



FACT SHEET
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The Program: *One Shared World*

- A new national campaign to raise awareness and generate dialogue about global poverty and how we, as Americans, are helping people in poor and developing countries to live better, healthier lives.
- Aims to connect America's working women to global development assistance efforts that help families—families not so unlike our own—to overcome poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.
- Partners with the American Association of University Women, American Women in Radio and Television, the National Association of Women Business Owners and the National Council of Negro Women.
- Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Developed and managed by the Academy for Educational Development.
- Focuses on economic progress, health and education.
- Provides a broad array of free resources, materials and ideas to help those who want to learn more, connect more and do more to build a safer, more secure and healthier future for all of us.
- Launched on International Women's Day, March 8, 2006.

Development Assistance: Helping people help themselves

- Almost two-thirds of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day. At this income, families are hard-pressed to meet their daily needs for food and shelter.
- Development assistance encompasses the many ways the U.S. extends a "hand up" to these people to improve the conditions of their lives and help them, their communities and their nations become self-sufficient.
- Many different things can contribute to bringing people out of poverty. Settling conflicts, increasing trade, improving health and education are just some of them.
- Development assistance is a shared responsibility. Each of us has a part to play and each of us has a stake in the outcome.

The Good News: Development assistance works

- Living standards have improved. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day dropped by almost half between 1981 and 2001, from 40 percent to 21 percent of the global population. In absolute terms, this means that the number of people living in poverty fell from 1.5 billion in 1981 to 1.1 billion in 2001.ⁱ
- On average, people are living longer and are healthier than their parents. The gap between life expectancies in the richest and poorest countries has closed by 10 years since 1960.ⁱⁱ
- Adult literacy has improved in the last decade, though serious gender disparities remain. Male adult (ages 15 and over) literacy rose from 78 percent to 83 percent in low- and middle-income countries between 1990 and 2002. Female literacy rates rose from 62 percent to 70 percent.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Partners



Funded by the **United States Agency for International Development** (USAID), the principal U.S. Government agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty and engaging in democratic reforms. (www.usaid.gov)



American Association of University Women, a national organization promoting education equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change. (www.aauw.org)



American Women in Radio and Television, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of broadcast programming and the impact of women in the electronic media and allied fields. (www.awrt.org)



National Association of Women Business Owners, a national organization representing the interests of women entrepreneurs across all industries. (www.nawbo.org)



National Council of Negro Women, a nonprofit organization helping women of African descent to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities. (www.ncnw.org)



Developed and managed by the **Academy for Educational Development**, an independent, nonprofit organization that works to improve people's lives and solve critical social problems in the U.S. and in more than 90 countries around the world. (www.aed.org)

ⁱ World Development Indicators 2004 release:
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:20195240~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336992,00.html>

ⁱⁱ Brian McCartan, Director, Global Trends Project. Opinion, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Dec. 16, 2005
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/252255_globaltrends16.html

ⁱⁱⁱ World Bank Poverty Analysis Overview.
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20153855~menuPK:435040~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html>