understanding the Link“*

*IPPF European Network, November 2004, www.ippfen.org*

*Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.undp.org/mdg/basics.shtml>*

Light&Love is a project, which brings together six European countries to work on sexual health and rights and development issues. The goal of the project is to build awareness on the European developing countries situation and increase support to development cooperation in new EU member states, while highlighting the central importance of sexual health and rights issues in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Light&Love priority activities are designed to empower, inform and train young people facilitating their international networking and shared learning:

- youth networks for sexual and reproductive health and rights and development education will be set up and supported in 3 EU partner countries,
- youth involvement will be sought by arranging yearly creative works contests in all partner countries and
- empowerment of young people will take place by trainings, international experience exchange and youth field work.

Other lines of work include information dissemination to the general public via the internet, media channels and public events, advocacy among decision makers and politicians, networking between NG(D)Os and stakeholder groups and capacity building of the partner organizations.

Visit: [www.lightlove.eu](http://www.lightlove.eu) for more information.



partner countries:



Estonia



Latvia



Hungary



Moldova



Georgia



Ukraine



partner organisations:



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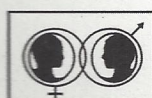
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