

# The UNDP Vision

From poverty and public health to narcotics and terrorism, 2001 was the year that forced the world to confront the growing agenda of issues that can no longer be contained or managed within the boundaries of the single nation state. And while there are not direct links among all these issues, events from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe to Argentina demonstrated how the alienation, frustration and despair born from poverty, lack of faith in political institutions, environmental degradation and the spread of deadly diseases can leave us all more vulnerable.

That realization has given a welcome new impetus to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that 189 countries endorsed at the United Nations Millennium Summit two years ago. These commitments range from providing universal primary education to reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS to boosting access to clean water, with the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty—all by the deadline of 2015. These MDGs have now emerged as a key organizing principle for global and national development efforts over the next decade and beyond.

As the UN's global development network, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has made the MDGs the focus of our own core mission to help developing countries build their own solutions to national and global development challenges. And following nearly three years of unprecedented reform and renewal, UNDP is placed to carry out this work more efficiently and effectively than ever before.



**Malloch Brown greets villagers in Senegal.**

As this report sets out, the new UNDP is succeeding by combining the unique trust and convening power that derives from our UN character, history and mandate with our greater ability to give countries access to resources, expertise and experience through our global network and broad circle of partners. The results are visible where they matter most: in our increased capacity to provide cutting-edge development services and programmes monitored and measured by a pioneering results-based management system; in our growing global leadership in generating the demand for better public policy on issues from democratic governance to sustainable energy; and, ultimately, in the greater extent to which we are helping countries build their own capacity to manage development issues.

From the recovery and reconstruction work in Afghanistan and the Middle East to less visible but equally urgent efforts to strengthen democratic governance in Africa and Central Europe, harness the power of information and communications technologies for development across Asia and Latin America, and mount new national and regional efforts to help address the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS, 2001 was a year of real, measurable progress for UNDP. Our challenge now is to consolidate our reforms, play a pivotal role in helping meet the MDGs and make a lasting difference in the lives of peoples all over the world.

**Mark Malloch Brown**  
Administrator