

Global Marshall Plan

The Global Marshall Plan's basic foundational principle is that our homeland security will come from being generous: security = generosity. Our current approach to foreign policy—based on fear, domination and power over—has not made the world, or our country, any safer. We need a new approach that recognizes that our well-being as well as that of everyone on the planet and the planet itself requires that we care about and cooperate with each other, that we share resources, and work together to provide for everyone's needs. The GMP would require industrialized nations to take 1-2% of their GDP for the next 20 years to once and for all eliminate global hunger, poverty, and inadequate education and inadequate healthcare.

Rather than simply giving the money to the power brokers in other countries, this plan includes creating an international board and local and national boards composed of the poor, NGOs serving the poor or struggling for social justice, cultural, spiritual, intellectual and religious leaders with a proven history of commitment to social justice struggles, who in turn will employ economists, social planners, and experts in health, education and welfare who are committed to the goals of this project and who will ensure that the funds do not get siphoned off to the government, or to economic or other power elites, or to projects that do not provide education, healthcare and elimination of poverty.

The GMP proposes changing all global and regional trade agreements so that they no longer primarily serve the interests of the advanced industrial countries or local elites in poorer countries. These agreements should aid in re-establishing local ecologically-sensitive farming and providing free quality water so that the recipient countries are better able to feed themselves.

The intention is to implement this plan in a spirit of ecological and cultural sensitivity and humility (recognizing that our greater wealth has not necessarily been accompanied by greater wisdom or spiritual depth and that their poverty has often been a result of the way the West has exercised its global power).

This plan can be funded through cut-backs in military expenditures, through a 1% tax on all global financial transactions of over one million dollars and by taxes on the super-wealthy (anyone owning more than one hundred million dollars in assets and oil companies making after-tax-profits of more than a billion dollars, except those profits reinvested in developing sustainable and environmentally-friendly public transportation and alternative energy sources).