



Working together for a just world

AIM | To explore the Millennium Development Goals as an action for a fairer world

Time | 40 Minutes

Material | Two ping pong balls per team, cardboard tubes about 50 cm long, art materials, a box, and copies of the MDG's.

What to do

Cut the tubes in half lengthways. The tubes can be made from postal tubes or kitchen roll inserts. Split the group into teams of about four people. Ask who has heard of the Millennium Development Goals? Do they know what they are about? Give each group a copy of the MDG's and ask them to choose one of the goals.

Give a section of tube to each person. On the outside of the tube ask them to paint what their goal means to them. If someone is finished early, get them to write "Justice" on the ping pong balls and "A Just World" on the box

Place the box at the end of the room. Each team must form a line and when you say GO, they roll the ball down the first tube to the second and so on until they roll it into the box. If the ball stops moving or is dropped at any time, they have to go back to the start. If the group finds it too easy, introduce obstacles such as chairs, basins of water, blindfolds or use a tiny box. The winners are the team who get their ball into the box first.

Debrief

Ask what they liked about the activity? Did they find anything difficult? What do you think is difficult about achieving the MDG's? What could the obstacles represent in real life? Can you think why the MDG's are important?

Note to Leader

For older groups read out the fact box on Aid. Ask the group where they think the "ball is being dropped"?

The Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) are a set of Goals the United Nations have created to give everyone in the world a chance to live a healthy life. All the MDGs are equally important and they are all linked. Progress has been made on achieving the goals in some parts of the world, but other areas, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, are falling behind. Here they are:

Source: UN Development Program



1

Get rid of the worst poverty and hunger



2

Get everyone to have at least a primary education



3

Let men and women be treated equally and empower women



4

Reduce children's deaths



5

Improve the health of mothers



6

Fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



7

Protect the environment



8

Make sure all countries work together in partnership

fact BOX

Aid is when one country gives resources like food and money, or services like labour to other countries to help them develop. Examples include setting up clinics or primary schools or empowering local women to set up their own businesses. Ireland has promised to give 0.7% of its GNI (Ireland's income for a year) in aid by 2012, to help achieve the MDG's. This means 7 cents out of every ten euro. This makes Ireland an international leader and builds our reputation in the world. Ireland is known worldwide for being a caring charitable country.

In the global recession, Ireland has so far cut its aid by 22% or €222 million Euro for 2009 and it might be cut even more in the next budget. The recession is having a huge impact on people in every country, but unlike Ireland, many people in the developing world don't have any form of social welfare or even the guarantee of food security. Many campaigners are worried that Ireland is now off target to achieve its promise of 0.7% for 2012 and so it will be harder to achieve the MDG's.

Action Idea

Log onto www.wedocare.ie to know more about the cuts in Ireland's aid budget and to find out what your group can do to help achieve the MDG's