

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS



[www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org)

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 22 no.4

WINTER 2005

## MANNY'S CORNER

### Tsunami's Impact on Women and Children

Year 2004 and early 2005 will be remembered as the year marked by international violence, war and the unprecedented global catastrophic Tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia. The tsunami's disastrous toll and images of destruction will most likely surpass any other event for the next 12 months of the year.

While the international response appears to be massive, according to the United Nations and WHO (World Health Organization), five million people in the area affected by Tsunami lack sufficient drinking water, sanitation and access to basic needs. As a result, those who escaped death in countries devastated by the tsunami event are now at risk. Tsunami as a natural disaster has been a great human tragedy and its unprecedented scope has had enormous affect upon many communities across the Southeast Asia and African region. However, death and injuries among the most vulnerable segment of the population...women and children... have been disproportionate.



According to the UNICEF report, "about 1.5 million children have been seriously affected by this monumental catastrophe." With families broken apart, many children have become subjects of abuse and exploitation and there have been numerous reports of sale of children by

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### The Goal of Reducing Child Mortality

For a number of years, studies and international reports have repeatedly documented the death of about 10 million children annually from largely preventable illnesses. Tsunami disaster plus a recently released document (see book review, page 2, on achieving Millennium Development goals) once again has the vulnerability of children on the forefront of international community.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have repeatedly documented and have been calling for "renewed commitment to improve survival prospects" of children around the world. There is consensus among all studies and reports, that 63 per cent of all child deaths in developing countries could be prevented, with 98 per cent of those deaths under the age of five.

According to WHO, "In the 1980s the child survival revolution greatly reduced child mortality but that movement has to be revitalized." There is an urgent need to regain that momentum and save the estimated 10 million children under five who die from easily preventable causes each year, if there is to be any hope of achieving the Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality by two thirds by 2015." According to WHO, the key to this success is better nutrition, the drastic reduction of preventable communicable diseases through immunization, integrated management of childhood illness and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



## Book Review

Instead of a book review, we have chosen to bring to the attention of our readers a very significant 3000-page document just released by the office of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

This document with its 18 chapters, appendices, and references, is an overview of

***“A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals.”*** It embodies

recommendations about how to reach the goal of cutting by one-half the extreme poverty around the globe by 2015. A team of 265 experts and graduate students working on collecting and analyzing data for a three-year period prepared the report. More than one-half the planet’s six billion population according to this report, have a daily income of less than one dollar a day and 2.5 million have less than two dollar a day income.

The report is a practical guide and provides realistic approaches the international community needs to utilize in facing such a serious human dilemma. To respond to these challenges the international community must make “bold and far-reaching decisions.” This document is a blue print to emphasize the need for a global partnership for development and to face the international challenges in order to ensure “a safer, more just and more prosperous world in the new century.”

The full report can be downloaded from the United Nations Web pages. [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

**Note:** The September 14-16, 2005 United Nations Summit has on its agenda the consideration of this document in its high-level millennium review session. (MP)

**“Nations working together can make a difference. Nations upholding the rule of law can advance the cause of a fairer world. We should not see this as an age of threats, but as one of many new opportunities.”**  
**Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General**

## ***Local, National and International Upcoming Events***

**January 16-February 13th** "Voices of New Hope"-- Lecture Series at Village Presbyterian, Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

This series is sponsored by Village Presbyterian Church and Citizens for Justice in the Middle East. Each talk is free and open to the public and will be held at Village Presbyterian Church, 67th and Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas.

**February 6, 2005** G.A.M.E. Board of Directors, 2:00 pm., at 4428 Harrison.

[www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org).

**February 13, 2005**, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

G.A.M.E.Center, 3009 Holmes, Tsunami Fund-raising ( see invitation attached.)

**February 15, 2005**, CRC Campaign for Ratification meeting, Washington, D.C., 11:00 -3:00 p.m.

**February 26, 2005**,The second Gender and Development Conference, University of Missouri-Kanas City Women’s and Gender Studies Program.

For more information, visit

[www.umkc.edu/wgs](http://www.umkc.edu/wgs).

**March 6, 2005** Member Day at the United Nations, UNA-USA, New York City. 60th Anniversary Celebration.

**April 21, 2005** Harmony Week Luncheon, 11:30-1:00 p.m. Downtown Marriott. Visit

[www.kcharmony.org](http://www.kcharmony.org).

## **Educator’s Corner**

Students need to develop an understanding of and appreciation for other people and other cultures. Teachers can help prepare them for an increasingly complex world by accepting the challenge to incorporate teaching about the United Nations and its role as an advocate for peace. Through teaching the ways that the U.N. seeks peace in the world, teachers can help students prepare to deal with differences of opinion and conflict in constructive, non-violent ways.

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desperation or profit making. The immense effort on the part of the international community and good will of groups such as Physicians without Borders has been remarkable in building hope and providing physical and psychological support.

### **Our Role in this Disaster**

What can an organization such as Global and Multicultural Education, with its deep interest in international community, provide in response to this tragedy? We have been overwhelmed and distressed as are other members of the international community. In order to increase our effectiveness and in response to the urgent need to provide our support, we have committed ourselves to join a consortium of the international community in the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. The newly formed Kansas City International Consortium is organized under the auspices of the Sister City Association of Kansas City. [www.ksistercities.org](http://www.ksistercities.org).

This joint effort has brought together almost a dozen internationally oriented organizations to combine and respond to both short term as well as long term needs of those affected by the tsunami disaster.

As a result, this winter issue of Global Concepts is focused on this international tragedy to solicit your support. We are aware that many of us, not once or twice but three or more times, are approached by various groups or moved by our own individual desire to contribute to the cause. However, there undoubtedly is a need for continuing support to make an impact in such an enormous disaster and only the generosity of people like you will help to alleviate the pain inflicted on southeast Asia.

As a member and friend of Global and Multicultural Education Center, you can play a major role in this consortium of international organizations in our community. See the invitation enclosed in this newsletter for your opportunity to make a difference.

## **Cultural Diversity : Basis for Human Rights**

Global interdependence has demonstrated the need for respect for cultural diversity and opportunity for people of diverse ethnicity and cultural backgrounds the right to practice their own identity. A recent United Nations Development Program report calls for countries to treat cultural freedoms as basic human rights and essential to life in modern, diverse societies. This report moreover, emphasizes that nations with multi-ethnic or religious populations establish “asymmetric” governmental structures to allow different groups to maintain both their own identity and a sense of belonging to the nation as a whole.

UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown says “allowing people full cultural expression is an important development end in itself.” Nations with rich, diverse cultures, Mr. Malloch Brown adds, are able to make swifter economic and social progress, especially in an era when mass culture is being exported around the world in films, television, books and popular music.

“But unless the political culture also changes - unless citizens come to think, feel and act in ways that genuinely accommodate the needs and aspirations of others - real change will not happen,”

“Countries do not have to choose between national unity and cultural diversity. Individuals can and do have multiple, complementary identities - ethnicity, language, religion and race, as well as citizenship. Identity is not a zero-sum game.”

Mr. Malloch Brown says the solution is to create institutions and policies that encourage pride in national identity and symbols, as well as pride in regional or ethnic/religious backgrounds.



**GLOBAL CONCEPTS  
Newsletter of the Global  
and Multicultural Education  
Center (G.A.M.E.)**

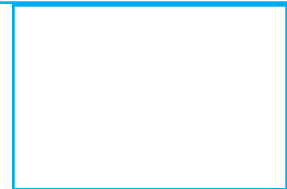
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**Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E**

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

**Membership Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patrons ..... \$ 30.00 \_\_\_\_

Family ..... \$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_

Individual ..... \$ 10.00 \_\_\_\_

Organizations/schools..... \$ 25.00 \_\_\_\_

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I would like to contribute an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

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Our Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.