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## **G8's Africa pledge delivered 'historic results' for world's poorest, report says; Need new framework for next chapter**

- **Led by U.S., collective commitments yield real results, but stronger focus on accountability needed going forward**
- **Bold new development strategy needed from September Millennium Development Goals Summit, putting good governance and fair economic growth at core**

**Washington, D.C.** – ONE's 2010 DATA Report shows that promises made to African countries at the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit have yielded historic increases in development assistance and life-saving results on the ground over the past five years. This final assessment gauges countries on the scope of the overall commitment, the delivery of that commitment, and evaluates each country's plan for 2010 and beyond.

ONE's report predicts that by the end of this year, G7 countries (the G8 minus Russia) will have delivered 61 per cent of their 2005 pledge to double aid to sub-Saharan Africa. While short of its original goal, aid to Africa increased by US\$13.7bn, the largest increase for Africa in such a span.

"In the five years since the Gleneagles Summit, the G7's aid to Africa has increased at almost three times the rate it did in the first half of the last decade," **said David Lane, President and CEO of ONE.** "That support has helped put more than 40 million African children into school, halved malaria deaths in a string of countries, and funded innovative projects such as using mobile phones to help African citizens hold their authorities to account. Effective aid and debt cancellation have delivered measurable, life changing results."

The report found that the United States—along with Canada, this June's G8 Summit host, and Japan—set relatively modest targets in 2005 but has exceeded them. France and Germany set more ambitious goals but are likely to deliver approximately one quarter of them. Italy's dismal delivery – cutting aid to Africa by 6% from 2004 levels – brought down overall performance and is a key example why a new framework must be put in place to help make promises more track-able and enforceable.

"Lessons from the past five years show that America's leadership along with other G8 countries in fighting poverty and disease has yielded tremendous results, but going forward, new commitments must include measures of accountability to ensure that promises made are promises kept," **said Lane.** "At the upcoming G8 we expect the focus to be on the issue of improving child and maternal health. This is smart and critical, as progress on both goals has lagged. A strong, country-specific, results-based initiative in these areas will help put a renewed focus on making progress towards all the Millennium Development Goals at the UN's meeting in September."

The report also underscores the need to focus on trade and investment, areas where there has been little progress. The G8 has yet to deliver on the promise to "make trade work for Africa", with momentum all but vanishing on the Doha Development round. The G8 have performed slightly better on their commitment to work to increase foreign direct investment in Africa, with a recent increase in support for the African Development Bank for example.

The global community must also remain committed to debt cancellation, which has helped put 42 million children in school. The report raises concerns that some donors, such as France, are now giving more aid as loans rather than grants, thereby risking a new debt crisis.

“2010 is not the finish line,” **said Lane**. “Our lessons learned from the past five years mean that with political will, we can accelerate progress in the next five years. This starts in just a few weeks when the G8 meets in Canada. We hope the United States and the rest of the G8 will forge a new chapter in development based on results-driven solutions and mutual accountability to catalyze poverty-reduction, economic growth and investment in Africa.”

#### Notes to editors

- For interviews, briefings and electronic copies of ONE’s 2010 DATA Report, please contact Kim Hunter at 202-334-5494 or [kimberly.hunter@one.org](mailto:kimberly.hunter@one.org) or Steve Wilson at 202-380-6640 or [steve.wilson@one.org](mailto:steve.wilson@one.org).
- The DATA Report uses top-line development assistance figures for 2009 as reported by G7 countries (Russia was not part of the aid promise) to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)’s Development Assistance Committee. It disaggregates aid delivered to sub-Saharan Africa and removes debt relief figures from overall totals. It includes aid channelled through multilateral sources such as the World Bank. In this way, it is the only tool to hold G8 countries *directly accountable* to the aid promises they made for Africa.
- By the end of 2009, the DATA Report says the G7 had delivered 45% of its promised increase to Africa. The Report’s 2010 figures are projections based on information provided to ONE by G7 governments.
- The 2010 DATA Report contains forewords written by ONE co-founder Bono and Mo Ibrahim, founder of Celtel International and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. They can be viewed at <http://www.one.org/report/2010/en/about/foreword.html>
- ONE’s 2010 DATA Report is being launched on Africa Day in coordination with the ‘Africa Progress Report’ from the Africa Progress Panel which monitors and promotes mutual accountability and shared responsibility for progress in Africa. It is being launched at a press conference in Johannesburg by Panel Chair Kofi Annan, and members Peter Eigen (founder and Chair of the Advisory Council, Transparency International and Chairman of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative), Linah Kelebogile Mohohlo (Governor, Bank of Botswana) and Olusegun Obasanjo (Envoy of the Secretary-General on the Great Lakes region and former President of Nigeria). [www.africaprogresspanel.org/report](http://www.africaprogresspanel.org/report)
- ONE is a campaign and advocacy organisation backed by more than two million members worldwide dedicated to combating extreme poverty and disease, especially in Africa. [www.one.org](http://www.one.org)