UN Millennium Development Goal 1
Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

TARGET
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day. Measures of success:
  1.1 Proportion of population < $1 a day
  1.2 Poverty gap ratio
  1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all. Measures:
  1.4 Growth rate of GDP/person employed
  1.5 Employment to population ratio
  1.6 Proportion of employed people living < $1 per day
  1.7 Proportion of own account and contributing family in employment
- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Measures:
  1.8 Number of underweight children <5yr
  1.9 Percent of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

QUICK FACTS
The World Bank estimates that 1.4 billion people in developing countries were living in extreme poverty in 2005. Recent increases in food prices had adversely affected the poor and ~100 million more people are expected to be pushed into absolute poverty. About 25% of children under 5 years of age are underweight in the developing world, down from about 33% in 1990.

WHERE DO WE STAND?
The World Bank projects that the world is on track to meet the MDG target of halving the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day. In developing regions, overall poverty rates have fallen from 46% to 27% from 1990 to 2005. In 2015, roughly 920 million people are still predicted to be living below the poverty line. The proportion of people suffering from hunger is declining, but not fast enough.

East Asia has had extraordinary success. The poverty rate has reduced from 60% to 20% from 1980 to 2005. Sub-Saharan Africa, on the other hand, has made little progress. Those living in poverty have fallen slightly from 58% in 1990 to 51% in 2005.

Developing regions have seen a decline in the proportion of underweight children under the age of five from 31% to 26% between the years of 1990 and 2008. Eastern Asia, specifically China, has seen the most success.

WHAT HAS WORKED?
- Subsidy programmes in Malawi and Ghana have helped to increase food production substantially, in turn reducing the poverty rate.
- Agriculture research in Vietnam has helped cut the prevalence of hunger from 28% to 13% in just two years.
- Interest free loan programs in Nigeria and Bangladesh have allowed farmers to almost double their agricultural yields and incomes.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?
- Promote national, regional and international cooperation to enhance food security and reduce trade distortions.
- Ensure that the consequences of global economic slowdown, and higher food and energy prices on the poor are minimized.
- Increase emergency food aid to enable WFP to provide emergency food assistance.
- Assist developing countries in transforming subsistence agriculture to ensure sustainable productivity.
- Support research in yield enhancing agricultural and climate change technologies.
- Promote fair work opportunities for everybody.
- Develop infrastructure that will integrate poorer countries into the global economy.
- Improve availability of basic services in slums.

TURN OVER TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP