

Highlighted on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October 2010

This year, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October 2010) will be commemorated on Monday, 18 October, with the theme "From poverty to decent work: bridging the gap". The Day presents an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and struggles of people living in poverty, WFWO team and its partners, supporters "Stand Up and continue to support poor people to overcome their poverty with its modest contributions to make difference" and to hear their voices is our concerns and to recognize that poor people are at the forefront of the fight against poverty and to call attention to international communities to invest on poor.



More than one billion people in the world live on less than one dollar a day. In total, 2.5 billion struggle to survive on less than two dollars per day. Every year, eleven million children die, most under the age of five and more than six million from completely preventable causes like malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia and HIV/AIDS. Through its resolution 47/196, of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and invited all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution. The resolution further invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist States, at their request, in organizing national activities for the observance of the Day, and requests the Secretary-General to take, within existing resources, the measures necessary to ensure the success of the Day's observance.

During the implementation of the first Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), several United Nations summits and conferences resulted in negotiated outcomes focused on national, regional and international efforts for poverty eradication. These include the UN Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

In December 2007, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) with the theme of "Full employment and decent work for all", reiterating that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world and a core requirement for sustainable development, especially for developing countries. The proclamation recalls the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly.

The Second Decade aims at supporting, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It stresses the importance of reinforcing the positive trends in poverty reduction in some countries and extending such trends to benefit people worldwide. It further highlights the importance of achieving inclusive growth, including full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Despite these commitments to poverty eradication, the progress made in reducing poverty world-wide has been uneven. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has emphasized that "With the right investments and concrete action, we can build upon the gains, fulfil our commitments, and ensure that every man, woman and child has the opportunity to make the most of their potential."

In September 2010 at the Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York, world leaders agreed on an action agenda to intensify the global poverty fight. Despite encouraging advances in many corners of the globe, hundreds of millions of people still live in appalling conditions, lacking even the most basic services. Addressing the global jobs crisis is central to changing this picture – to defeating poverty, strengthening economies and building peaceful and stable societies.

"The theme this year is "From Poverty to Decent Work: bridging the gap".

The 2010 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty comes at a time when people living in poverty and informal sector workers are even more uncertain about employment stability, working conditions, training opportunities and the availability of social protection. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the share of workers in vulnerable employment worldwide is estimated to reach more than 1.5 billion, equivalent to over half (50.6%) of the world's working population. With attention focused on the start of the International Year of Youth, young people are known to be particularly affected. The ILO found that the global unemployment rate reached 6.6% in 2009, up 0.9% from 2007, while the global youth unemployment rate rose from 11.8% in 2007 to 13.4% in 2009, with wide regional variations. The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), with the theme of "Full employment and decent work for all", is an important framework for action through which Member States and the United Nations system can effectively address the global priorities of employment and decent work for poverty eradication.

The main observance will endeavour to illustrate ways in which access to decent work and opportunities for learning and training can be developed with people in poverty, taking into account the existing efforts and experiences of youth, their families, and those working in the informal sector. Testimonies will highlight the need to support initiatives and programmes which are participatory and rights-based, creating a dialogue among different partners (families, workers, social services and employers). New approaches which overcome exclusion and are environmentally, socially and economically advantageous will be highlighted.

Lets take action towards the eradication of poverty from all over the world. They are: the need to support country-led development; foster inclusive economic growth; improve opportunities for women and girls; target investments in poverty, health and education, in clean water and sanitation, and in scale up social protection and employment programmes and other targeted interventions, such as mobilizing resources to finance the MDGs; and the international community delivering on the official development assistance (ODA) commitments it has made and improving the predictability and effectiveness of aid. WFWO will continue to "sharpen its tools" and work closely with a wide range of partners within and beyond the UN system to support the world's poorest and most vulnerable people and communities to meet their development goals, if we want to see a beautiful world tomorrow. This It's not only United Nations, government, institution, NGO responsibility to erase poverty from world, but also a responsibility of all individuals who is thinking about a better tomorrow.

The 2010 commemoration will take place on Monday, 18 October at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

For more information, please visit: <http://lnk.ms/FZc3z>

WFWO's Communications Team