

CrushPovertyNow

**Going Hi-Tech for “Bridging the Gap”
-Putting the poor on their feet-**

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**Second East Regional Conference—Washington, DC
*Working Together to Eradicate Poverty
And Mitigate Climate Change in India*
Saturday, August 14, 2010
Venue: John Hopkins University, Rockville, MD**

Background Summary

- **1.2 billion people are living in poverty**
- **Poverty in rural poor have gone up**
 - **Limited funds are available for creating sustainable livelihood structures to get the poor out of perpetual poverty.**
- **Much of the charity money or aid from USA, United Nations or foundations go to preventing, extreme hunger, diseases, calamities, or improving social and economic conditions to meet the Millennium Development Goals.**
- **Historically, due to lack of skills or seed investment capital, the extreme poor never got a chance to start on creating sustainable commerce or livelihood structures for themselves**
- **Today's economic system metrics are focused on improving "Top-down" economy only; leaving the poor dependent on charity or government benefits.**
- **Chances of the bottom poor finding traditional jobs are very limited, so perpetual poverty continues.**

So visited the extreme poor on "Ground Zero" for search of answers to eradicate perpetual poverty

Ground-Zero Realities

Approach: Visited UNDP project sites in India and in South Africa, and captured on-the-ground discussions (on video clips) with the local poor-----to find today's realities, gaps and potential bridges to plug these gaps.

Let's together watch video clips below

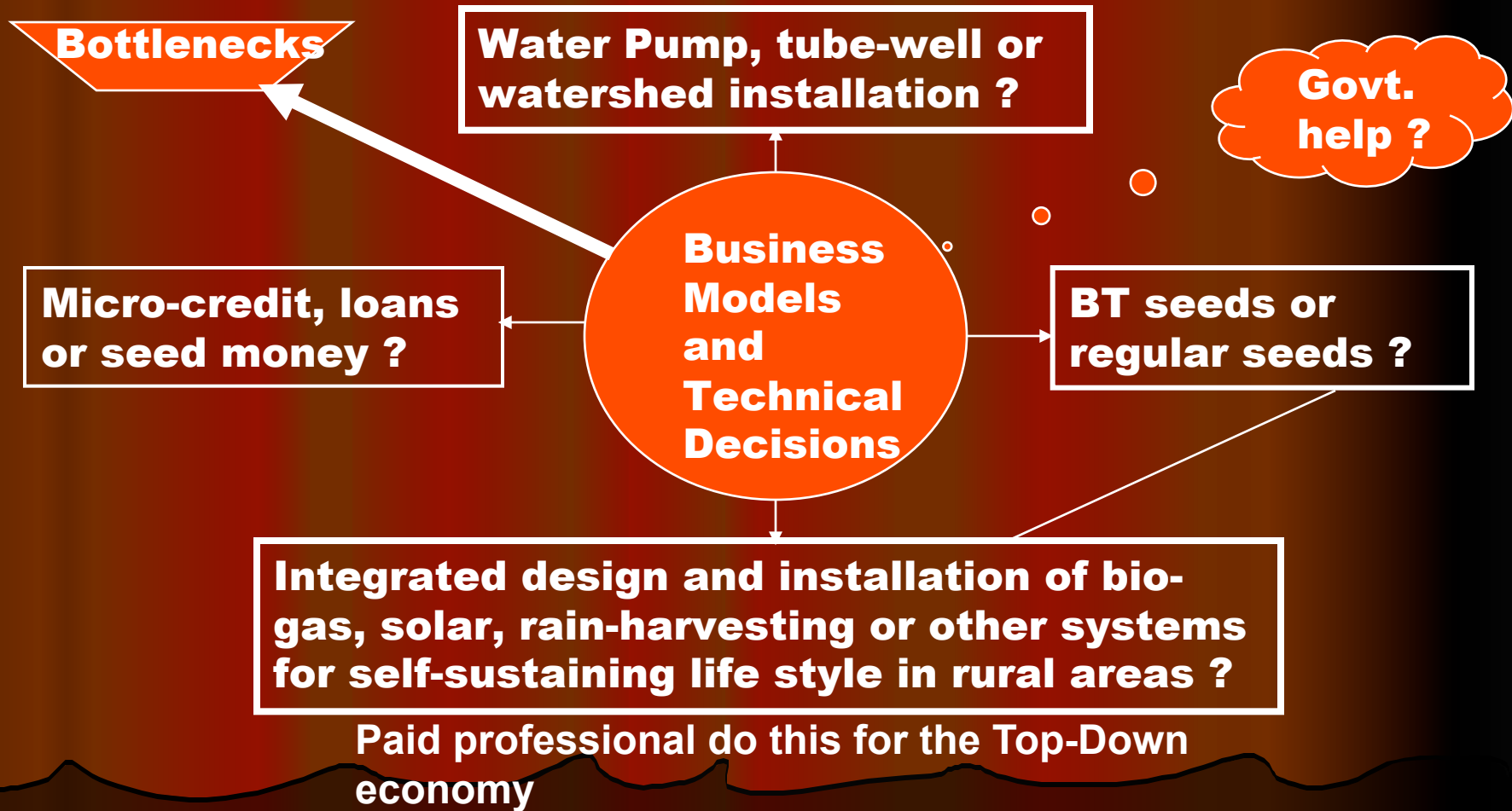
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYns-CrCxt0> Likhyani
Sustainable Livelihood with a water pump in India

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ActsniOwwpY> Likhyani
Creating self-sustaining communities in [S. Africa](#)

**For additional 10 UNDP project interview videos,
Please visit www.CrushPovertyNow.net**

Major Findings

- MDG work is great on providing infrastructure etc. but what is holding the poor back are simple bottlenecks-
- The poor need free business and technical support, and Seed money to get'em on their feet-
- Rural poor fully embrace self-sustaining green life style-



“The Gap”

“Except for humanitarian emergencies, direct cash transfers are rarely an attractive way to deliver official development assistance (ODA). Cash transfers can raise the poor above desperate income levels, but are not likely to unlock the poverty trap if they merely fill the consumption gap. To end the poverty trap, direct foreign assistance should be used for investments in infrastructure and human capital (through public services in health, nutrition, and education), thereby empowering the poor to be more productive *on their own account*, and putting the poor countries on a path of self-sustaining growth—Jeffrey Sacks on Millennium Development Goals.

“There’s component of *individual responsibility* in individual success, but society has a responsibility to give people the tools they need to succeed”
” Government cannot solve all our problems, but what it should do is that which we cannot do for ourselves---protect us from harm, provide every child a decent education; keep our water clean and our toys safe; invest in new schools and new roads and new science and technology” –President Obama on “Role of Government”

Unfortunately, the poor don’t have skills or capital to get on the first rung of the economic ladder on their own account.

GOOD NEWS
“THE BRIDGE”

**TOGETHER “WE” CAN GET THE BOTTOM-UP ECONOMY OFF THE
GROUND AND RUNNING-----**

by
leveraging the available little funds
with our expertise in business, engineering, technology----

and
Creating self-sustaining communities or livelihood structures
where they now live
without altering their culture or way of life

(The Goal of CrushPovertyNow Initiative)

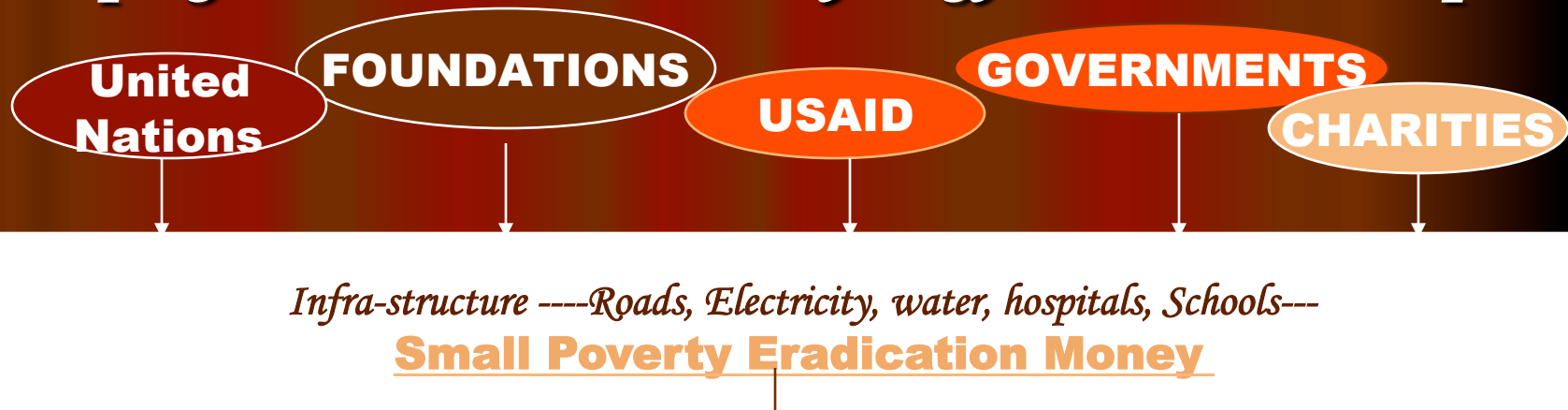
“bridging the gap”

**by GIVING THE EXTREME POOR HAND TO GET THEM ON
THE FIRST RUNG OF THE ECONOMIC LADDER**

OUR VISION

(All Inclusive & Leveraging)

By being inclusive of all other poverty eradication programs, we will create synergy and broader impact



CrushPovertyNow Volunteers leverage this little money with their expertise and create self-sustaining communities or livelihood structures, without altering their culture or way of life

OUR MISSION

ERADICATE GLOBAL POVERTY by leveraging funds WITH BUSINESS OR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF VOLUNTEERS

1. Demonstrate that self-sustainable livelihood structures or communities can be created for the poor by leveraging small poverty funds with expertise of volunteers.

- The payout can be invaluable to society-at-large:

- Lower Burden on Tax Payers
- New Markets for Industrial goods
- Huge Pool of Talented Educated youth
- Preventing the youth from getting swayed by **Terrorists**

SUPPORTING CAST

Thanks to the following **leaders** below for accepting my invitation to join the Advisory Board to help move the CrushPovertyNow initiative forward.

- Dr. Yonah Seleti, **Chairman**, National Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Office of South Africa
- Dr. Nceba Gqaleni, **Professor** at the University of Kwazulu-Natal and South African Research Chair in Indigenous HealthCare Systems
- The **Honorable justice** Louise Harms - Deputy President, Supreme Court of Appeal, RSA
- Ali Jazairy, Head, Innovation and Technology Transfer Section – Global Challenges Division (**WIPO**)
- Dr. Mohan Jain, Chair, India Development Coalition of America (**IDCA**)

And, **UNDP** staff both in South Africa and India.

Implementaion Tasks

- **1. Identify Projects For The Pilot ----done**
- 2. Sign-Up Volunteers**
- 3. Secure seed money to initially run the pilot with the identified UNDP projects**
- 4. Run the pilot to engineer success and develop best practices for the future projects**
- 5. Disseminate best practices broadly**

Volunteers may contribute their expertise on-line, on project sites or on the board.

ACTIONS NEEDED BY YOU

JOIN JOIN JOIN JOIN JOIN JOIN US
--the poor need your expertise--

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING

- **Contact Information:**

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Visit www.CrushPovertyNow.net for more information

Q & A