



From Crisis to Development: Recovery and the Millennium Development Goals

When:

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Where:

International Peace Institute
Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development
777 United Nations Plaza, 12th Floor
(Corner of 1st Avenue and 44th Street)

TRANSCRIPTION

Welcoming Remarks: Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, *IPI President*

Introductions by Moderator: Ms. Christiane Amanpour, *Anchor of ABC News's This Week with Christiane Amanpour*

Presentations: HRH Crown Prince Haakon, *UNDP Goodwill Ambassador*

Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, *Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme*

Mr. Greg Mortenson, *Executive Director, Central Asia Institute, Co-author; "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time"*

Terje Rød-Larsen:

Your Royal Highnesses, Madam Administrator, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning everyone. It is a distinct pleasure to welcome you to this high level forum on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in times of humanitarian disasters and crises. It is a particular honor to welcome His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Haakon of Norway to IPI. In his current role as the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, with focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals, the MDGs, he has a very important, and I'd say also, a very difficult job to do. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say how much we are looking forward to hearing your views and sharing your experiences and we thank you for taking time to be with us this morning.

Actually, I cannot resist to tell you that your family actually has been with us permanently, I should say, here at the Trygve Center because both your great grandfather, King Haakon and your grandfather, King Olaf, are pictured on the walls next door together with Trygve, the Norwegian founding secretary general of the United Nations. The man who acquired the land that these spectacular buildings across the streets are standing on and under whose watch and leadership they were designed and erected.

Since our focus today is development in times of crisis and recovery, I am also particularly delighted to welcome to the panel, two very special individuals with a unique insight and experience on development. We are, indeed, extremely happy that Helen Clark the Administrator of the United National Development Programme is here to share her views on the status of the implementation of the MDGs and the role of the international community. From her old job as the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen knows the importance of strong political leadership. We are happy to see this leadership

and political vision transferred to the work of the UNDP. We are also very fortunate to have with us,

Greg Morgenson, the Executive Director of the Central Asia Institute and the author of the best selling book *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*. It would be quite an understatement to say that Greg has a personal commitment to development. He has traveled to some of the most remote places on earth to start schools, to raise funds and to empower children and generations through education. We are very happy that you are with us Greg, to share some of your experiences, particularly from your important work in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Finally, it is also my great pleasure to welcome back to IPI, a very special friend, I think who has become a regular here, Christiane. I know that you have taken a break from preparing your weekly show as the anchor of ABC News and your program this week to be with us today. Christiane will moderate our session, so I think you'll be in extremely good hands.

We have a very challenging topic and we have several speakers, so I will keep my introductory remarks short. I would also like to remind everyone, and I'm looking very sternly at everybody here, that we will have to end our proceedings at 9:45 sharp to allow the Crown Prince to continue his schedule on time and actually for me to be in the Security Council at 10:00 to brief the Council.

With those words, it is my great pleasure to hand over to our moderator, Christiane Amanpour, to start our discussion. Christiane, you have the floor.

Christiane Amanpour:

Thank you so much Terje. Just briefly to say that development is something that I have been reporting on all my career out in many of the places where the Crown Prince, where Helen Clark, and where Greg Mortenson has been, so this is a fabulous discussion for me to be able to moderate.

As you all know, it is about the Millennium Development Goals, and in five years from now, in 2015, the world will take stock of how far it's come in meeting the promises of those Millennium Development Goals. And while a considerable amount has been achieved, there is a huge amount left to be done.

Over the past decade, those goals have lifted thousands out of poverty and they have improved the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. They were designed to help eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to empower women, to get access to essential services of education, healthcare, water and sanitation and to reduce the incidents of deadly diseases. The uniqueness of the MDGs is that they represent basic human needs and basic human rights that every man, woman and child should be able to enjoy. Not just those of us who sit in the rich part of the world, but everybody all over the world. The freedom from extreme poverty, to have quality education, to have a productive employment, good health and shelter. The right of the women to give birth without risking their lives and risking the lives of their children and a more gender equal and environmentally safe world as well.

And as we saw from the high-level meeting to assess the current state of MDGs that took place around the UNGA in September, as I said, some progress has been made, but a huge amount of work still needs to be done. And the challenge becomes even greater as we consider the increased scale, the intensity and the brutality of humanitarian disasters. Just in the last few weeks, we've seen... well just right now, the humanitarian disaster that is going on in Indonesia. We have seen over the last few weeks and months, the catastrophic flooding in Pakistan and earlier this year, we've seen the terrible earthquake that devastated Haiti. And now, nearly a year later, people are still out there in tents and cholera is raging around that small island. So it's a huge amount of work and a long, long difficult road for the world to achieve the goals of the MDGs.

The human costs of these disasters will remain long past the critical relief and the early recovery period. They'll threaten lives and livelihoods and as we've seen, they'll spread illnesses and it will also, certainly because of the financial crisis all over the world, directly

affect people and put even more young people out of work, and that also is one of the great challenges of our societies: how to address the tens, no the hundreds of millions of people who not only don't have access to education, but don't have access to jobs and full employment.

So there is an urgency here that we, as a society, we as a civilization, cannot shy away from. We need to get a better picture of how these humanitarian and natural disasters are threatening the Millennium Development Goals and how we can sharpen the international communities response. So, as Terje has already indicated, we have a terrific panel right here to discuss that.

I am going to just add a little bit of facts and figures to some of the introductions you've already made. Our first speaker will be His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. He currently serves as the UNDP Goodwill Ambassador with a specific emphasis on advocating towards progress towards the MDGs. His role as Goodwill Ambassador has taken him to many, many places to monitor the progress. Places including Tanzania, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Guatemala, Burundi, Mongolia, Romania and Botswana. All over the place, speaking on the challenges of rebuilding homes, rebuilding lives and bringing long-term stability and peace, again, beyond the initial band-aid of coping with humanitarian and other disasters. He has said that development is about fighting poverty and fighting poverty is about expanding people's possibilities and choices. So we very much look forward to hearing from you and hearing about your work and see how the situation is moving forward in the places that you've been monitoring.

Our second speaker will be Helen Clark, the current Administrator of the UN Development Program. At the helm of UNDP, she oversees the UN's critical work on prevention and recovery of crisis and the long-term agenda of poverty reduction and human development. And as Terje mentioned, she comes to the UNDP with nine long years of top level political and executive experience as the Prime Minister of New Zealand, where she served successive terms, three from 1999-2008.

And finally, I'm delighted and extremely happy to introduce my friend and colleague on the ground, Greg Mortenson, the co-founder and Executive Director of the Central Asia Institute, the organization Pennies for Peace, and perhaps best known for his book, *Three Cups of Tea* which introduced not just those who were interested in Afghanistan or Pakistan or education in general, or girls in general, but introduced a whole bigger and wider community of people who took that book into their book clubs and discussed it in communities all over this country and all over the world, and have known first-hand what it takes to actually get on the ground and try to improve education. And as he said, "Education, particularly for women, is a fast multiplier." So, were exceptionally glad that you're here and you've now got 165 schools in rural and volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Most of the students are girls and he has a sprinkling of boys also. So we want to talk to you about the Millennium Development Goal's number 2 priority on universal primary education.

So with those words, I would like to turn it over to this distinguished panel. I'd just like to give you an idea of the running order. Each panelist will have a maximum of seven minutes to deliver their observations and their message. Then we will have a discussion for twenty minutes and then I'll open it to the floor for questions until we have to wrap up at 9:45 sharp. With that, Crown Prince Haakon.

Crown Prince Haakon:

Thank you very much. Thank you. Good morning. First I would like to thank the president, Terje Rød-Larsen and IPI for convening this panel. I am very happy to be part of it and to be here together with such distinguished panelists. Of course, the Administrator of the UNDP, Helen Clark. I've been working with the UNDP for quite a number of years now and I've become both impressed and have seen quite a lot of the results on the ground in my country visits. I'm very happy that Helen Clark now is contributing with all your experience and energy into this important organization.

Of course, also, Greg Mortenson, who has done so much and has so much heart in what you're doing and all the achievements that you've been able to do in such a wonderful way. So I've very much been looking forward to hearing your deliberations on that. And

of course, Christiane Amanpour, you've been, I think, a role model and an important person for a lot of young people, both women and men around the world. Thank you for participating this morning. I was actually in the third committee in '99, working with the Norwegian Delegation to the UN, so I've spent my time here. I know all of you work long hours and it's great to be back, at least close to the UN.

We live in a very unequal world, where the 20 percent richest take around more than 70 percent of the world's income, whereas the 20 percent poorest receives less than 3 percent of the world's income. Now this is a system that is not good for stability. It's not good for peace. It's not good for development. I don't think it's good for the poor and it's definitely... I don't think it's good for the rich and it's definitely not good for the poor. The question is: what does that mean? How does that influence us as human beings? How does it challenge us? What opportunities are there for us for self-realization, for expanding our knowledge and doing something that we feel is profoundly worthwhile? What does it do to the person we see in the mirror every morning? How does it reflect upon us to have this knowledge, to know that the world is constructed in this very unequal way and how do we go about getting our head around it?

I speak a lot to schools. I go into high schools and junior high schools talking to kids, so I usually ask them: "How many of you have heard of the Millennium Development Goals?" I don't think I'm going to do that here. But maybe I can ask you how many of you are a bit tired of the Millennium Development Goals? Raise your hand [laughter]. That's very courageous.

I think they're, obviously, too important. Working to end extreme poverty is too important for us ever to be tired of it. I think it is really important that we count our victories. We focus a lot on what is going wrong, and rightly so. A lot of good comes out of that as well. But I think we need to take a bit of time to actually focus on what's going well. In 1990, we had around 72 percent of kids covered with elementary education. Now it's close to 90 percent. The under-five mortality rates in 1990 was around 12 million. Now it's less than 8 million and that's with the increase in the world's population at the same time. In 2003, there were 400,000 people that received antiretroviral. In 2008, there were 4 million, 10 times as many. We're on track of halving extreme poverty, even with the financial challenges that we have been meeting the last couple of years. And now, yes, that is because China and India are doing a big part of that and Sub-Saharan Africa might be lagging behind, but also Sub-Saharan Africa have been growing and many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have been growing more than six percent the last couple of years while as the western countries have been around zero or maybe even in recession.

There's two things that this story tells us, or that's important about counting our victories I think. One is that it gives us hope and inspiration and energy into the important work that has been done and also gives us a sense that it is possible to achieve these goals. And the second thing is that this is only possible because millions of people, millions of heroes around the world are working hard everyday to improve the quality of their own lives and the quality of the lives of others. We need to celebrate that from time to time, because people are really doing a fantastic job, and I've seen that in my country visits.

And that's also true here in New York. This is true for many of you, maybe all of you who are here in this room today. So I think it's important also to recognize that part. Remarkable progress but also, of course, huge challenges. Conflicts, natural disasters and we're going to talk about, we mentioned already, Pakistan, Haiti, Afghanistan. I'm sure we're going to talk more about that.

When I was in Guatemala a few years ago, traveling together with the UNDP and focusing on the Millennium Development Goals, I met a farmer called Mateo. He was from a rural part of Guatemala, Maya. And, of course, as you know there was a very devastating conflict in Guatemala and they lost everything in his community. He told us very matter-of-factly that they burned houses, a lot of people were killed, their livelihoods were destroyed. It was very difficult for them to rebuild a future. So the UNDP, the World Bank and the local authorities and the national authorities teamed up and got a support system where they were able to rebuild their community and restart their agriculture.

Now, the point where Mateo got emotional was when he said at the end “to us this is about life, justice and access to a more dignified life”. And for Mateo, I think, I learned some of the, he learned me I think something about what is the core of all this. I think that the emotional side of it is important. Emotions are an effective engine for action and it can be used in a very positive way. We need a need a new sense of emotional interconnectiveness in the world. A renewed sense of global dignity, if you will. And that way, both the macro represented by UNDP here and the micro with Greg Mortenson and the *Three Cups of Tea* approach will work together and we can build on the realization that we are, in fact, in this together and that we’re going to build the world together.

Christiane Amanpour:

Thank you so much. That was really interesting, particularly nobody talks about that personal sense of personal dignity and justice. So we’re going to probe more of that when we do the questions and answers. And with that, I’d like to give the floor to Helen Clark, please. Thank you, seven minutes. He was brilliant.

Helen Clark:

On the dot. Well, thank you Christiane, and can I endorse everything that has been said about the wonderful panelists. Crown Prince for the advocacy and support he has given UNDP and development generally. Greg, for making a difference. I think many of us have read your book and inspired by it. Christiane, for using the platform the media gives through the news to educate people more broadly about the issues. Great to be here.

And let’s start on the positive notes, as the Crown Prince did, that there has been a lot of progress on many of the goals. And UNDP’s position is these goals can be met if a number of things line up. It’s not so easy to meet them if your country’s mired and profound conflict or has experienced a major disaster, if leadership is weak, if institutions are weak. But all things going well, a lot can be achieved and I guess we’re in the business to try and see that more things go well so that more can be achieved.

But I was struck by the Crown Prince’s opening around the theme of inequality, that we do live in an extremely unequal world. You said, Your Royal Highness, it’s not good for the poor, but it’s not good for the rich either. There’s a fundamental truth in that expressed in the old saying that when my neighbor is poor, I am poor, too.

And I think there’s obviously the very strong philanthropic case for development and supporting development, but in these straightened times, one also has to point out some other basic facts of life about the problems we all experience if we live side by side with extreme poverty. Because poverty breeds despair. It breeds insecurity. It spreads disease. And these things know no geographical boundary. They know no national border. And so, in a sense, if we tolerate this extreme inequality, we endanger our own existence, and that’s the soft-interest argument that probably needs to be made more at a time when people are saying: doesn’t charity begin at home? Why should I be doing something for them when I’m in pain here? I haven’t got a job. But the truth is we’re all affected by gross poverty elsewhere.

Now our theme today was to talk a little about achieving the MDGs I guess in a time of crisis, because our world has been experiencing multiple crises. These incredible natural disasters, I mean I can’t really remember a decade like this in terms of the force of nature. And in the case of climate, the force of nature is aided and abetted by our lifestyles and the way in which we’ve abused the environment and one planet we have to live on. So we have these incredible climatic disasters and the plight of Pakistan with flooding affecting an area greater than the size of Britain is obviously extreme. The plight of Haiti, natural forces with the earthquake. But it’s week after week, isn’t it. We turn on the televisions and it’s flooding in Benin and it’s severe drought in the Sahel in Niger followed by flooding. It’s flooding in Vietnam and Thailand and China. I mean just one sort of climate or natural disaster story after another, and you rightly mentioned the Indonesia tsunami volcano, etc.

And then there’s the crisis which set back development in individual countries caused by the profound conflict, and we could all list the long, sad list of countries whose development prospects are really blighted by extreme violence. Not only outright war, if you like, but also an issue which Norway has been drawing a lot of attention to and that is the ongoing problem of armed violence in countries which aren’t actually at war but

where there is in effect a war on the street. So whether it's caused by the drug lords, organized crime or for other reasons, this is incredibly debilitating to development.

Then, on the other mega crises, we still really haven't recovered from the food crisis of a couple of years ago. Food prices are still historically high and then the global recession came along to cap it all off and that has had obviously implications for the poorest people on earth. So here we are trying to accelerate progress on the MDGs at a time when these incredible things are happening around us and affecting the poorest people in the world.

I think, what I'd like to say relevant to our theme today, which is how to recover from these huge blows, is firstly what one observes is when there's a major amount of terror and crisis, the world's hearts go out to people for food, for medicine and for shelter, for water. And the world does its best, often in extremely difficult circumstances.

But it's not enough just to have the humanitarian response. You need to be in very early with the recovery response if you want to help people to actually get up on their feet and start rebuilding their lives. In the case of Haiti, the case of Pakistan, the sort of immediate response that a development agency like ours will go in with because we're not a humanitarian agency, we're the next step along the spectrum working very closely with the humanitarians. But the idea is to go in with some job creation. To actually pay people for doing things that start things going again, whether it's clearing the debris after a flood, clearing the debris after an earthquake. Practical things which need to be done and give people the dignity of earning some money so that can go into the market, stimulate the micro-economy and start the process again. So sustainable livelihoods, clearing up, just getting that going; that stage is extremely important.

But it's sad to say it's often the most neglected area when it comes to appealing for support because once the immediate crisis is gone and the cameras have gone, that hard grind of getting the community back going again just doesn't really perhaps touch the hearts as much or hit the headlines as much. That's my first point, the critical importance of that early recovery.

Now if I took that line of thinking across to recovery from conflict and disaster, it's a very, very good week to be discussing this because of the ten year anniversary commemoration around 1325 Security Council Resolution which, as this informed audience will know, was the first time the Security Council actually recognized the importance of women in the whole peace building process. All the way from negotiation through to determining what will be in the settlement to participation in the institutions and the life of the community at a later stage. Without the full participation of the women, women's needs aren't going to be addressed – actually, family's needs probably won't be addressed either – and you undercut the prospects for peace. But in terms of a recovery from violent conflict, putting down those roots of sustainable peace is critical.

And just a practical example of some preventive work in this area in which we were involved with in Kenya, which experienced that terrible post-election violence in recent years. Prior to that, there had been some work going on to support the development of local peace committees knowing that there was tension. When the violence broke out, the areas which had those committees were able to get on top of it reasonably quickly and that's encouraged us to carry on that work now and support at the local level those who build those bridges.

My last point before the bell rings is to say that we should see the series of incredible crises of the last decade as not just one but several canaries down the mine. If we don't act more preventively, we are going to just face time after time after time these mega bills for patching up after mega crises. On the natural disaster side, there is an incredible amount that can be done to mitigate, to live around the disaster, to adapt to climate change, to adapt to living with dynamic natural forces. I mean, I came from a little country which has volcanoes, earthquakes. Our capital shakes every day. Major cities shook very badly recently. You build and adapt around it. Isn't resilience to that sort of shock the essence of development? I think it is, and I think we need to be much more forward looking and really inspire those who invest in development to be looking at this

adaptation to how we live in this very critical environment. When you come to recession and those kinds of blows, of course, social protection is resilience. The western countries didn't put social protection systems in place when they were rich. They put them in place when they were poor because there was a feeling that you couldn't have people just go off the cliff time and time again. Hit the bottom and lose all the prospects for their families, and yet this is what we're seeing in countries today which don't have social protection systems. And building those systems so children don't go hungry, don't get pulled out of school, families don't lose everything when adversity strikes which is extremely important.

Christiane Amanpour:

Thank you for that big picture of what really needs to be done and we'll probe in terms of leadership because a lot of this is political as well. So we'll talk about that when we come to Q&A. Finally, Greg Mortenson, your seven minutes.

Greg Mortenson:

Well thank you Christiane and His Royal Crown Prince Haakon, thank you for being here and it's an honor to be with you. Helen Clarke, Mr. Rød-Larsen and IPI and everyone here.

I'm more focused on the micro-level, so there's macro-level and micro-level. I've seen, for example, in Afghanistan and Puxin, where I've worked for 17 years, I think the one missing link is that often the people in the villages at the community level, they're rarely considered in any kind of development policy. So when we start a project or school, they are the top priority. When we set up a school, we provide the skill labor, the teacher training and the materials.

But the community, who is in charge, has to provide the free manual labor, five to 8,000 days of free manual labor. Free land, free resources. People are very willing to give something for their own community initiative. I think that's one of the reasons why none of our schools, including in areas where the Taliban are, they have not been destroyed by the Taliban.

There has been, in the last three years, 2,400 schools destroyed by Taliban, 70 percent of those are girls' schools. Now the question is, why do a group of bad men with Kalashnikovs, why are they terrified of little girls going to school? And I think it's because their greatest fear, it's not a bullet but it's a pen. The Hadith, which is a part of Islam, says the ink of a scholar is greater than the blood of a martyr.

I was also very blessed to grow up in Tanzania for 15 years from 1958 to '73, and my father started the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. But he insisted that it was a teaching hospital, and he also insisted that Africans were in charge all the time. Foreigners never, that didn't go over very well with the westerners, but he made sure the Africans were in charge. And then when the hospital opened up in 1971, my father predicted that all the department heads would be from Africa within one decade, and he got fired for having the audacity to believe that. But ten years later, all the department heads were from Tanzania and even today, 40 years later, all the department heads of the KCMC Hospital are from Tanzania.

One more lesson that I learned from my childhood, and this is a proverb that most of you probably know. It says if you educate a boy, we educate an individual, but if you educate a girl, we educate a community. You know, we do so many things around the world, but I'm just passionate about education. We can drop bombs, we can put in troops, we can hand out condoms, we can put electricity, we can build roads, we can put in computers, we can do all kinds of things. But if girls are not educated, a society will never change. Educating girls, as you know very well, has profound implication, reduces the infant mortality rate, it reduces the population rate, improves the quality of health and life itself.

I think another problem when we're looking at poverty is one of the biggest problems we have is there's too many people on this planet, especially if you look in three to five generations. The number one way to reduce population is female literacy. We have a wonderful example. The country of Bangladesh, in 1970, the female literacy rate was less than 20 percent. Today, it has tripled. Bangladesh has put six to eight percent of GDP and education, unlike Pakistan, less than two percent in 65 years. The average

woman in Bangladesh forty years ago had nine babies, live births. Today the average woman has 2.8 live births and the population is just tapering. Pakistan, unfortunately, is going to double in the next 27 years from 175 million to 350 million people. The female literacy rate is about 38 percent. The government says its 64, but UNDP defines literacy in a different way than the Pakistan government. The only thing that Pakistan has never done, as guaranteed in their constitution, is to make education a top national priority and put more than two percent of their GDP into education.

His Royal Highness asked me, share a little bit of good news today, so I've got a couple of things, and then I'll be done. The first is, and I'm asking this as a question: how many of you knew that in Afghanistan 10 years, this is before 9/11, there were 800,000 children in school? Today there are over 9 million in school, including 2.8 million females. This is the greatest increase in school enrollment in any country in modern history. So how many of you were aware of this? You know I've asked half a million people that question last year, and only a few dozen hands have come up. I brief several US Senators on Capitol Hill. They were patting themselves on the back, and I said how can you take credit for something you don't know about? That's a politician for you, right?

And, of course, we all deserve credit, but the driving force is the mothers. It is the communities. If you ask any woman in rural Afghanistan, Pakistan, in Africa, in rural Asia, South America; what do you want, how can we help you? Most women will answer simply with two things. We don't want our babies to die, and we want our children to go to school. We can look at it any way, but if we really listen to their message, it's about not having babies dying and children going to school, and I think any mother here, you can relate to that.

A couple of ideas I'd like to throw out there. I asked the previous Minister of Higher Education Afghanistan, what would be your dream budget for one year for all the 24 universities in Afghanistan? What would you like, what's your budget? He told me 243 million dollars. He said he's only going to get 50 million dollars. The US military budget in Afghanistan is 100 billion dollars this year, so I propose we pull 243 troops, put them on a plane, have a big press conference and maybe you could come Crown Prince. And we write a check for 243 million dollars to support education in Afghanistan. There was over 1 to 2 trillion dollars of higher mineral resources discovered in Afghanistan, lithium, copper, etc. So why don't the international communities spend six million dollars to build a school of mines and technology in Afghanistan, so in 20 years Afghanistan will have their own mining engineers? They won't be exploited by Iran, Russia, China, the US and the western world. Pull six more soldiers and we could set that up. So I'm just passionately convinced by education. It's interesting that the things that don't work, we put a lot of money into those things. The things that do work, we don't put any money into it, and nobody knows about them so I think maybe we can put some money into things that are really working, like education in Afghanistan. So thank you.

Christiane Amanpour:

Thank you so much. Thank you to all of you. You've really raised some very provocative and interesting things that would be great to explore. We have about twenty minutes, 15 minutes of I'm going to ask them questions and then we'll hand it over to the floor to ask specific questions. I want to talk to you first Haakon. I'm going to go in line, because when interviewed you a year ago and today you were still talking about this central theme for you is justice, is dignity and is the fact that we don't talk enough about the emotional well-being as you just put it, of people.

In your work and where you've been, you've contributed to various UNDP reports including poverty, the water crisis, climate change. Give me an idea, for instance, in trying to deal with the water crisis, how could you satisfy local people's dignity and justice just putting them to work in that field or any of those things that you've observed?

Prince Haakon:

Thank you. Water has not been a main focus of mine, but of course it has been part of the projects that I've been visiting. To me it seems that we need to find the bridge between understanding the problem and having the science, the research, the figures, the reports and all of that in place, and to be able to connect that to the human dimension. To the one individual that this really makes a difference for. And to connect that bridge, I think, Greg Mortenson does that in a wonderful way when he says that it's

through the meetings of people where he understands that. In your book, you say that when you had the experience of your friend that said, have three cups of tea with me, you said that you learned that you can only teach a fraction of what you can actually learn from the people that you meet. And I think that is a really important insight. Because it is in the face-to-face meetings with individuals that our morals are challenged and our ethics are formed. So I see it a bit as my role to tell a few of these stories and try to convey some of the experiences that I've seen in the field because not everyone can go to all of these places and meet the individuals on the ground.

We live in a completely different world now where everyone knows a lot more about what is going on everywhere else in the world. There is a huge amount of information that we can access. Not everyone understands it all of course. No one understands it all. But it's all out there and that works in two ways. One, we know a lot about the problem; the people that are from affluent rich countries, they know a lot about the problem. But also the people that live in poverty and live with despair on their doorstep know about the sitcoms from the west, how the day-to-day life could be.

Christiane Amanpour:

Do you think they also have the solutions since they live it? Is there stuff that they can teach all the well meaning, sort of do-gooding, macro, not all the solutions but some of the solutions?

Prince Haakon:

Well, I think it's a combination between the two, that there's obviously a lot of solutions on the ground, but if we partner in the right way with the local communities, there's tremendous progress to be achieved out of that. And I've seen that in many of the projects that I have visited together with the UNDP and I think there's many examples of how that works well but I think we can still do more of it.

Christiane Amanpour:

Let me move on to you, Helen Clark. I just want to pause at something that I've seen and you sort of touched on it in your presentation. In all the years that I've been covering these situations around the world, I've seen many individual projects. You know, Greg is an incredible example. The things that Haakon has seen are amazing. You use the word "philanthropic," the sort of philanthropic or even UN piece-meal approaches to whatever the need might be, whether it's a huge disaster, whether it's a conflict, whatever. What I'm beginning to wonder is, is there any logic, any coherence, any interconnectedness so that you really make, you scale up all the good work that's been done? Because as you all said, there is good news that's been happening. But sometimes it appears that it's "bitty," if you know what I mean. Is there a way to rationalize everything that is being done without sort of either duplicating or wasting or keeping it so small that it doesn't scale up in the end, as you talked about preventive?

Helen Clark:

Well, I think it's incredibly important to have the civil society initiatives of the kind that Greg does and around the world, you've seen the good people who are doing critical things on the ground. You know, one school at a time. It's long and it's slow and it's laborious and it's generational change, but it makes a difference. I think we need to be pitching ourselves in the big development organizations, whether we're talking the ones at the UN or the large bilateral agencies like Norway, is how we can support the change which will be filled at the national level, if you like. And that, to me, comes back to the country's leadership needing to be good, needing to be supported, needing to have the capacity underneath it to actually devise good strategies and policies, beg and borrow from the best ideas from around the world. We have to be in knowledge and ideas hub in the way that we work and then build the capacity to actually do something about it because so often a country will have a great strategy and even a good policy, but there's no capacity below those who thought of that to actually make a difference on the ground. And that's where they need to be connecting their communities in a realistic way as to what will move things. Our attitude has to be: Where can we support, where can we be catalytic in helping countries drive strategies forward which will have nationwide application? Now that's long and slow and laborious work as well but I think for us who are working at that national level, it's not good enough for us just to have a lot of small projects. We have to aim for something much bigger.

Christiane Amanpour:

And again, to follow up on something you said. You said that a lot of this instability directly impacts so much of a wider world that it creates insecurity, not just for the local communities but for a wider world. And we can just take terrorism, for instance and discuss that. We've seen, for instance, over the last year, huge amount of spotlight was put on Yemen after the Christmas day failed bombing. And we see it about Afghanistan and Pakistan and Iraq, but some of the powerful countries, the United States and others, are now out of or declare themselves to be out of the business of nation building because it has a negative connotation. And yet, if that is what has to happen in order for long-term solutions and not just band-aid solutions, how do you politically... first of all do you agree? And how do you politically, if you do agree, get the countries to understand?

Helen Clark:

Well I think state building is incredibly important. State building, helping build the capacity of local governments, authorities as well. And I think this an area where really the UN and an agency like UNDP, which does a lot on governance, can come into its own because we are seen as neutral. We're not carrying baggage for one side or another. We're agency-owned by the nations of the world, if you like. We're able to work in a way which I think can be very, very helpful. But I think if you're seen as bringing an agenda to it as a western country, that's not going to fly. You've got to be able to have that perceived neutrality that the UN generally still has to be able to work in these incredibly sensitive areas.

Christiane Amanpour:

But how can you, if you depend so much on money and resources and help from countries like the United States or other western countries or whoever? Because everybody is beginning to say that what happened in Yemen, I mean, let's just take that small issue. They need education, they need jobs, they need the kind of development that would bring them out of the insecurity that they can spread.

Helen Clark:

Oh sure, and I'm personally of the view that a great deal more invested in development and a great deal less in military would be the answer. But that's my fundamental position on those issues. But, look, the official development assistance which comes from western countries is important. It's important to our organization. We couldn't live without committed and very supportive donors like Norway. I think it's possible for western countries working through the multi-laterals, whether it's us, UNICEF, whoever, to be involved in supporting critical work in a very wide range of countries which bilaterally you can't reach. Norway is a small country, even though it's a generous donor. It's not going to be able to be present in 166 developing countries. That's impossible. But it wants to be able to have some input into making things better more generally. That's where the agencies like this one can be helpful.

Christiane Amanpour:

Thank you. Greg, you just talked about money and budget and anybody who has been following, for instance, the development and the attempts to bring better society and better opportunities just to Iraq and Afghanistan or even Pakistan, must be stunned to look at US government GAO reports or whatever. Maybe even UN reports. To see the colossal waste of money, the colossal duplication of projects and also waste of money on projects that don't essentially work. So there is a lot of money to be had. First I want to ask you because I think this audience would find it interesting, how you created these 165 schools over this particular piece of real estate which is quite hostile. How did you do it in terms of on the ground, not just in conflict, in raging conflict, but with the Taliban or with the Pakistani conservative or militant areas? You didn't just come and plunk down a school. You had to build bridges and really get the community on board. How did you do it?

Greg Mortenson:

Well Christiane, I think it's what Crown Prince Haakon was talking about is relationships and some things that might work and some... you cannot cookie cutter without relationships. It's unfortunate but without relationships, you really cannot do anything. I do know that I could go into any country in this world and find a thriving community-based initiative of an education project, a political endeavor, a water project, and I think those initiatives are the ones that should be supported. The ones that are working. I think the best aid or development that are being done in Afghanistan is called the National Solidarity Program, NSP. This is a program where the federal government, two percent of their budget is given to a district. They get a check for a certain amount of money – maybe 150,000 dollars – and then that district decides how they want to use the money.

It is probably the least corrupt, the most effective. No westerners at all are involved. I was thinking maybe we could help Afghanistan, for example, maybe do five percent of their national budget into the national solidarity program. Again, it's entirely run by the people themselves. No outside influence.

Also with relationships, Christiane, I think is leveraging. People like to be involved in developing their own community. It's so imperative that we give and we help, but if we leverage, then we empower people. And what I'm talking about is we need to be more tough. People in Africa and Asia, they're very good at bargaining. And your respect and integrity goes up when you bargain. I think especially, in particular, the US. What I am concerned about is when there's like, for example in Pakistan, the US, our leaders were trying to decide how much money should we give Pakistan. But it was based on our own national security interest and not on humanitarian crisis. If we reach out, just out of compassion to help in a humanitarian crisis, I don't think our national security interest should be the determining factor. That's kind of come about in the last decade. But leveraging can go very far; it can be at the micro level. What we do, for example, in a village is we leverage with the village for the school. Then we get five villages to leverage together with the district level. Then the district level will leverage on the provincial level to maybe build 50 schools. We haven't got to the national level yet. That's a little more corrupt and difficult to leverage from a province, but I do think there are some answers when you talk about scaling up and you can do it from the bottom up or top down.

Again, in Afghanistan, one of the top concerns I had is there was the Bond Conference in December 2001, where 2000 countries got together to pledge aid. But it was set up as a very centralized, deprovincialized type of system and that didn't work. It's only been the last two or three years, they've been looking at a bottoms-up or from this type of... The Marshall Plan was very based on a bottoms-up philosophy and not this type of philosophy. So we're learning, but we've got a long ways to go.

Christiane Amanpour:

Crown Prince Haakon, you both have said, you and Helen Clark, that the Millennium Development Goals are achievable, that it requires leadership. In terms of what you've seen on the ground, where do you see the most room for optimism? Where do you see, is it in gender equality? Is it education? Is it women's health? Where do you see the possibility of more progress?

Prince Haakon:

If we look at what goals have really been, where we've made a little progress, then of course, halving extreme poverty has been a really important factor. But also the goal of reducing child mortality. There's been remarkable progress. The goals are sort of, in my mind, both very ambitious and not quite ambitious enough. For instance, if you look at poverty alleviation. Extreme poverty, taking 900 million people out of extreme poverty is ambitious, but leaving 900 people in extreme poverty is not ambitious enough. So we need to go all the way and make extreme poverty history, in lack of a better word.

When it comes to under-five mortality, there is tremendous progress. Norway is one of the great examples of and success stories of development. Yet, we have never actually reduced the mortality rate by two thirds in twenty-five years more than once. Most of our history of development, we've been reducing it a lot slower. And in a lot of countries now, that is happening. If we look at some of the countries that we've been talking about today, Haiti for instance. In 1960, there were 268 under-five mortality rates and in 2009 it was 87. In Pakistan, it was 222 in 1960 and now its 87. In Afghanistan, it was 364 in 1960 and now its 199.

So there's tremendous progress being made even in countries that have huge challenges, and if we look at two indicators of development, and you have to only look at two – it's better to look at a hundred of course – but if you have to choose two, under-five mortality rate and income per capita are two indicators where you get a little bit of information. Because also as Greg Mortenson alluded to, if we actually reduce under-five mortality rates, we will also reduce the family sizes. Because when mothers and fathers trust that their children are actually going to survive childhood, we make different decisions than if we live in a very insecure environment where health issues and other

security issues take our children away from us. So that's, I think, one place that we have been doing tremendous progress and we can still do quite a lot.

Christiane Amanopour:

That's great. Well okay. We have about ten minutes left. I'd like to open it to the floor and I'd just like to say all of you are very distinguished people who have a lot to say and have a lot of knowledge, but if you could just keep these as questions and not statements and direct your questions and I will field them here please.

Who would like to ask the first question? Sir?

Jonathan Granoff:

Jonathan Granoff, Global Security Institute. What a fabulous panel, and thank you, IPI. This is consistent. Your rooms are going to have to get bigger if you keep this up. This distortion of resources, 1.5 trillion for military expenditures that are not working, trying to change the equation from armaments to development, I wonder if anybody could talk about Chapter 26 of the charter, which specifically talks about having the military staff address this issue. It's never been invoked, except I could only find it invoked once which was when Oscar Arias, President Arias from Costa Rica, chaired the Security Council last year. He called for that to be invoked. So that would be an institutional change.

And the second issue is he also put forward the Puerto Rican consensus, which talked about benefiting and privileging countries in the economics fear for demilitarizing, for taking economic allocations and putting it in development and then benefitting them. In other words, not just having like Norway has, places we won't invest but saying if you demilitarize, we will invest. I wonder if you could talk about institutional changes that would change the paradigm.

Christiane Amanpour:

Could I just field that to Helen Clark first if it's a go or at all?

Helen Clark:

I'm sorry I can't quote Chapter 26, but I think your fundamental point that a tremendous amount of money is literally burned up in military while development needs go unattended is absolutely right. Costa Rica is a wonderful example of a country which did decide not to put its money down that very deep hole but to spend it on development and I'm sure is a much happier country as a result. My own country has generally thwarted all lectures about needing to spend more on military for years because when you're a dagger pointed at the heart of Antarctica as New Zealand is, nobody is coming after you. We spend very little. I think that again, not because of chicken and the egg, a lot of the countries we live in don't feel so secure either. So perhaps one area a discussion like this could go on at some future point. It is how we work on regional integration and country's regional peace initiatives that people then feel they've got to arm themselves against their neighbors but find other ways of living peacefully together. In other words, address some of the drivers in this military expenditure.

Christiane Amanpour:

Next question. Anybody? Go ahead.

Anad Madani:

My name is Anad Madani. I am from Afghanistan. I'm glad that I see a panelist who knows Afghanistan more than me. As an observer to the Afghan situation during the past 30 years from inside and outside the government, I've noticed one thing that always in the political process also there are two sides, the government and the opponent. Everybody is talking with these two sides but they forget the people of Afghanistan. To go to them and to discuss with them. I'm talking about the development. Is it not possible for UNDP to play a role before implementing a project, to go and to talk with the people of Afghanistan and particularly with the women in Afghanistan?

Christiane Amanpour:

Thank you. Thank you. I'm going to give that question to you, Crown Prince, because you do talk a lot about people and their involvement as well and I'll also ask Greg Mortenson obviously.

Prince Haakon:

Well I don't know whether I'm the right person to answer that question in particular. I think you're right. The value of talking to people on the ground is, I think, tremendous. I'm no expert on Afghanistan.

- Christiane Amanpour:** In general.
- Prince Haakon:** In general? Well, I think it's the only way to make development in the long term is of course vested interested by the people that are actually living their lives on the ground where you're working. Otherwise, it's just going to be something that works for a few years and then it's going to go away again. I'm a great believer that even if we do build a school and it's taken away by an earthquake the year after, I think that school had great value, because it didn't only create knowledge in the kids that were there, but it created hope and a positive perception of the future and life quality. Even if it's taken away after one year, and it's impossible to see this as really affecting the statistics or the economy of the country or anything, I think it's really, really important because it sends a message both that we can build the future but also that this is people and communities that are important, that we want to support and that we wish they have the same opportunities that many of the other people in the world have. So I think there's a lot of value in the good things that are done that are not measured in the regular statistics. Local ownership and understanding what people actually need and what they want and for them to feel that this is their project and they have vested interest in it is, I think, vital.
- Christiane Amanpour:** Briefly, Greg, could you have ever had those schools established if you hadn't asked the community or interacted with the community?
- Greg Mortenson:** I appreciate your question. It's, and as Crown Prince alluded to, it's imperative that the people are consulted and they're also not a consultant, they're in charge. And again, back I mentioned the National Solidarity Program in Afghanistan that is entirely run by the Afghan people. Just two percent of the federal budget goes into that and that's a good example I think.
- Christiane Amanpour:** And also, I just want to know, given the fact that the war is still going on and in some areas getting much more heated, and also in Pakistan, are your schools under threat?
- Greg Mortenson:** Not our schools but it's because the community, we don't have any foreign staff and the communities entirely run the schools. We work in Orisgon, Helmand, Kandahar area, Kunar, Nuristan area.
- Christiane Amanpour:** And the importance of that is that one of those areas is, as you said, Mullah Omar's homeland or home province and they have a school built there. So I think what you've just said is when you do, even in conflict or in crisis, if you do have a project that is 100 percent owned by the community, it is much less likely to be destroyed or abandoned in times of conflict. Is there another question? We've probably got time for just one. Yes?
- Katherine Yallat:** Thank you. Katherine Yallat from the Australian Mission. Thank you to all the very distinguished panelists for such interesting presentations. I wanted to pick up on one of the comments that Administrator Clark made about the importance of early recovery activities. I couldn't agree more that I think we see a large media focus and political attention in a humanitarian emergency and then that seems to very quickly to turn to the reconstruction phase and in the process, we very much miss out on the importance of livelihoods of education. I feel that it's something that we continue to discuss about but we see very little concrete, sort of, suggestions on how we could move this forward. So I'd just be interested to hear that.
- Christiane Amanpour:** Mrs. Clark?
- Helen Clark:** Well, I think you're right. It's a part of sort of the spectrum that doesn't get the attention that it should. Take Haiti, you have humanitarian disaster, you have the response that's necessary for that. You have the work that goes on and the post-disaster needs assessment. It produces a vision and a set of priorities for redevelopment and reconstruction. They sit there and then, but you don't go from where you are to that. You have to start the rebuild and the rebuild does start with how do you clear the rubble? How do you get people back to work? How do you get the micro-economy working? How do you get the schools going again? How do you get people back into their communities? You don't go from where large population is sitting in camps to suddenly constructing the ideal new suburb.

You've also got the situation where a lot of the government capacity has literally been wiped out because people have been killed. So the earlier recovery is also how do you get the people back in to rebuild the institutions that are going to have to make the decisions with and for the local people? So, I'd be delighted to see more discussion about the importance of early recovery and getting communities moving again. I think there's a fundamental truth that's coming through everything that's been said by the panel this morning, which is, don't come in and do things for people. Come in a part of people to meet their own aspirations and the development goals they set themselves.

Christiane Amanpour: Well, it is 9:45. We are on the dot. I just wondered whether if you wanted, Helen Clark, you just had sort of a last word but if either of you or any of you want 30 seconds to wrap. 30 seconds? Greg do you want to say anything in 30 seconds?

Greg Mortenson: That's a great comment. We particularly focus in refugee camps after disaster, war or conflict. Very easy to set up a school in a town or outside a refugee camp. People have a lot of downtime, stagnant time. They also are angry. I was thinking, any disaster, maybe there should be some kind of policy or agreement that maybe two percent of money going to disaster will go into helping those kids continue education. It's often in those camps also where they begin to be exploited. So what is it called, early recovery? I've learned a new word today.

Christiane Amanpour: And we really saw that in Haiti. People were desperate for education and it was so late. Mrs. Clark, 30 seconds to wrap up?

Helen Clark: I've probably had my sound bite, but I think Greg's made a great point. A lot of people dislocated, if they had a school, it's under rubble. So getting that school in a box, I think UNICEF calls it, going again very, very quickly is critical.

Christiane Amanpour: Crown Prince?

Prince Haakon: Thank you very much for letting me be part of this distinguished panel. I think that we use far too much time on what divides us, what separates us, what our differences are, how we fight each other. My challenge, I guess, is for all of us to try to focus more on what we have in common. To find that common ground and actually build on it. There's a thousand ways we can do that. I think that the panelists are already doing a lot there. We work through kids, for instance, and try to get kids to think about what they are in favor of, what they want to do the next year and realize that we have this in common. That we all want our dignity recognized and we want it supported and promoted. So in that sense, I think that it's important that we continue the work to strengthen what we have in common so that we can build on that foundation to create a better future for everyone.

Christiane Amanpour: Thank you very much indeed. Thank you to all of you for your unique insights. It's been a really interesting morning. And thank you to Terje Rød-Larsen and IPI for hosting this.