## **Argument on Aid to Poor Countries**

We agonize about what to do in the most difficult circumstances on the planet without doing enough to solve the problems right before our eyes. The US has spent about Dollars 200bn and countless lives to get to the election in Iraq. Is it really beyond us to spend a mere sliver of that, a few billion dollars, to get mosquito nets and effective anti-malaria medicines to children in impoverished yet peaceful and well-governed countries such as Senegal and Ghana, and soil nutrients (for example via nitrogen-fixing tree crops) to farmers in Kenya and Ethiopia?

Jeffrey Sachs, Professor of Economics, Columbia University Letter to the Editor, *Financial Times*, February 2, 2005