

Social Justice: What's the problem?

It's something of a shock to realize that almost half of the earth's population lives in terrible poverty; that every day 30,000 children die from treatable diseases like malaria and diarrhea simply because there is no clean water; that over 800 million people go hungry routinely while the rest of us throw out food every week; and that 3 billion people earn less than US\$2 a day. That means they have the spending power of what our \$2 would buy us in our supermarket for a whole day's food.

It doesn't have to be this way. Many poor countries and communities are taking action to lift themselves out of poverty. Few have the resources to do it on their own. They need our help.

What could we do to help?

If Australia lifted its aid budget from 0.3% of national income to 0.7%, we would be able to achieve all the following:

- ✓ 70,000 fewer child deaths each year.
- ✓ 2,200 fewer women dying in childbirth each year.
- ✓ 15,000 fewer AIDS deaths and 17,000 fewer TB deaths each year.
- ✓ 19 million more people with access to safe drinking water.
- ✓ 100,000 children receiving basic education.

These are all Millennium Development Goals. The money we give as individuals to Non Government Organisations usually goes to these types of projects. Real change for real people.

As we raise our voices, our Government will come to understand that these things matter to us. If we don't, they will never know.

For more information go to: www.catalystonline.org.au; <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/> and <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/>
