

## Millennium Development Goals – a football drama

**Setting / Scene:** TV Panel show with host and guests seated at desks in a semi-circle.

**Characters (6):** Host, Steve, Clare, Ruth, Dmitri, James.

**Host:** Welcome back to half-time on the Footy Show. The game between Humanity and Injustice has been tough. Injustice is clearly on top at the moment. Steve, what does Humanity need to do to get back into this game?

**Steve:** Well clearly, Humanity needs to score eight goals in this second half to have any hope of getting on top of Injustice. Firstly, they need to tackle poverty and hunger more aggressively. **Poverty and hunger** have been very powerful players for Injustice. Humanity needs to tackle them hard and go after them much more than they have been doing. They have simply been given too much space to move and they're dominating the game at the moment. There are nearly one billion people experiencing hunger every day!

**Clare:** Yes Steve. I think you're right ... and in terms of attack, I think Humanity needs to get the ball out to **education**. He is a key player for Humanity and can score some of these goals if he can be encouraged and given more ball. He is always a very positive influence on the game when he's involved. He needs to make a bigger contribution.

**James:** To be honest, I think Humanity also needs to promote more **girls and women** into the top team. The team needs better balance – a better mix. They need to promote the girls, give them the ball and let them run with it. They could make a dangerous partnership with **education**. Too many girls are missing out.

**Host:** It seems to me that Injustice is having a field day at the moment. They have a lot of dangerous players. Ruth, who else does Humanity need to stop in the second half?

**Ruth:** Well, they have to stop the influence of **Child Mortality** and **Diseases** like **HIV/AIDS, Malaria** and **Tuberculosis**. These players are very dangerous and they're having a big impact on the game. They're hurting Humanity. They are stopping Humanity scoring goals and are really having a devastating impact. Their influence needs to be halted.

**Dmitri:** Yes, and I think Humanity can do more with **Maternal Health** too. She is going to be essential in scoring some of these goals and in stopping child mortality.

**Ruth:** Yes, I agree. **Maternal health** needs a lot more support. She is an important player in tackling **Poverty and Hunger** too. If Humanity can look after its women and mothers, it would be a lot stronger.

**Host:** Well, news from the dressing sheds is that the **Environment** has been badly injured in the first half. He has been carrying injuries for some time now. Clare that must be a great blow to Humanity?

**Clare:** Yes. Absolutely! Humanity needs to protect him better from some of the heavy hits he's been receiving. They need to support him more positively if they are going to fight back and score the goals they need to overcome the opposition. Climate change is a real threat that needs to be tackled hard and taken out of play. **Education** is starting to limit the influence of climate change, and this will have to continue in the second half.

**Steve:** Look, there is no doubt they need to look after the environment. But to do that, they also need to work more as a team. They need to support their partners and not go it alone. They've made some good progress on **cutting debt** but they need to increase their **aid** and make it more effective. Some countries are pulling their weight but some other countries just don't show enough commitment and enthusiasm. They need to play fair with **trade** too. The whole team needs to work together.

**Host:** Well this is a very important game – some would say a crucial game. The second half promises to be a mighty battle that will be hard fought. Stay tuned as Humanity tackles Injustice in today's Match of the Day!

**Source:** World Vision (2009) *Get Connected* — Issue 6, Pages 12-13