

Vancouverite invited to advise 300 Heads of State and Government at United Nations Event in New York on solving Global Poverty

With only five years left to solve global poverty, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited 300 Heads of State and Government from around the world to participate in the United Nations Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the hopes of working together to advance the progress toward the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

The forum, a select group of private sector leaders from around the world, will share their innovative approaches to solving extreme poverty. Among this group is Vancouverite and Founder of the non profit organization Sawa Global, Daphne Nederhorst. She hopes to inspire a new way of thinking among Heads of State and Government from around the world. According to Nederhorst, "The world doesn't need another traditional foreign aid model. What we need is to recognize the expertise of local heroes living in extreme poverty and already making a difference by championing their communities out of poverty. We should be learning from their accomplishments and finding ways to assist them in replicating models that already work."

On a recent trip to Haiti, Daphne and the Sawa team were told repeatedly by local leaders that '...while foreign aid is welcome, the local people aren't consulted and their ideas are overlooked.' According to locals, Sawa Global was the only foreign organization that entered their communities with a strict focus on looking for locally designed solutions to poverty and a sincere interest in learning how to support and grow these ideas in other communities.

The Summit on the Millennium Goals takes place from September 20-22, 2010. In addition to the main Forum event on September 22nd, Nederhorst will take part in several smaller meetings with world leaders including the Presidents of Liberia, Tanzania, France and Virgin, CEO, Sir Richard Branson.

To learn more about Sawa Global visit: www.sawaglobal.org.

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Daphne Nederhorst can be reached at the UN in New York City from September 20 to the 23. Before these dates she is located in Vancouver.

Sawa Global (www.sawaglobal.org) is a Vancouver-based non profit organization which supports exceptional individuals (Sawa Heroes) from the world's poorest countries who have found their own solutions to extreme poverty in their communities. The world has over 1 billion people living in these conditions. This number has not changed despite the fact that \$1 trillion dollars has been spent on foreign aid over the last 60 years. Sawa Global's goal is to support the Sawa Heroes so they can grow their projects themselves and replicate their success to surrounding communities.