



Empowering the people of Bangladesh to overcome poverty

Who is Symbiosis?

Symbiosis International is an Australian non-for-profit organisation that carries out community development work in Bangladesh. Beginning in 1995, the focus of Symbiosis is on reducing poverty through community projects which emphasise economic development, education, health, the environment and community capacity building. The main thrust of this work is through a process called empowerment, whereby the poor are strengthened and equipped to find long-lasting solutions to tackling poverty. Project activities include: self-help group formation, adult literacy and numeracy, health and nutrition awareness raising, income generation, vocational training, environmental care and women's rights and empowerment.

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a blueprint for addressing the needs of the world's poorest people. The eight goals are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the UN's Millennium Declaration that was ratified by the Governments of 147 countries – including Australia – during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The eight MDGs are broken down into 21 smaller targets that are regularly monitored and measured by the UN. The eight main MDGs, which are to be achieved by 2015, are:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

A Message from Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh – Justin Lee

“I have been impressed by the efforts of Symbiosis in the villages and towns (of Bangladesh) to empower local people to help themselves. Bangladesh remains one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world with most people earning less than \$2 per day. I congratulate Symbiosis for organising the Great Aussie Rickshaw Ride, which has received support from AusAID's Community Call to Action program. It's a great opportunity for Australians to participate in a unique awareness raising event and show their support for ending global poverty”.

Media enquiries: Phone: 0413-749-830 Email: info@mercercpr.com