

Activity 5

Development is...

Aim:

Introduction to the priorities of international development based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Age:

8+

Time: 25 mins

Materials:

Copies of the diamonds below (one copy of 9 diamonds per group), Agree/Disagree Signs

What to do:

Part 1 (10 mins): Create an agree sign and a disagree sign. Stick the signs at opposite ends of the room. Explain to the large group that you will read out a series of statements. Based on whether they agree or disagree they should move towards that end of the room. If they are undecided/don't know they can stay in the middle of the room. There are ten suggested statements below, but you can use more or less, depending on your group and if you want to have a discussion around any particular statement.

- ★ Development is about everyone having washing machines, cars, TVs etc.
- ★ Development means living in peace
- ★ Charity is the best way to get rid of poverty in the Global South
- ★ Ireland is a rich country
- ★ The biggest cause of poverty is a lack of education
- ★ The biggest problem facing the world is government corruption
- ★ Development means living in a house made out of concrete and bricks
- ★ Development is about everyone having a mobile phone
- ★ The world would be a better place if people could live in whatever country they wanted to
- ★ We should give more money to overseas aid.

Part 2 (15 mins): Make copies of the statements and cut outs of the boxes. Break into smaller groups and give each group a set of the 9 statements. Explain that there is room for a wild card statement that they can come up with their own statement or choose one of the suggested wildcard statements which you can display for everyone to see. Let the participants read the statements and then rank them based on what they think is the most urgent thing to do for development. Give them 5-10 minutes to do the activity and then let them present their diamond-ranking to the other groups. Allow for a short discussion on what was most urgent and why? What did they choose for their wild card? Do they think there is anything important missing from the 9 statements?

Alternative: Ask the participants to rank the diamonds based on what they think is easiest to achieve.



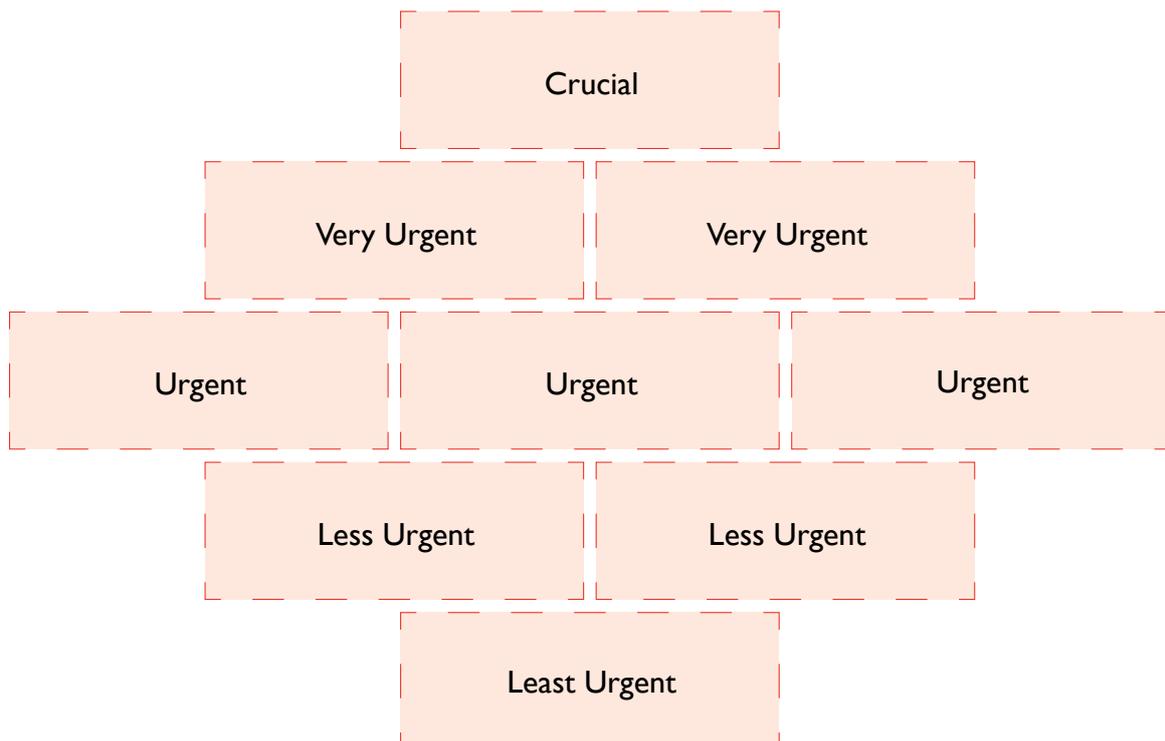
Action Idea! Contact some older members of your community – your grandparents, your neighbours, a nursing home in your area – and ask them what is the biggest change they have seen during their life in the community, in Ireland and in the world? Ask them for positive and negative examples. Imagine what life would be like without one of the changes they describe. Devise a short play based on how life might be different. Invite older members of the community to see your play.

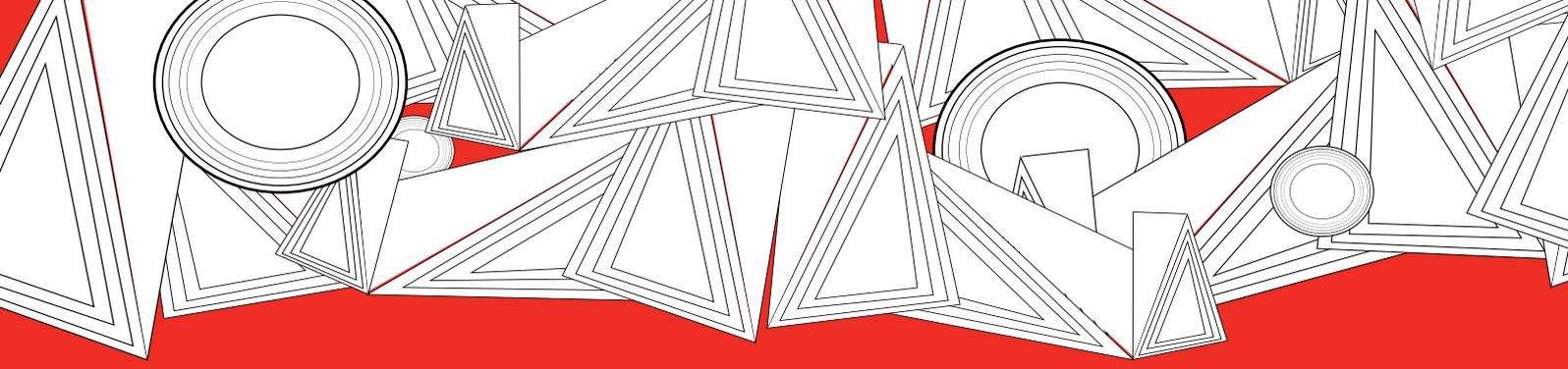
Diamond statements - Development means...:

Everybody has enough to eat	Everyone has the chance to complete primary school	Equal rights for women and men, boys and girls
Fewer deaths among children	Improving the health of mothers	Fighting disease such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB
Protecting the environment	Having all countries working together in peace and solidarity	Wild Card



Action Idea! Design a set of 9 diamonds based on the priorities you think are important locally in your community or nationally in Ireland. Are any of the diamonds the same as the MDGs? Display both diamond designs in your youth club.





For the Wild Card, encourage participants to name something else that they think is really important in development. Some examples could be:

Increase of fair trade	Cancellation of debt	Increasing international aid
Making technology more available	Having stronger international laws	Promote equality for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, older people and young people



Action Idea! Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ireland run a UN Millennium Development Goals Art Competition 2010. It is open to young people aged 4 – 18? Draw, paint or sketch a picture on what do the UN Millennium Development Goals mean to you. Closing Date for Entries is Friday 29th October 2010. Further details and competition rules are available from community@jci-ireland.org

Note to leader: This activity introduces participants to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are a set of Goals the United Nations have created to give everyone in the world a chance to live a healthy life. All the MDGs are equally important and they are all linked. Progress has been made on achieving the goals in some parts of the world, but less in other regions. They are:

- Get rid of the worst poverty and hunger
- Let men and women be treated equally and empower women
- Improve the health of mothers
- Protect the environment
- Get everyone to have at least a primary education
- Reduce children’s deaths
- Fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Make sure all countries work together in partnership

Source: UN Development Program