



Project Profile: Millennium Development Goals Countdown

What this project is about and why we're doing it

This is a long-term project working with clusters of schools and communities in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin from 2009 to 2012.

Every year, each cluster is focusing on some of the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) to reduce world poverty by 2015. You can find out more about the goals at www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

Schools and community groups are holding events locally to change people's attitudes and encourage them to take action to make the world a fairer, more sustainable place. We're working with them to share the learning from the project with others regionally and nationally.

Recent highlights

Heroes and Heroines – carrying the torch for a fairer world

We have created two resource packs for Primary and Secondary Schools to help pupils to look at the Olympic values and modern day heroes and heroines and consider how they can take action for a fairer world.

The packs contain lots of stimulating activities to get pupils discussing what makes a hero, why we need heroes, equality and Fairtrade. There are inspiring case studies of young everyday heroes and heroines from around the world.

Pupils can fill in an action torch, contribute to a Wall of Fame and think about how boys and girls are treated. The secondary resource shows how you can plan a Focus day using the activities. Download free copies from:

www.bridgesglobal.org.uk/resources_to_download_schools.html

Speak Out for a Fairer World

'Speak Out for a Fairer World' is a short film to inspire Key stage 2-3 pupils to share their message with others. In this film, pupils from primary and secondary schools involved in the project show how they have been speaking out against unfairness in the world to other pupils, teachers and adults in the community.

Visit the Bridges website to watch the film and download the accompanying teachers guide:

www.bridgesglobal.org.uk/resources_to_download_schools.html

How we've been working

We have been working with four cluster areas, involving - community groups and partners, secondary schools and their feeder primaries.

Our work with schools

We started by training the teachers. This year the training focused on gender equality and Millennium Development Goal Three. We also gave training on all the Goals for teachers new to the project.

Our staff have helped the schools deliver their activities by providing them with further training, ideas, activities, resources and mentoring visits. Schools have been encouraged to engage parents actively and work with their communities – for example several schools have held activity stands about the MDGs at open days. The schools have helped each other by working together with a common goal.

Comments from teachers following the training:

- "It was relevant , useful, informative and the day flew. If anything I wanted longer to discuss things further!"
- "The resources are all great and I have many ideas to take back to school."
- "This course is fantastic! Not only did it inspire me and give me lots of ideas but it also made me more aware of issues and stress the importance of addressing these in school. It is so much more beneficial to teach the children about MDG's and will lead to greater understanding and tolerance and social skills."
- "I really enjoyed the day. We were provided with great ideas for activities. It was also good to meet teachers who have done it before and are still so enthusiastic about MDG."

Participating Schools

Bishop's Castle Cluster

- The Community College, Bishop's Castle
- Bishop's Castle Primary School
- St. George's Primary School, Clun
- Hope Primary School
- Lydbury North Primary School (joined project in 2011)

Oswestry Cluster

- The Marches School, Oswestry
- Our Lady & St Oswald's Primary School
- Whittington Primary School
- Trefonen Primary School
- Gobowen School (joining project in 2012)

Telford & Wrekin Catholic Schools Cluster

- Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College, Wellington
- St. Mary's Primary School, Madeley
- St. Patrick's Primary School, Wellington
- St. Peter & St. Paul's Primary School, Newport

Ercall Wood School Cluster

- Ercall Wood School, Wellington, Telford
- Meadows Primary School, Ketley, Telford

Other Schools

- Idsall School, Shifnal has recently joined the project.

Our work with youth and community groups

We started by making contact with community groups and networks and offering taster sessions and activities. We've been encouraging community contacts to use their knowledge and networks to share messages around development issues.

A wide range of people in the local communities have also been involved, including parents, senior citizens, churches and youth groups. We've been working with partner organisations like libraries and arts promoters to build their capacity to deliver awareness of development issues.

Film Screenings

We've supported three film screenings in Oswestry in partnership with local film organisation Kinokulture.

- Grow Your Own – a fictional account of the experiences of asylum seekers given therapeutic plots on a local allotment.
- Life in A Day – a unique documentary film about a single day of life on earth created using footage shared by thousands of people and all filmed on 24th July 2010.
- The Green Wave – tells the story of the Green Revolution in Iran using animation alongside footage and monologue collected from Twitter, Facebook and blogs.

Girlguiding Shropshire

Heroines and Heroes – our learning and action pack for Girlguiding groups in Shropshire is now available. The pack provides lots of fun activities to explore equality around the world. Download your free copy from our website:

www.bridgesglobal.org.uk/resources_to_download_community.html

Community Games

We're really excited about the Olympics coming to the UK in 2012 and want to make sure we make the most of this opportunity. If you'd like to celebrate the Olympics locally you can hold your own Community Games event.

- Find out more at www.communitygames.org.uk

Read our top tips on bringing the Olympic and Paralympic values to your Games themed events here: www.communitygames.org.uk/node/277

Next steps

We'll be holding more Countdown Conferences with each cluster of schools in Spring and Summer 2012. These conferences are as pupil led as possible, with pupils giving speeches and presentations and leading workshops.

Dates of conferences are:

- Telford & Wrekin Catholic Schools – 15th March
- Bishop's Castle Cluster – 21st March
- Oswestry Schools Cluster – 4th July

We have a limited number of places available for teachers, pupils and community members to attend. If you'd like to join us please contact Sylvia on 01952 255526 or Sylvia@bridgesglobal.org.uk.

Top tips

- **Work together** – sharing training, planning and resources with other schools or groups saves time, money and resources. And it's motivating – competition as well as collaboration!
- **Let young people talk.** Our pupil led conferences have been very powerful. It's hard to ignore young person who cares deeply about an issue.
- **Start with something people already know and care about ...** food, the outdoors, family, what makes us happy
- **....but don't end there.** Use a local issue as the starting point for exploring that issue around the world.
- **World Poverty is serious stuff, but it shouldn't all be depressing.** If people feel they can be part of the solution they will be happier to take part and stay involved. Tell people a few things they could do to make a difference.

Useful resources for schools

Heroes and Heroines – raising the torch for a fairer world – see our website.

Angus Rides the Goods Train - An illustrated book by Alan Durant and Chris Riddell. We thoroughly recommend this book as a starter point for discussion on poverty and power, sharing resources and taking action. Aimed at KS2 pupils, but equally stimulating for KS3 pupils and adults.

Change the World in 8 steps – posters and activities for KS2-3. Available as a free download from www.oxfam.org.uk/education

Going for Goals – A toolkit for teaching and learning about the MDGs available from Cheshire Development Education Centre. Ideas and methodologies for getting the MDGs across to primary pupils. www.cheshiredec.org

Sharing our World A primary school resource available from Cafod/SCIAF. Posters inc. starter questions, cross curricular activities and assembly ideas. www.cafod.org.uk

Mothers' Matter Pack – inspiring activities for learning and taking action for safer birth and motherhood. Schools Pack and Communities Pack available from Bridges by post or to download from our website www.bridgesglobal.org.uk/resources_to_download.html

I'd like to know more about this project, how can I do this?

If you would like to find out more about how we have been working on global issues with Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils e.g. if you would like to send staff or some Year 5, 6 or 7 pupils to one of our conferences to take part in a pupil led transition event on global issues, do get in touch! Contact Sylvia@bridgesglobal.org.uk

We've involved over 2500 people in community activities since the start of the project – get in touch if you'd like to join us! Communities contact- Nina@bridgesglobal.org.uk

Bridges promotes knowledge and learning in Shropshire for a fairer world.
Our vision is a world where all people are respected, learn together and are able to take action.



The MDG Countdown Project is funded from June 2009 to June 2012 by UKaid from the Department for International Development.

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