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Developing Countries Farm Radio Network

Based on the results of our September Network News survey, the response from our donors indicated that you would like to learn more about DCFRN's African broadcaster partners. We have prepared a summary of our West African partnerships for this issue and plan to highlight our central, east and south African partnerships in following issues.

West Africa Partner Profile

- Our partners in West Africa span 14 countries for a total of 137 radio broadcast partners, representing nearly 50 per cent of our 275 radio partners.
- Radio stations in this region broadcast in close to 70 different languages including Akan, Bambara, Dioula, English, French, Fulfulde, Hausa, Kabiye, Kotokoli, Krio, Malinke, Moore, Portuguese, and Yoruba.
- Nigeria, with 24 partners, holds the record for the country with the most Network partners.
- Ghana holds the record for the longest standing Network partners - Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) and Bowiri Rural Radio Farm Forum - joined the network in 1981 and 1983 respectively.
- Radio programs developed by our partners in West Africa focus largely on agriculture, environment and health. These themes were based on their listeners' demands and interests.
- Over the past decade, three of the George Atkins Award winners were from West Africa.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the work of individual partners please contact Blythe McKay, DCFRN's Development Communication Coordinator.

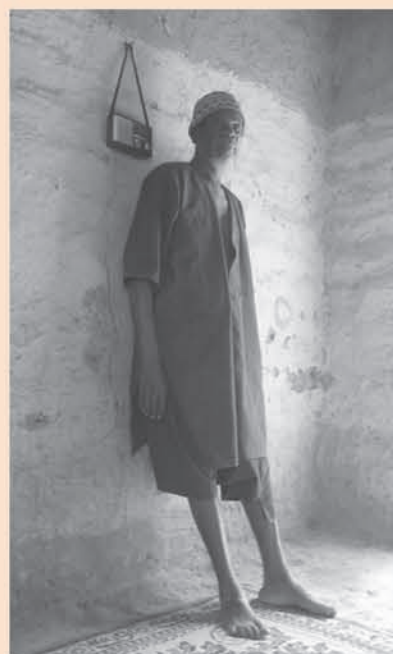


Photo: Brigitte Geoffroy - Canadian Crossroads International

A chief listens to his radio in a rural village in Mali.

Number of radio partners per country in West Africa

Country	Number of Partners
Benin	13
Ghana	17
Ivory Coast	7
Mauritania	1
Senegal	10
Burkina Faso	13
Guinea	6
Togo	11
Niger	6
Sierra Leone	4
Gambia	1
Guinea-Bissau	2
Mali	22
Nigeria	24

Millennium Development Goals:

North and Sub-Saharan Africa Progress Report Chart

In our Fall issue of Network News, we discussed the Millennium Development Goals and our partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Through this project, we are bringing to our partners a heightened awareness of the issues facing their listeners and the overall value of the MDGs as a means of motivating change.

We are sharing with you the United Nations report card on Africa's progress in achieving the MDGs.

Developing countries, the most highly victimized by poverty, have been taking the lead in moving forward the MDGs, especially regarding the first seven goals*. The challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa as it strives to meet these development objectives remain the most daunting of any region in the world. It is a region that is home to 34 of the world's 49 least developed countries, and will continue to need the highest per capita levels of technical and financial support if it is to make progress towards achieving the MDGs by the targeted date of 2015.

The chart below provides an overview of Africa's progress as of September 2005. It unfortunately reveals the lack of improvement sub-Saharan Africa is making in achieving the MDGs. These disheartening statistics reinforce the important role DCFRN has in focusing its work in this region. It also validates the contributions that you, as a donor make in improving the everyday life of those in Africa.

* The eighth goal includes steps that developed countries, such as Canada, need to take in order to win the fight on eradicating poverty and therefore is not depicted in the chart below.

North and Sub-Saharan Progress Report Chart

	AFRICA	
Goals and Targets	Northern	Sub-Saharan

Goal 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Reduce extreme poverty by half	low poverty	very high poverty
Reduce hunger by half	very low hunger	very high hunger

Goal 2 | Achieve universal primary education

Universal primary schooling	high enrolment	low enrolment
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Goal 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women

Equal girls' enrolment in primary school	close to parity	far from parity
Women's share of paid employment	low share	medium share
Women's equal representation in national parliaments	low representation	low representation

Goal 4 | Reduce child mortality

Reduce mortality of under five-year-olds by two thirds	moderate mortality	very high mortality
Measles immunization	high coverage	very low coverage

Goal 5 | Improve maternal health

Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters*	moderate mortality	very high mortality
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Goal 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS	-----	very high prevalence
Halt and reverse spread of malaria	low risk	high risk
Halt and reverse spread of tuberculosis	low mortality	high mortality

Goal 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability

Reverse loss of forests	small area	medium area
Halve proportion without improved drinking water	high coverage	low coverage
Halve proportion without sanitation	high coverage	very low coverage
Improve the lives of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	very high proportion of slum-dwellers

The progress chart operates on two levels. The words in each box tells what the current rate of compliance with each target is. The colours show the trend, toward meeting the target by 2015 or not. See legend below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Target already met or very close to being met. | <input type="checkbox"/> Target is not expected to be met by 2015 if prevailing trends persist.. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Target is expected to be met by 2015 if prevailing trends persist, or the problem that this target is designed to address is not serious concern in the region. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No progress, or a deterioration or reversal. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient data. |

Sources: United Nations, based on data and estimates provided by: Food and Agriculture Organization; Inter-Parliamentary Union; International Labour Organization; UNESCO; UNICEF; World Health Organization; UNAIDS; UN-Habitat; World Bank - based on statistics available September 2005. Compiled by: Statistics Division, UN DESA



Supporting broadcasters in developing countries to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities.

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Charitable Registration Number
 (BN) 11888 4808 RR001

Program undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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