



Millennium Villages

The Guiding Principles of the Millennium Villages



Promoting **sustainable, scalable progress** toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through the use of proven, scientifically-validated interventions.



Ensuring **African ownership** of the Millennium Development Goals, and working through African governments and regional groups, such as the African Union, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.



Significantly **increasing capacity** in Africa through training and knowledge sharing with African governments and communities.



Partnering with innovative NGOs, universities and leading experts, the international donor community, and the public and private sectors throughout Africa and the world to continually improve and coordinate development strategies.



Working toward **economic growth** at the national and regional level, as well as at the local level.

The horrifying realities of extreme poverty in Africa are **not unknown**.

For decades, much of Africa has been trapped in a cycle of extreme poverty, famine and hunger, and catastrophic, pandemic illness. In Africa, more than 320 million people live on less than US\$1 every day. According to the World Bank, between 1981 and 2001, the number of Africans living in extreme poverty has doubled. For the men, women, and children living in extreme poverty, fulfilling even the most basic human necessities is often impossible.

Every day, thousands of men, women, and children throughout Africa die of malaria, HIV/AIDS, hunger, and other preventable, treatable causes.

Of the 726 million people living in Africa:*

323 million live on less than US\$1 a day

185 million are undernourished

273 million do not have access to safe water sources

299 million do not have access to adequate sanitation

44 million children of primary school age do not attend school

5 million children under the age of 5 die every year

AIDS is the **leading cause of death**

In 2005, 3.2 million people in Africa were **newly infected with HIV/AIDS**

In 2005, 2.4 million people in Africa **died from AIDS**

According to the World Food Programme, there are **11 million AIDS orphans in Africa**

3,000 people die each day from malaria, most of them children

More than **1.5 million** people are infected with TB every year

* Sourced from the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, and the World Food Programme. (2006)

Understanding the **causes** of extreme poverty can stop the **effects** of extreme poverty.

The factors contributing to and causing extreme poverty in Africa are not a mystery. Corruption, mismanagement, and a lack of will in Africa are not the causes of extreme poverty. Extreme poverty is caused by insufficient access to international and domestic resources, training, and the pillars of basic human rights.

The causes of extreme poverty in Africa are not innate and irreparable. The challenges are enormous, but they can be overcome.

Extreme Poverty in Africa is caused by:

A lack of agricultural inputs (e.g. improved seed and fertilizer)

Erratic and changing rainfall patterns across the continent

A severe lack of access to safe water for drinking, household use, and irrigation

Chronic malnutrition, chronic hunger, and periodic, debilitating famine

Decreased economic productivity as a result of hunger and illness

Extensive loss of human capital from HIV/AIDS, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and TB

Insufficient access to markets, income generating opportunities, and financing

Inadequate infrastructure and communication networking

Minimal foreign investment

Insufficient trade opportunities based on heavy Western subsidies and tariffs

Scarce government resources and capacity

The deepening trap of extreme poverty

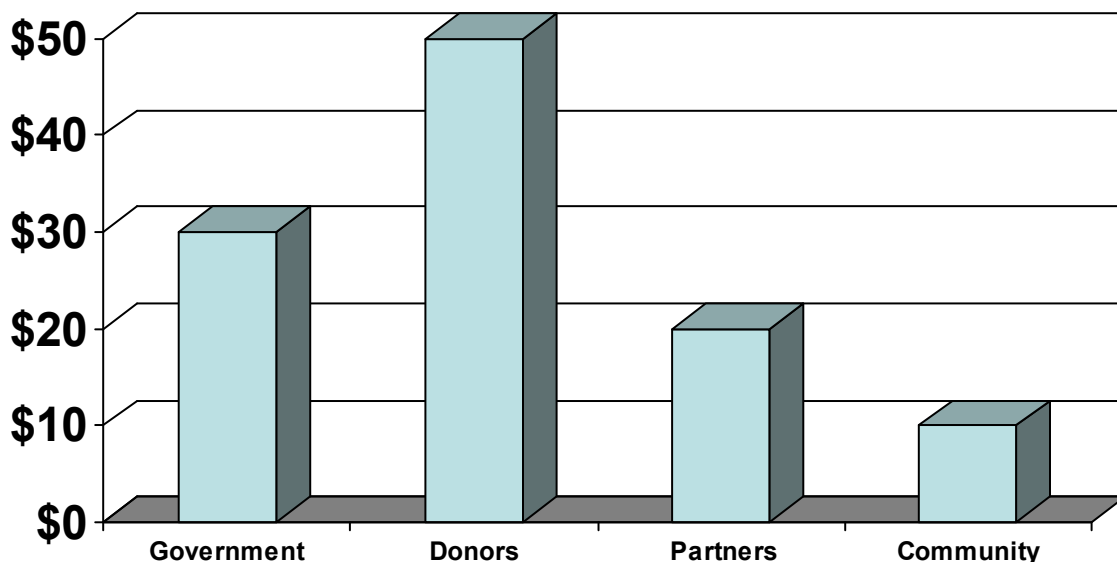
The **Solution** to Extreme Poverty: Millennium Villages

Millennium Villages is a revolutionary new approach to ending extreme poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Initiating a paradigm shift from development theories of the previous decades, **the Millennium Villages model combines the active leadership of national and local governments, the leadership and participation of rural, African communities, and evidence-based development technologies in nine major development fields.** By tackling all of the causes of extreme poverty at once, Millennium Villages ensures that communities living in extreme poverty have a real, sustainable opportunity to lift themselves out of the poverty trap.

Currently, Millennium Promise, in partnership with the Earth Institute at Columbia University, is implementing 78 Millennium Villages in 10 sub-Saharan African nations. The Millennium Villages organization is currently working with nearly 400,000 people throughout rural Africa.

Costing

The costing for the Millennium Villages are based on the recommendations from the UN Millennium Project's Investing in Development Report. Research demonstrates that it will require \$110 per person annually to lift individuals from extreme poverty. The \$110 required annually for each person is funded through various sources, including private donors, NGOs and partner groups, African governments, and the community themselves. A breakdown of funding contributions for every \$110 is detailed below:



Fast Facts about Millennium Villages

- The Millennium Villages Project was **developed by a team of development specialists** at the Earth Institute at Columbia University, in partnership with the UN Millennium Project
- The first Millennium Village was launched in **Sauri, Kenya** in June 2004
- The Millennium Villages Project is a **cooperative effort** of several groups, including Millennium Promise, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, the UN Millennium Project, various partner NGOs in the United States and Africa, national and local African governments, and rural African communities
- Millennium Villages sites are **chosen based on three criteria**: location in a hunger hot spot in Africa (defined by at least 20% of the population underweight), location in a reasonably democratic country, and a community with a history of successfully working with an NGO or outside agency
- Each Millennium Village has approximately **5,000 people**
- Millennium Villages are facilitated for a **period of 5 years**, during which time leadership of interventions is transitioned to the community committees and local government

