Inputs to Development: How the Millennium Development Goals Affect Nongovernmental Organization Resources

United States International Development Nongovernmental Organization Industry Response to United Nations Millennium Development Goal Adoption

Abstract:

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - a set of eight global priorities to eradicate extreme poverty - were met with great optimism in 2000. While many studies have examined developmental progress in the intervening 15 years, how much of these outputs are directly attributable to the MDGs remains unclear. This novel study focuses on a different part of the causal chain: inputs. What effect, if any, did the MDGs have on the funding and spending activities of international development nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)? NGOs are key players in the international development sector. Using a rare United States Internal Revenue Service dataset that includes over a million firm-level records on funding and spending areas from 1987-2015, we analyze changes in the total funding and spending of U.S.-based MDG-aligned NGOs before and after the adoption of the MDGs in 2000. We find that MDG-aligned NGOs experience an increase in spending after the MDG process started in 1996, but that the increases did not extend for the duration of the MDG 2000 to 2015 commitment timeframe. Our findings have significant implications for the role of nongovernmental organizations in the development sector and provide a creative impact evaluation model for the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

Anupama Sharma
Erilia Wu
Luke Douglas

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1. Introduction

The recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly was a strong endorsement of the largest coordinated international development and poverty alleviation experiment in human history: the prior 15 years' Millennium Development Goals (or MDGs). Created and ratified by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, the MDGs were a set of eight very ambitious, coordinated targets intended to inform, organize, and direct the global development agenda for the subsequent 15 years. These goals were to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equity and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Each goal had additional targets and indicators, totaling 18 and 48, respectively, in order to provide known and measurable ends towards which countries and organizations could work (UN Millennium Development Goals Declaration),

Two major debates erupted out of the adoption of the MDGs in 2000: 1) were these the right goals to select and, a little later, 2) were the goals actually being achieved? From the first debate, much of the existing research has informed the selection of the 17 SDGs. From the second debate, the consensus is that of broad, general success, with the MDGs helping "to lift more than one billion people out of extreme poverty, to make inroads against hunger, to enable more girls to attend school than ever before and to protect our planet. They generated new and innovative partnerships, galvanized public opinion and showed the immense value of setting ambitious goals" (The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2015).

Yet little work has been done to systematically investigate exactly *how* the MDGs led to the purported developmental improvements. Without this causal link, it remains unclear whether the impressive developmental changes in the past decade and a half were indeed due to the MDGs. This lack of clarity carries implications for the expected impact of the recent SDGs and similar international agenda-setting efforts in the future. With this context in mind, we set out to examine one prominent link in the causal chain: inputs to development. **What effect, if any, did the MDGs have on the funding and spending activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)?**[1] NGOs are prominent players in development, as they are often directly responsible for implementing changes in the field. More than half of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) budget, for example, is spent outsourcing work to international development NGOs (USAID, 2014).

International development is an especially resource constrained industry and, given that it deals with literal life-and-death issues, avoiding wasted or inefficient resource allocation is of preeminent importance. By better understanding how policies enacted at the highest levels of international diplomacy shift the creation or abandonment of lifesaving development programs, both politicians and development practitioners will be better able to achieve their development

[1] A note on language: Just what to call development organizations is an area of significant academic contention – for this paper we have chosen to use non-governmental organization (or NGO) terminology in order to remain consistent with the majority of international development literature. Our subset of analyzed organizations are more specifically defined as 'public charity organizations' by the United States Internal Revenue Service and additionally sometimes referred to as 'non-profits' or 'not-for-profits', but we feel the terms do not carry significant difference in the area of international development.

goals. While it is too late to inform the debate around the adoption of the SDGs, this research will contribute to their implementation and subsequent rounds of international development agendas.

Our analysis provides a mixed message for policymakers in development. While to do find that the MDGs, and presumably similar developmental commitments at the international level, are effective in influencing NGO fundraising and spending efforts, we find that the positive boost is limited in time and does not extend for the duration of the MDG commitment, from 2000 to 2015. A robustness check based on one subsector of NGOs, those in the technology space, corroborates these findings. Additionally, we observe that commitments across many countries, like the UN's MDGs, are less effective in shifting resources to MDG-aligned NGO efforts than smaller commitments made in public forums with fewer participants.

2. MDGs and Role of NGOs in International Development

Scholarly and professional writing surrounding the MDGs and NGOs tends to fall into three buckets: examining the achievement of the MDGs, looking into the role of NGOs in the international development space, and their overlap. While the first two topics are well-developed areas of research, less thinking has been done about the third – and even less has relied on quantitative rather than qualitative methods.

2.1. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Between 2000 and 2015 there was significant success in accomplishing the MDGs, – and even greater success in measuring how well they were achieved. UN official reports document this progress: "Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015… primary school net enrollment rate in the developing regions has reached 91 per cent in 2015, up from 83 per cent in 2000 …

global malaria incidence rate has fallen by an estimated 37 per cent and the mortality rate by 58 per cent." (United Nations, 2015a). Each of the eight MDGs were realized with similarly impressive levels of progress, though the presence of populations that remain underserved is a common trend across MDGs. (United Nations, 2015a).

However, there has been little examination in official United Nations literature of the process through which the MDGs were achieved and instead the focus has been on measuring and evaluating the level to which they were accomplished - MDG effectiveness is generally taken as a given. In his remarks analyzing the success of the MDGs, Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, glosses over this crucial assumption with the phrase, "Experiences and evidence from the efforts to achieve the MDGs demonstrate that we know what to do." (United Nations, 2015a). Surprisingly, he does not re-examine the above statement in the remaining sections of the official 2015 MDG report beyond highlighting that "The MDG monitoring experience has clearly demonstrated that effective use of data can help to galvanize development efforts, implement successful targeted interventions, track performance and improve accountability" (United Nations, 2015a)

Similar to the macro-level progress seen across the MDGs, micro-level examination of specific indicators reinforces the conclusion that huge progress was made while leaving significant populations underserved – examination of target 8.F, "In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications" (United Nations, 2015b) also echoes this unevenly distributed progress. For example, while mobile telephone subscriptions have reached 6.9 billion in 2015, only 48% of individuals globally have access to a cell phone (Dutta, Geiger, Lanvin, 2015). Additionally, 4.5 billion people remain unable to access the internet (Dutta, et al., 2015). On both micro- and macro-

levels, one sees tremendous progress for each MDG, but there are still gaps to be addressed. More importantly, much of the focus of MDG evaluations has been largely on measuring the extent to which these goals were achieved, rather than how they were achieved.

2.2. Role of NGOs in International Development

Given that the MDGs were state-level commitments made by the member governments of the UN on a voluntary basis, what role do NGOs play in this set of international development efforts? Literature indicates that, in general, NGOs cover gaps in social service provision left by both the public and private (for-profit) sectors.

Brinkerhoff, Smith, and Teegen (2007) trace the role that NGOs play in filling the gap in service provision from Kaul (2001) and Teegen (2003). As they read it, Kaul (2001) initiates the discussion on the role of NGOs, positing that the increasing globalization and cross-border nature of social service provision makes it difficult for governmental actors to provide adequate social programming because of their geographic constraints. Teegen (2003) extends the argument with the conclusion that this role has been taken up by NGOs because the gap created by globalization market imperfections has remained despite the efforts of the public sector. Not mentioned by Brinkerhoff, Smith, and Teegen (2007) but discussed by Teegen (2003) is the important additional failure of the private sector to cover these same service provision gaps.

In Latin America, Meyer (1999) found evidence that NGOs play a critical role in covering governmental service gaps. Additionally, evidence of the historical role NGOs have played in this area is seen in the many Nobel Peace Prizes awarded to these organizations, ranging from the 1904 award to the Institute of International Law to the 2015 award to Tunisia's National Dialog Quartet. (Nobel Prize, 2015).

NGO motivation can be a key determinant in the type, quantity, and quality of services that they provide to fill these gaps, though there is commonality in their desire to make the world a better place over simply forwarding their own position in society – in this way, they are ideal international development actors. As Stromquist (1998) eloquently puts it, "There is variation in the objectives and performance of NGOs but the large majority of them are less concerned with their own self-interest than with collective gains." Because the MDGs were intended to create collective gains for the underserved populations of the world, they are a perfect fit for NGO programming.

2.3. Interactions between the MDGs and NGOs

International development industry literature finds a central role for NGOs in the fulfillment of the MDGs. This is a logical conclusion, given the paired findings that the MDGs outlined and measured substantial positive social service provision and that NGOs are responsible for fulfilling many global social service gaps. Hsu (2011), for example, places NGOs at the center of international development service delivery, writing, "NGOs are key actors in development assistance-related project implementation, fulfilling critical roles on the frontline of combating abject poverty and world hunger, and promoting MDG[s]."

But the interaction between the UN and the MDGs does not result in a clear resource transfer towards MDG-aligned NGOs. The UN and similar intergovernmental and governmental transfers are not a primary source of resources for NGOs - Büthe, Major, and de Mello e Souza (2012) highlight that funding from international organizations like the UN, combined with resources raised directly from governments, makes up less than 40% of international development NGOs funding, with private (non-government, non-international organization aligned) donations covering the remaining 60%. Further complicating the question of UN

resource allocation towards MDG-aligned NGOs are the political factors that frequently drive UN decision making; Kuziemko and Werker (2006) note that membership on the UN Security Council affects funding, observing that "a country's U.S. aid increases by 59 percent and its U.N. aid by 8 percent when it rotates onto the council". Despite their issue area alignment with regards to achieving the MDGs, in his examination of the World Bank, Nelson (2006) concludes that international organizations have direct interaction with NGOs via three channels, none of which are substantive funding mechanisms, listing: "cooperation on projects, critical advocacy on policy issues and invited consultations" as the major avenues of interaction. He also observes that, in the case of the World Bank, "funding and influence among NGOs differs from that of the major bilateral aid donors … [and] World Bank funds are a smaller and less financially significant factor" (Nelson, 2006).

Since international resource allocation does not point to a clear path toward MDG-aligned NGO funding and spending, it is not surprising to find that, at the country level, domestic politics also have primacy over MDG commitments. In the United States, the Bush administration, for instance, "became by far the largest financial supporter of HIV/AIDS programmes, not because of MDG 6 but because of an alliance of interests including the views of core Republican supporters" (Manning, 2010). The Obama administration is no different, having "embraced the [MDGs]… American programs still have tended to retain their individual identities and targets, rather than being specifically keyed to the MDGs" (Bristol, 2013). In each case, the MDGs were not qualitatively identified as major drivers of United States policy towards funding NGOs.

Given this interesting and complex background, it is unsurprising that we are not the first research effort to take up this specific issue of how the MDGs affected NGO resource allocation

and use – Richard Manning conducts an interesting discussion of the question in his 2010 document The Impact and Design of the MDGs: Some Reflections (Manning, 2010). In this qualitative discussion piece, Manning raises more questions than he answers, which range widely across various parts of the greater MDG dialog. On NGO funding and how it was affected by the MDGs, he writes, "whether the existence of the MDGs has affected resource allocation by donors… it is not possible to give an unambiguous answer" (Manning, 2010). It is this qualitative question that our paper seeks to answer with quantitative analyses.

In section 3, we introduce a rare dataset from U.S. NGOs' financial records from 1987 to 2014, and explain our empirical strategy that utilizes a difference-in-difference approach to estimate the effect of MDGs on NGO spending. For a particular subset of NGOs that are involved in the technology sector, we perform a robustness check by analyze the impact via propensity score matching MDG-aligned and unaligned groups.

In section 4, we present the results that international development goals such as the MDGs do in fact have an impact on NGO resource allocation and use, but the timing and the effectiveness are limited. In particular, we find a front-running effect that the discussion process of the MDG development may be more important than the official declaration. The long-term effect of the MDGs also requires further examination, as the observed impact on NGO funding and spending only lasts around three to five years. For the technology sector NGOs, the results are similar - the effects are significant, but short lived.

3. Data And Empirical Strategy

Two major difficulties in studying NGOs are their lack of standardization and their exposure to world around them. Every NGO has their own, unique mission statement, program set, funding mix, beneficiary populations, monitoring systems, and even legal structure. Rather

than having the easily measurable profits and losses of a for-profit company, evaluating the success or even processes of NGOs across the industry is a diffuse exercise – classifying them or finding peer comparison NGOs can be tremendously difficult. Secondly, NGOs exist in all kinds of political environments; from the local to the domestic to the international, so other effects muddle those from international agreements like the MDGs. In order to address these issues, we restricted our set of NGOs to just those registered in the United States as 501(c)(3) public charities in order to define and structure our analysis. We also utilized machine learning in order to come up with 'best guess' groupings for just which NGOs were affected by the adoption of the MDGs.

3.1 Data

This paper takes advantage of a unique dataset maintained by the National Council of Charitable Statistics called the Core Public Charities Trend (or 'Core PC Trend').[2] The Core PC Trend contains data for all United States 501(c)(3) nongovernmental organizations with gross annual receipts over $50,000. 501(c)(3) organizations of this size are required to file forms 990 or 990-EZ with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Our dataset contains information from every 501(c)(3) organization that files a 990 or 990-EZ and contains information from 1989 to the present. This panel dataset contains 42 variables on a firm level with 6,031,355 observations, using each NGO's Employer Identification Number (EIN) to track changes.

3.2 Classification of NGOs

Every NGO has a mission statement that outlines the issue area or areas in which they work – but not every NGO is working on issues that correspond to those outlined in the MDGs.

[2] We remain grateful to the New York University Wagner School of Public Service for providing the necessary grant funding to acquire the dataset.

For our analysis, it was thus necessary to classify the NGOs into treatment and non-treatment groups, with those that were working in MDG-aligned areas as the treatment group and those in unaligned areas as the non-treatment group. As each NGO has their own, unique mission statement, there is no trivial way of assigning NGOs to each group. Rather than reading through more than six million mission statements and classifying the NGOs manually, we relied on a set of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) NGO classifications called the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities – Core Codes (or 'NTEE codes') and a form of machine learning called a support vector machine (SVM) in order to classify the NGOs in our dataset.

Upon incorporation or registration as a 501(c)(3), all NGOs are classified according to their intended issue area and activities and assigned an NTEE code. There are 592 different NTEE codes grouped by 26 major industries/issue areas. Each NTEE code also as an associated name and short description – an example of the first nine NTEE codes may be seen in Appendix E.

In order to examine the effect of MDG adoption, we split the NTEE codes into MDG-aligned and MDG-unaligned groups using the R statistical programming language and a module built for R called 'RTextTools'. Working from two source texts, we trained the SVM to recognize language associated with MDGs from the 2000 "United Nations Millennium Development Declaration and language non-associated with the MDGs from the 2004 "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto". We conducted an initial SVM training using the language of each document to teach what was MDG-aligned and what not MDG-aligned. We also created a second SVM, utilizing 90% of the sentences of each document to train the second SVM on what was and was not MDG-aligned language. Once this second SVM was trained, we tested it against the remaining, unused 10% of

sentences from each source document to measure the accuracy of its predictions. This second SVM able to predict whether the remaining sentences were part of the "United Nations Millennium Development Declaration" or the "United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto" with 85% accuracy.

We then ran each of the NTEE code titles and their associated descriptions against each SVM categorizing to categorize NTEE code as either MDG-aligned or MDG-unaligned. Upon inspection, it appeared that the first SVM created substantial false positives – a manual deletion of these false positives streamlined the MDG-aligned classification to 100 NTEE codes. We did not undertake any such stripping of false positives with the tested 85% accurate SVM. A summary of the outputs of these three classification methods can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1 - NTEE MDG classification results

	SVM	SVM without false positives	85% tested SVM
MDG aligned	236	100	175
MDG unaligned	356	492	417

3.3 Estimating the effect of the MDGs

In general, the overall goal of this paper is to estimate an equation of the form:

(1) $$expense_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 align_i + \varphi X_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

where $expense_{it}$ measures the annual spending of NGO_i at year *t*, $align_i$ represents whether an organization's mission aligns with one of the MDGs (in particular, based on its NTEE code), under the assumption that an organization's mission does not change over time. X_{it} is a vector of control variables, which includes firm-level total revenue and total assets in a certain year, among other characteristics.

Since UN's MDGs were published in September 2000, we add an interaction term $align_i \times time_t$, which creates a cutoff point to differentiate the slopes for MDG-aligned

organizations. In our study, we examine two versions of $time_t$. First, as a simple pre- and post-dummy variable; second, all years up to the cutoff year are considered pre-MDG period, but the years afterwards are accounted for as a continuous variable, to give a closer examination of the impact of MDG over time, in both the short and long term. Therefore, we re-write equation (1) as:

(2) $$expense_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 align_i + \beta_2 align_i \times time_t + \beta_3 time_t + \varphi X_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

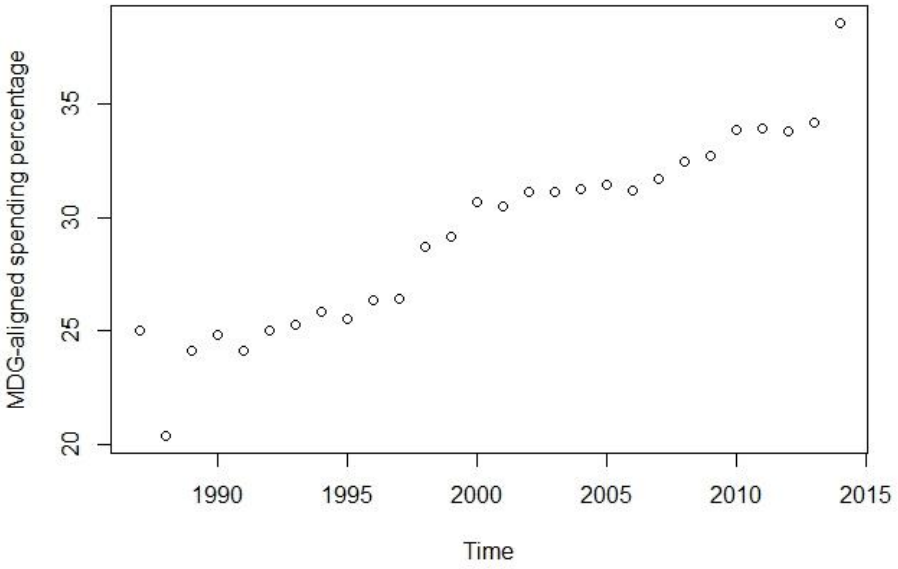
Intuitively, since the MDGs were introduced in late 2000, the cutoff point is that year, or around year 2001, if we consider the possibility that there is a time lag for NGOs and their donors to pick up the effects brought by the UN declaration. However, we also looked into the possibility that there may also be front-running effects – a document as important as the Millennium Development Declaration is not created in the span of just a few months. In fact, on May 6th 1996, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) under the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) published *Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Co-operation,* which was the initial source documents outlining what would eventually become the UN's MDGs.

The OECD's report was the foundation for the MDGs, as is easily seen in the repetition of seven of the eight OECD DAC goals in the MDGs and the reuse of DAC language in the published MDGs (See Appendix F). As the United States is a central member of the OECD, it is possible that the US commitment to the *Shaping the 21st Century* led to a global discussion around international development beyond OECD and eventually to the UN. Therefore, the variances in our data can be seen as MDG front-runner effect, rather than any strong influence of the MDGs themselves.

A closer look at the data as shown in Figure 1, when we plot the percentage of spending from MDG-aligned organizations in the entire NGO industry, shows there was a sharp increase

in year 1997, where the MDG-aligned organizations experienced a large rise in spending from barely above 25% of the total, to almost 30%.

Figure 1 - Percentage of MDG-aligned spending versus total NGO spending over time



At the same time, because of the non-random assignment and large variance in both the external environment (such as federal aid, foreign relations policies, and economic growth) as well as internal characteristics (such organizational culture and common characteristics of NGOs with a certain mission), we added fixed effects for time and NTEE code at its highest level. Our model is as following, in which β_2 represents the change in slope before and after year 1997, at different *time* forms:

(3) $$Expense_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 align_i + \beta_2 align_i \times time_t + \beta_3 time_t + \varphi X_{it} + \beta_4 \sum NTEE_i + \beta_5 \sum Year_t + \epsilon_{it}$$

Given that the dataset covers over 25 years of financial information, we also adjusted all fiscal variables for inflation throughout the specifications[3] and put them in log form. We excluded data from year 1987, 1988 and 2014, due to incomplete records. Several thousands of

[3] According to U.S. Bureau of Labor, Consumer Price Index more than doubled from 1987 to 2015

organizations had abnormal financial records that reported negative annual expenses, revenue, total asset or total liability. Those observations were dropped as well. Our model is now written as:

$$(4) \quad log(Expense_{it}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 align_i + \beta_2 align_i \times time_t + \beta_3 time_t + \varphi X_{it} + \beta_4 \sum NTEE_i + \beta_5 \sum Year_t + \epsilon_{it}$$

3.4 Impact of MDGs on technology NGOs

As we mentioned in the introduction, among all the eight MDGs, it is worth investigating the effect of MDGs on NGOs involved in the technology sector separately as a robustness check on our overall findings. The estimation is done in two steps with difference-in-difference and propensity score matching strategy. First, we isolated the data into two small groups: group 1 includes data from year 1994 to 1997, and group 2 from year 1998 to 2002. This is approximately the same time frame used to estimate the impact of MDGs in the above section. We then estimated the propensity score separately for mission-aligned and un-aligned organizations in both time frames by each year. We matched treatment and comparison groups in several characteristics: total revenue, total asset, and location (specifically, whether an organization is based in California), year by year.

As indicated in Table 2 below, despite the large variances in the characteristics across different years, we are able to identify a new set of comparable treatment and comparison groups for each time period. For each group, characteristics are matched consistently with no statistically significant difference, except the *total asset* variable in the post period, presented in Table 2 Panel B.

Table 2 - Comparison between technology NGOs and their counterparts on propensity score matching

Panel A: year 1994 to 1997

	Mean		
	Technology NGOs	Non-technology NGOs	p-value
Total revenue	12.76	12.76	0.92
Total asset	12.33	12.32	0.77
California	0.10	0.10	0.80

Panel B: year 1998 to 2002

	Mean		
	Technology NGOs	Non-technology NGOs	p-value
Total revenue	13.03	13.00	0.26
Total asset	12.72	12.64	0.04 *
California	0.10	0.09	0.08

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Note: both *total revenue* and *total asset* in the calculation are in log form after adjusting for inflation. *California* is a binary variable that indicates whether a nonprofit organization is located in California.

4 Results

4.1 Effect of mission-alignment with MDG on organization expenses

Table 2 shows estimates of the effect of MDG-alignment on an organization's spending over the time.[4] Generally speaking, the NGOs whose missions are aligned with the MDGs have on average significantly more expenses than their counterparts. In columns 1 and 2, where the data cover the entire time span from 1989 to 2013, the coefficients on MDG-aligned suggest that overall, mission-aligned NGOs spent on average 2.9% to 3.6% more than the others over the compared years.

[4] We do not report the coefficients on control vectors. A full version of the results are available in Appendix A

However surprisingly, on contrary to our prediction, the spending gap between mission-aligned NGOs and their counterparts narrowed slightly after 1997. The coefficient on both versions of the *time* variable suggests in the long term, namely from 1998 to 2013, the gap has actually been slowly decreasing, although only by a small amount. More specifically, in column 2, the coefficient on the interaction term between *MDG-aligned* and *Post97* (where the years after 1997 is continuous) shows that in the years after OECD published their original version of MDGs, NGOs in the U.S. whose missions are MDG-aligned experienced a slight decrease in spending of 0.1% every year.

Table 2 - Effect of mission-alignment with MDGs on organization expenses

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log			
	Time: 1989 - 2013		Time: 1994 - 2000	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
MDG-aligned	0.029***	0.036***	0.023***	0.025***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (binary)	-0.005***		0.017***	
	(0.00)		(0.00)	
Post97 (binary)	0.177***		-0.003	
	(0.00)		(0.00)	
MDG-aligned* Post97 (continuous)		-0.001***		0.006***
		(0.00)		(0.00)
Post97 (continuous)		0.012***		0.001
		(0.00)		(0.00)
NTEE fixed effect	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year fixed effect	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	5783277	5783277	1260691	1260691
adj. R^2	0.895	0.895	0.893	0.893

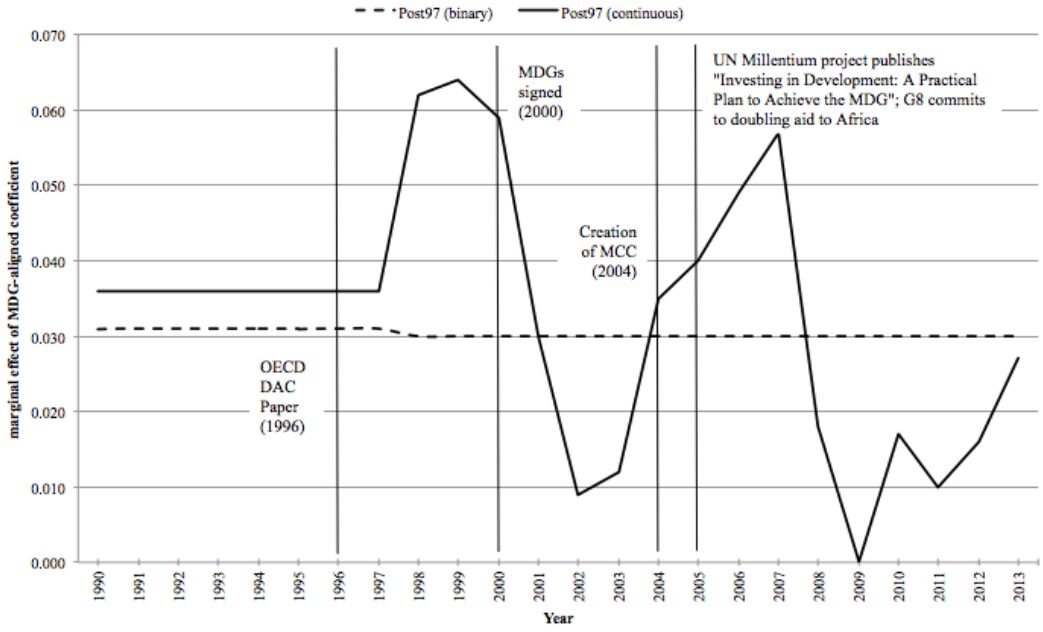
Standard errors in parentheses, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Note: this table shows the estimates for the effects of mission-alignment with MDG on U.S. NGOs' spending. Column1 and 2 cover the full dataset from 1989 to 2013, whereas Column 3 and 4 shows a closer-up examination from 1994 to 2000. *Post97 (binary)* in column 1 and 2 is a dummy variable that indicates before or after 1997; *Post97 (continuous)* in column 3 and 4 is defined as 0 for all years up to 1997, and a continuous variable 1, 2, 3… afterwards; Control variables include inflation adjusted firm-level total revenue and total asset in log form, fixed effect on year and NTEE code at its highest level. All three columns are estimated with robust standard errors. A full regression table is available in Appendix A.

However, this does simply imply that the publication from OECD, or the UN's MDGs later on, did not have any effect, or even a negative effect, on the U.S. nonprofit industry.

Figure 2 presents a year-by-year interaction terms between MDG-aligned NGOs, which highlights a short-term effect of the MDGs (and MDG-like) agreements. The percentage change in the proportion of funding that goes to MDG-aligned NGOs changes by year after 1997, based on two versions of *time*. Interaction terms were unlogged, and then plotted over time by specification in order to create the figure.

Figure 2 - Effect of MDGs over time with binary or continuous *time* variables



When *time* is simply defined as a binary variable pre- or post- 1997, there is a flat line indicating the small decrease in funding percentage for MDG-aligned NGOs post-1997.

When *time* is a continuous variable, major events that drive funding towards MDG-aligned NGOs are highlighted. The publication and adoption of *Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Co-operation* by the OECD DAC in 1996, the creation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation by the United States in 2004, and the release of *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the MDGs* by the UNDP as well as the commitment

of the G8 to doubling aid in Africa in 2005 (Millennium Promise, undated). Two other notable events are the UN DPI NGO conferences, one in 2004 and another in 2011, both focused on MDGs. After these instances, there is a 'pop' of funding after the event, which later dies down to pre-event levels.

Rather than creating any substantial increase in funding towards MDG-aligned NGOs, major treaty and commitment events only pull MGD-aligned funding forward for a few years, after which funding returns to its pre-event MDG-aligned and MDG-unaligned ratio.

Upon narrowing the time span to year 1994 to 2000, with the same regression specification, columns 3 and 4 in the above Table 2 provide a more nuanced explanation of the trend over time.

Columns 3 and 4 suggest that from 1994 to 2000, mission-aligned organizations have always had 2.3% to 2.4% more in their annual expenses, compared with the others. These estimates are consistent with the results in column 1 and 2. Furthermore, after *Shaping the 21st Century* was published, the entire NGOs gained 0.1% increase on average in their spending, as indicated by the coefficient on *Post97 (continuous)* in column 4.

More importantly, in addition to the 0.1% increase, those mission-aligned NGOs also continued widening the average spending gap from their counterparts by approximately 0.6% every year.

4.2 Effect of MDG on technology NGOs

As shown in Table 3 below, after isolating the NGOs that are focused on development through technology, we find even larger effects of mission-alignment for those organizations.

Upon matching these two types of NGOs on their characteristics such as revenue, total assets and locations (more specifically, whether a nonprofit is based in California) year by year, we find that prior to OECD's publication *Shaping the 21st Century*, technology NGOs on

average spent 5% more than the others, and afterwards, the gap increased to 8%. Compared with a 0.6% gain for MDG-aligned organizations, it is obvious that technology NGOs had significantly more spending increases than the organizations whose missions align with the other seven goals in MDGs.

Table 3 - Effect of MDGs on technology NGOs, pre and post 1997

Panel A: year 1994 to 1997

	Mean: inflation adjusted expenses in log		Difference
	Technology NGOs	Non-technology NGOs	
Unmatched	12.63	12.12	0.49
Matched	12.63	12.38	0.05

Panel B: year 1998 to 2002

	Mean: inflation adjusted expenses in log		Difference
	Technology NGOs	Non-technology NGOs	
Unmatched	12.91	12.27	0.63
Matched	12.91	12.83	0.08

Note: the results reported in "Matched" sections are the average treated effects on the treated.

The results in this section begin to resolve the puzzle of the magnitude of declarations like Millennium Development Goals. On one hand, such publications or agreements among major players in the international development arena do have a significant impact on NGOs and their stakeholders. On the other hand however, the impact is limited in a short term, more specifically, three to five years. It is possible that NGOs gain more funding and policy support immediately afterwards, be it in the forms of donations or government fund, such support does not last long. In the world of international development, where the battle for extreme poverty and child mortality is constantly on, NGOs as a key player in the development world, especially in the extremely poor regions, need not only a short term pouring-in funding, but also more importantly, long lasting support in both macro and micro level.

4.3 Robustness check

As mentioned in section '3.2 Classification of NGOs', where we introduced SVM, we also constructed an untested SVM version using the entirety of both source documents as well as a manually stripped version where we deleted obvious false positives. The results from those two versions are presented in Appendices B and C. As the coefficients suggest, the results are consistent with the estimates in Table 2.

5 Next Steps: assessing the effect of the Sustainable Development Goals on NGOs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 at the UN General Assembly as the replacement for the MDGs upon their conclusion in 2015. The SDGs take the form of an extended set of development goals, increasing in number from 8 to 17 while the associated targets grew from 21 to 169 and the associated indicators from 60 to 304.

The initial idea for the SDGs came from discussions within the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2011. They were put on the negotiation agenda for the planning of the 2012 Rio+20 meeting and subsequently discussed there in 2012 (Caballero, 2014). As the United States is also a central member of G20 (the group of countries undertaking the Rio+20 discussions), a pre-running effect for the SDGs similar to that observed for the MDGs should be observable around either 2011 or 2012.

A similar form of SVM analysis to this paper's MDG analysis was used in isolating the effect of the SDGs on US-based NGOs, but repeated attempts were not able to isolate SDG-aligned from non-aligned NGOs and so no effect of the beginning of the SDG process in 2011 was discernable. Investigating whether the diffuse nature of the SDGs or their consensus based negotiation process has blunted their effect is a logical follow-on to this paper. Additionally, further study may uncover a trend after the SDGs have had a few years to take effect.

6 Conclusion

The finding that the adoption of the MDGs did drive resources towards international development NGOs in the short term, while intuitively sensible, is an important contribution to MDG literature. The finding that international agreements have a significant effect only if the number of signatories is small and that the effect itself has a short time horizon has several implications for those working away at policy in the field. On the policy side, it demonstrates the efficacy of international agreements on development, the importance of the agreement process itself, and the need for constant renewal of development agreements. For academics, it highlights the need to look with more time granularity into the impacts of international development policy.

The most important finding of our research for policymakers is that international development agreements do mobilize resources to help those most in need. Despite the sometimes contentions views around the motivations of Global North-based countries and NGOs, the MDGs were effective in moving money to NGOs focused on global social issues. While the casual link between funding amounts for development NGOs and positive impact remains an area of investigation and research, if one assumes at least some positive correlation, then driving funding towards NGOs via large commitments like the MDGs remains a viable avenue for governments to create positive social impact.

Interestingly, there is evidence that the process of creating large agreements like the MDGs may in fact be the key driver for the policy effect. In the case of the MDGs, the increase in the proportion of spending on NGOs was not observed in 2000 with the adoption of the MDGs, but rather in the period after the 1996 adoption of the proto-MDGs by the OECD DAC. For policy makers, this shows that even getting international development on the agenda of large forums like the UN General Assembly can begin to create their desired effect – it is evidence that the

process of coming to an agreement about things like the MDGs can already sway government and NGO behavior before any agreement is reached. It should be cautioned that one alternative interpretation of this event may indicate that participating in small group agreements like the OECD DAC's may have a great effect than the diffuse, large group agreements like the UN General Assembly.

While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have already set out the development agenda for 2015-2030, our findings indicate that shorter time-frame commitments may be a more effective method for driving resources to NGOs. Policymakers should consider creating interim, 5-year agreements within the SDGs to maintain momentum over the 15-year timeframe of the SDGs. Additionally, shortening the implementation horizon for the next round of major international development agreements after the SDGs will bring them closer in line with their observed effect timeframe.

Lastly, our discovery of quick, less than five year, periods of growth and decline in NGO funding indicates that, despite their size, governments and international organizations like the UN are actually capable of nimble change – and should be studied in such a light. Many academic studies take the slowness of governments and international actors as a given, seeking to understand how individuals and organizations can create policy within the larger, slower moving terrain of the international development sector. Instead of assuming the background of international development policy is a static backdrop, academics need to take into account the rapid shifting ground on which policy actors exist.

Much of the research surrounding the MDGs and their contribution to international development takes the causal chain between MDG adoption and improved development outcomes as a given, an assumption that this paper begins to investigate. There is a great distance,

both physically and conceptually, between the halls of the United Nations and the neighborhoods of the world's poor – bridging this gap and understanding just how pronouncements made by the UN affect the underserved has important policy implications, both upstream and downstream from UN agreements. Upstream, knowing just how UN agreements drive outcomes can better inform those writing, editing, influencing, and voting on these agreements, helping policymakers better achieve their intended ends. A fuller understanding of the power of agreements like the MDGs will result in better, more precise policy. Downstream from the MDGs and similar agreements, a clear understanding of the causal chain enables international development NGOs to act better towards their mission commitments. Knowing how the forces within which they operate link together will better protect them from undue outside influence.

Understanding the causal chain of MDG (and other UN commitment) adoption and implementation is a large undertaking – and much more needs to be done beyond looking at how MDG adoption drives NGO resource collection and usage. Other key nodes include the process by which influencers affect UN policy, internal questions of NGO mission alignment and activity selection, and the interface between development NGOs and their beneficiaries.

On a much smaller scale, delving more deeply into individual NGO motivations and taking a more nuanced view into each non-profit financial indicator would extend this study's potential impact. There is a clear space for case-study based, qualitative research approach to either corroborate or refute our findings – such an undertaking would lend helpful context to our quantitative conclusions. Additionally, a deeper view into subsets of NGO revenue generation and spending would generate further insights, as the necessarily superficial nature of our regression analysis loses information on the connections between inputs and outputs as well as how different types and kinds of projects are funded.

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Appendix A – Table 2 in full specification

Panel A Post97 (binary) as time variable

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log				
	1989 - 2013				1994 - 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MDG-aligned	0.049***	0.030***	0.049***	0.029***	0.023***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (binary)	-0.010***	-0.006***	-0.009***	-0.005***	0.017***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Post97 (binary)	0.064***	0.070***	0.167***	0.177***	-0.003
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Revenue	1.008***	1.001***	1.009***	1.001***	1.075***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total asset	-0.024***	-0.021***	-0.024***	-0.022***	-0.080***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Constant	-0.023***	0.032***	-0.072***	-0.016***	-0.195***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
NTEE fixed effect	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Year fixed effect	N	N	Y	Y	Y
N	5783277	5783277	5783277	5783277	1260691
adj. R^2	0.894	0.895	0.895	0.895	0.893

Panel B Post97 (continuous) as time variable

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log				
	1989 - 2013				1994 - 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MDG-aligned	0.054***	0.036***	0.054***	0.036***	0.025***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (continuous)	-0.002***	-0.001***	-0.002***	-0.001***	0.006***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Post97 (continuous)	0.009***	0.009***	0.011***	0.012***	0.001
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Revenue	1.008***	1.000***	1.009***	1.001***	1.075***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total asset	-0.024***	-0.022***	-0.024***	-0.022***	-0.080***

	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Constant	-0.035***	0.026***	-0.075***	-0.018***	-0.203***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)
NTEE fixed effect	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Year fixed effect	N	N	Y	Y	Y
N	5783277	5783277	5783277	5783277	1260691
adj. R^2	0.895	0.895	0.895	0.895	0.893

Standard errors in parentheses, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Note: this table shows the full regression specifications for the effects of mission-alignment with MDG on U.S. nonprofit organizations' spending. Panel A uses *Post97 (binary)*, a dummy variable that indicates before or after 1997 as the *time* variable, whereas Panel B uses *Post97 (continuous)*, defined as 0 for all years up to 1997, and a continuous variable 1, 2, 3… afterwards; Control variables include inflation adjusted firm-level total revenue and total asset in log form.

Appendix B - Robustness check: effect of mission-alignment with MDGs on organization expenses with original SVM output

Panel A Post97 (binary) as time variable

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log				
	1989 - 2013				1994 - 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MDG-aligned	0.080***	0.071***	0.080***	0.070***	0.052***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (binary)	-0.020***	-0.023***	-0.019***	-0.022***	0.018***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Post97 (binary)	0.069***	0.077***	0.172***	0.185***	-0.003
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Revenue	1.006***	0.999***	1.006***	0.999***	1.073***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total asset	-0.023***	-0.021***	-0.024***	-0.021***	-0.079***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Constant	-0.010***	0.039***	-0.060***	-0.009*	-0.179***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
NTEE fixed effect	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Year fixed effect	N	N	Y	Y	Y
N	5783277	5783277	5783277	5783277	1260691
adj. R^2	0.894	0.895	0.895	0.896	0.894

Panel B Post97 (continuous) as time variable

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log				
	1989 - 2013				1994 - 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MDG-aligned	0.085***	0.075***	0.084***	0.074***	0.055***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (continuous)	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.003***	0.006***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Post97 (continuous)	0.009***	0.010***	0.011***	0.012***	0.002
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Revenue	1.006***	0.999***	1.006***	0.999***	1.073***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)

Total asset	-0.024***	-0.021***	-0.024***	-0.021***	-0.079***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Constant	-0.022***	0.034***	-0.063***	-0.011**	-0.188***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.01)
NTEE fixed effect	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Year fixed effect	N	N	Y	Y	Y
N	5783277	5783277	5783277	5783277	1260691
adj. R2	0.895	0.895	0.895	0.896	0.894

Standard errors in parentheses, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Note: this table shows the full regression specifications for the effects of mission-alignment with MDG on U.S. nonprofit organizations' spending, with original SVM output. Panel A uses *Post97 (binary)*, a dummy variable that indicates before or after 1997 as the *time* variable, whereas Panel B uses *Post97 (continuous)*, defined as 0 for all years up to 1997, and a continuous variable 1, 2, 3… afterwards; Control variables include inflation adjusted firm-level total revenue and total asset in log form.

Appendix C - Robustness check: Effect of mission-alignment with MDGs on organization expenses with manually edited SVM outputs

Panel A Post97 (binary) as time variable

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log				
	1989 - 2013				1994 - 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MDG-aligned	0.050***	0.061***	0.050***	0.061***	0.037***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (binary)	-0.019***	-0.018***	-0.019***	-0.017***	0.015***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Post97 (binary)	0.063***	0.071***	0.167***	0.179***	0.002
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Revenue	1.007***	1.000***	1.008***	1.000***	1.074***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total asset	-0.024***	-0.022***	-0.025***	-0.022***	-0.080***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Constant	0.006***	0.049***	-0.044***	0.001	-0.176***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
N	5783277	5783277	5783277	5783277	1260691
adj. R^2	0.894	0.895	0.895	0.896	0.893

Panel B Post97 (continuous) as time variable

	Dependent variable: inflation adjusted expenses in log				
	1989 - 2013				1994 - 2000
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MDG-aligned	0.051***	0.062***	0.051***	0.062***	0.040***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
MDG-aligned* Post97 (continuous)	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.002***	0.004**
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Post97 (continuous)	0.008***	0.009***	0.011***	0.011***	0.003
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Revenue	1.008***	1.000***	1.008***	1.000***	1.074***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total asset	-0.025***	-0.022***	-0.025***	-0.022***	-0.080***
Constant	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)

	-0.003	0.046***	-0.044***	0.001	-0.184***
N	5783277	5783277	5783277	5783277	1260691
adj. R^2	0.895	0.895	0.895	0.896	0.893

Standard errors in parentheses, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Note: this table shows the full regression specifications for the effects of mission-alignment with MDG on U.S. nonprofit organizations' spending, with manually edited SVM output. Panel A uses *Post97 (binary)*, a dummy variable that indicates before or after 1997 as the *time* variable, whereas Panel B uses *Post97 (continuous)*, defined as 0 for all years up to 1997, and a continuous variable 1, 2, 3… afterwards; Control variables include inflation adjusted firm-level total revenue and total asset in log form.

Appendix D Acronyms

CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
G8	Group of Eight
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organization(s)
NTEE	National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities
NTEE codes	National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities – Core Codes
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SVM	Support Vector Machine
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank

Appendix E Example NTEE codes

A01 - Alliances & Advocacy - Organizations whose activities focus on influencing public policy within the Arts, Culture, and Humanities major group area. Includes a variety of activities from public education and influencing public opinion to lobbying national and state legislatures. Key words: Arts Alliances; Arts Coalitions; Lobbying; Public Awareness Scope notes: USE this code for arts alliances that have advocacy programs. USE A26 Arts & Humanities Councils & Agencies for arts alliances that do not have any advocacy programs.

A02 - Management & Technical Assistance - Consultation, training, and other forms of management assistance services to nonprofit groups within the Arts, Culture, and Humanities major group area. Key words: Professional Continuing Education

A03 - Professional Societies & Associations - Learned societies, professional councils, and other organizations that bring together individuals or organizations with a common professional or vocational interest within the Arts, Culture, and Humanities major group area. Scope notes: Includes: Accreditation Boards; Associations of journalists

A05 - Research Institutes & Public Policy Analysis - Organizations whose primary purpose is to conduct research and/or public policy analysis within the Arts, Culture, and Humanities major group area

A11 - Single Organization Support - Organizations existing as a support and fund-raising entity for a single institution within the Arts, Culture & Humanities major group.
Scope notes: This code should be used for all forms of support as long as financial support is included. Friends groups are traditionally classified here.

A12 - Fund Raising & Fund Distribution 813 - Organizations that raise and distribute funds for multiple organizations within the Arts, Culture, and Humanities major group area.

A19 - Support N.E.C. - Organizations that provide all forms of support except for financial assistance or fund raising for other organizations within the Arts, Culture, and Humanities major group area.

A20 - Arts & Culture - Organizations that promote, produce or provide access to a variety of arts experiences encompassing the visual, media or performing arts. Key words: Arts Centers; Arts Guilds; Cultural Centers; Multipurpose Arts; Multipurpose Cultural Organizations; Organizations whose primary activity is the operation of a symphony orchestra including youth symphonies. Scope notes: Includes: Multi-disciplinary arts and cultural centers as well as venues that display or sell local artist’s work and that offer workshops, studios and/or classes that deal with a wide variety of art forms.

Appendix F OECD DAC and Millennium Development Goals comparison

OECD - May 6, 1996	MDGs – September 2000
1. Economic well-being: The **proportion of people living in extreme poverty in developing countries should be reduced by at least one-half by 2015**.	Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty **A. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1.25 a day** B. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people C. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2. a. **There should be universal primary education in all countries by 2015.**	Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education **A. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling**
2. b. Progress toward gender equality and the empowerment of women should be demonstrated by **eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005**.	Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women A. **Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005,** and in all levels of education no later than 2015
2. c. The **death rate for infants and children under the age of five years should be reduced in each developing country by two-thirds the 1990 level by 2015**. The rate of maternal mortality should be reduced by three-fourths during this same period.	Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality **A. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate**
2. d. **Access should be available through the primary health-care system to reproductive health services for all individuals of appropriate ages**, including safe and reliable family planning methods, as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015.	Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health A. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio **B. Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health**
< no mention of HIV/AIDS or Malaria >	Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases A. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS B. Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it C. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

3. Environmental sustainability and regeneration: There should be a current national strategy for sustainable development, in the process of implementation, in every country by 2005, so as **to ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources forests, fisheries, fresh water, climate, soils, biodiversity, stratospheric ozone, the accumulation of hazardous substances and other major indicators are effectively reversed** at both global and national levels by 2015.	Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability **A. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources** B. Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss C. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation D. Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
No goal, but language in one version of the goal list: "We are proposing a **global development partnership** effort through which we can achieve together the following ambitious but realizable goals…"	Goal 8: **Develop a Global Partnership for Development** A. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system B. Address the special needs of least developed countries C. Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States D. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries E. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries F. In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

*Bold emphasis added