

**Achieving the Millennium Development Goals Project (SRL/03/005)**  
**Project Progress Report as at 30<sup>th</sup> July 2004**

**Background to the Project**

The MDG project is aimed at **strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity of the government** to effectively monitor the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Monitoring and Progress Review Division (MPRD) of the then Ministry of Policy Development and Implementation (MPDI) functioned as the focal point to monitor and evaluate the progress of MDGs at national and sub-national level to achieve the ambitious MDG targets and to serve as the executing agency responsible for the implementation of the project. **The Monitoring and Progress Review Division** now comes under the **Presidential Secretariat** and continues to be the National Executing Agency in charge of the MDG Project.

According to the project document, it is necessary for the **MPRD to assemble, assess, analyse policy relevant information and prepare MDG reports periodically** with more emphasis on **thematic monitoring**. Although Sri Lanka has been **impressive in achieving the national targets at aggregate level, critical issues arise from the sub-national level**. Progress tends to by-pass poor. Hence **sub-national level analysis of MDGs with disaggregated data is very important to get a true picture of the situation**. The challenges for MDG efforts in Sri Lanka will be at the sub-national levels as there are wide regional disparities.

Localizing the MDGs, establishing national ownership, monitoring at sub-national level, campaign and awareness creation, promoting partnership involving private sector and civil society, linking MDGs to planning, budgeting and policy process through a web-based information management are some of the expectations under the project. The need to learn and share experiences and to replicate success stories has been emphasized in the project document.

The project established under the MPRD with a strong Government Team behind it and is being supported by a good team of UNDP recruited consultants.

The progress report covers the following major aspects.

- (1) Launching of the Sri Lanka MDG campaign
- (2) Appointment of Consultants, Project Management and MDG Team
- (3) Baseline studies and MDG Country Report
- (4) Strengthening the National Operations Room (NOR) and MDG website
- (5) Contextualizing / localizing MDGs, setting intermediate targets and integrating such targets into PRSP/MTEF and National Budget
- (6) Advocacy at national level

- (7) Advocacy at sub-national level – outreach Provinces, Districts and Divisions
- (8) Partnership – building with CSOs
- (9) M&E Capacity Building

## **Progress of the Project**

### **1. Sri Lanka National MDG Campaign Launched:**

- a. **Sri Lanka National Millennium Development Goals Campaign was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2003 at the BMICH.** Over 350 Senior level participants from public, private sectors and civil society attended the launch.
- b. A **news paper supplement was placed to give** publicity to the MDGs in the Daily News on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2003 with messages of HE the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General UN and Resident Representative UNDP.
- c. At the launching of the MDG, **the project agreement was signed** by the government and the Resident Representative UNDP.

### **2. Appointment of Consultants, Project Management and MDG Secretariat teams:**

- a. A Monitoring Consultant has been appointed to assist in the MDG monitoring work and to support the MPRD in M&E activities with other partner agencies in January 2004.
- b. A **separate bank account** was also established in the Bank of Ceylon Taprobane branch for this project on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2003.
- c. A Project Manager and a Social Impact Assessment Specialist cum North East Consultant were appointed in mid April 2004.
- d. Dr. Olympios Katsiaouni, International Advisor, UNDESA visited the project and conducted a workshop for the MPRD, UNCT, and CSOs. The consultant helped to review and improve the work plan and strategies to take the MDG initiative forward. A report was submitted to assess the present situation and to provide future directions or guidance.
- e. MDG teams comprising of 10 Development Officers of the MPRD collect, analyse and present MDG situation at the National and sub-national level. The team works closely with the MDG Monitoring Consultant and thematic aspects and also assist the MPRD to monitor the progress of major foreign funded projects and programmes. An in-house statistical capacity building programme has been designed by the Monitoring Consultant for the MPRD staff to sustain the MDG monitoring efforts.

f. **Focal agencies were appointed among the UNCT/multilaterals and Ministries.** Goal 1 UNDP (WFP on Food Policy); Goal 2 UNICEF; Goal 3 UNFPA; Goal 4 UNICEF, Goal 5 UNFPA; Goal 6 UNAIDS; Goal 7 World Bank; and Goal 8 IMF. **Similarly focal points have been appointed from the line ministries.**

g. The 4 week mission of Dr. Michael Bamberger International Advisor is scheduled in September 2004. A draft TOR was prepared by the MPRD. Also the UNDESA Mission is scheduled to visit in November 2004 to assess the progress and to guide the work.

### 3. **Baseline studies and MDG Country Report :**

a. **Baseline study on Goal 1 to 6** has been contracted by the **World Bank** to the SLBDC. The draft study report has been submitted. A workshop was organised on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at the Mount Lavinia Hotel Colombo, to discuss the MDG baseline study covering goals 1 to 6. The baseline study has been completed and the report is expected soon.

b. **Two Baseline studies on Goals 7 (Environmental Study) and Goals 8 (Global Partnership)** has been awarded. Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) has been contracted for Goal 8 study whereas University of Jayawardenapura team has been contracted for Goal 7 study. The draft study reports were presented at the Peer Review Groups and the comments are to be incorporated into the final report. With regard to Goal 8, a meeting was held at the IMF office and **guidance was given by the IMF team.** A workshop is to be organized with a wider stakeholder group to discuss and finalize the two MDG baseline studies.

c. MDG Country Report: MDG country Reports are intended to serve as vehicle to keep the national focus on agreed development priorities, to keep public informed on progress, to foster debate and dialogue and to trigger action to meet localized country targets.

For the preparation of MDG Country Report the services of Dr. Pat Alailima former Director General, Department of National Planning has been contracted. The preparation of MDG report is in progress. Since the baseline study on Goal 1 to 6 was not forthcoming, the Monitoring Consultant is assisting by providing data and by working out provincial HDIs and HPIs. Further a **Technical Advisory Committee has been appointed by the Secretary to the President to guide and direct the preparation of MDG Country Report.** The Advisory Committee met on two occasions. The MDG Country Report focuses more on sub-national level situation.

### 4. **Strengthening National Operation Room (NOR) and Website on MDG**

A National Operations Room (NOR) was established in the Monitoring and Progress Review Division to **provide online development management information system** to monitor the MDGs and thematic aspects including the Foreign Funded Projects and Programmes. At the recent meeting with the **National Council for Economic Development (NCED)** it was decided to **use the web based development management information system** of the MPRD to monitor the foreign funded projects and programmes, so that progress could be effectively reported to Her Excellency the President. The project has assisted to strengthen the NOR with computers, multimedia projectors, including accessories. All major **foreign funded projects related to the 8 Goals are being entered in the Project Monitoring System of the NOR**. Policy makers require an effective information system monitor and assess projects and programmes being implemented in order to reach MDG targets. Ms. Pushpa Rodrigo, Deputy Director HRD (Monitoring) is in-charge for updating the progress of HRD Projects. Similarly the Performance Evaluation Unit (PEU) of the MPRD examines the relevance, effectiveness and impacts of the programmes and projects on MDG targets and examines the major challenges. This unit is headed by Mrs. Nanda Alahakone, Director (Performance Evaluation). The M&E arrangements are in place to monitor MDG targets (thematic area) as well as programmes and projects. These arrangements will also help the second MDG Country Report to identify and define programmes and projects that will enable country to reach MDG targets. UNDP secured two places in the programme on **Dev Info training** conducted by the **UNICEF in India**. Two officers of the NOR received training and are expected to impart the training to other staff. The system has been installed by the two officers in all the computers used by the consultants and of the NOR staff. Data is being updated in the system. Action has been initiated to **establish a special website for MDGs** in the NOR MPRD of the Presidential Secretariat.

A presentation was made on the NOR and MDGs to Mr. Mano Thithawela, Senior Advisor to the President and Mr. Lalith De Mel, Member of the NECD/SEMA. It was decided to use the NOR for monitoring purposes. The project monitoring system has been expanded to cover activity level monitoring, with Critical Path Analysis.

#### **Divisional Level Diagnostic Survey incorporating MDGs:**

Diagnostic Survey on divisional level development has been initiated in all DS Divisions to diagnose divisional level priority problems which also captures MDG issues. This has been initiated by the MPRD. Under the Survey 150 completed questionnaires have been received from DS Divisions. We are getting the services of private firm to assist in the data entry. In order to collect MDG related data, a supplementary questionnaire has been added to the survey. As a pilot exercise, Nuwaraeliya District has been selected and all 5 DS Divisions in Nuwaraeliya is to be connected to the District Secretariat and to the National Operations Room, electronically. Under this exercise, divisional level information will be made available in the NOR web and data will be captured at source from DS Divisional Level.

## 5. Contextualising and Localizing MDGs, setting Intermediate targets and Integrating into PRSP / MTEF and National Budget

The MPRD conducted workshops at the national level to localize the MDG targets and indicators, **set country focused national targets at medium term** as well as 2015 compatible with the national planning cycle or PRSP cycle. In this regard, the **Ministry of Health** has initiated action and conducted meetings to discuss the draft localized MDG targets and indicators. Dr. Sunil Senanayake, Director MIS has been appointed as a focal point in the Health Ministry to work on MDGs. Similarly a workshop was organized with the **Ministry of Education** to present the MDGs and to localize the MDG targets and indicators. Dr. Tara De Mel, Secretary, Ministry of Education also attended the workshop. At the end of the workshop draft set of localized MDG targets and Indicators were presented. Mr. Medagama, Senior Advisor has been appointed as focal point in the Ministry of Education to work on MDGs. Similar initiatives have been planned for Ministries of Environment, Women's Affairs and Samurdhi. The setting up medium-term targets at sector level through this process **will help to integrate MDGs into PRSPs, sectoral plans, MTEF and National Budgets.**

## 6. Advocacy, Campaign and Awareness Creation on MDGs at National Level:

### a. International Conference on Engaged Governance:

With the UNDESA support, an International Conference on Engaged Governance was organized at Taj Samudra, Colombo during December 2003. About 18 international participants and 12 local participants participated in the programme. The programme was organized by Dr. Adil Khan and Mr. Yonekawa from UNDESA. The Sri Lankan country presentation was presented by MPRD and focused on **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** as an approach that puts people into picture. The presentation emphasized that the basic services such as health, education, water, sanitation should work for the poor people. MDGs were seen as a Governance framework empowering poor, vulnerable, youths and children. Although this workshop was funded outside the MDG project, it discussed many aspects of MDGs.

### b. Workshop for the officials of the Ministry of Women's Affairs on Performance Indicators and MDGs (Funded by Ministry of Women's Affairs)

On the request of the Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs a one day programme was organized by the MPRD to orient the staff of the Ministry on MDGs and Performance Indicators. The programme was attended by over 40 participants of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The concept of MDGs and the present position, challenges and issue were presented and discussed. The workshop was chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs.

- c. Work shop on gender policy: A Draft Gender Policy was prepared by the then MPDI and this draft was discussed with the stakeholders.
- d. Inclusion of MDGs in the Central Bank Annual Report 2003 and North East Provincial Council News letter.

The MPRD closely coordinated with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to include the Millennium Development Goals as a **“box text” in the Central Bank Annual Report 2003**. Also the **North East Provincial Council (NEPC) News Bulletin** carries an article on the achievements of Millennium Development Goals.

## 7. MDG Advocacy at Sub National Level – Outreach to Provinces, Districts and Divisions :

- a. Advocacy Workshop on MDGs in Vavuniya:

A workshop was organized in the district of **Vavunia** as part of the **MDG advocacy** initiative at sub-national level to introduce MDGs, to integrate them into the sub-national planning framework, to create ownership, monitor MDGs at sub-national level, conduct MDG costing and to discuss targeting interventions to fill the gaps and shortfalls. The workshop also discussed on the ways and means of collecting data, identified data gaps, partnership building strategies and integrating MDGs into district development plans. The workshop was attended by over **50 participants** including public, private sectors, CSOs and UNCT representatives.

- b. Advocacy Workshop on MDGs in Trincomalee

Similarly a workshop was organized in the district of **Trincomalee** as part of the **MDG advocacy** initiative at sub-national level to introduce MDGs, advocacy to integrate them into the sub-national planning framework, to create ownership to monitor MDGs at sub-national level, conduct MDG costing and to discuss targeting interventions to fill the gaps and shortfalls. The workshop also discussed on the ways and means of collecting data, identified data gaps, partnership building strategies and the need for integrating MDGs into district development plans. The workshop was chaired by the Government Agent Trincomalee.

- c. A meeting was held with the Government Agent, **Killinochchi** District including heads of Departments and key leaders and stakeholders in the uncleared areas to discuss the preparatory arrangements for the MDG workshop.

- d. Orientation of MDGs to staff of the District Secretariat, Colombo

On the Request of the District Secretariat, Colombo a training programme was organized by the MPRD to the Development Offices attached to the District Secretariat Colombo and Divisional Secretariat Offices. Development Officers from the Ministry of Western Region Development

and other Ministries in Colombo also attended. The total number of participants was about 80. Although the programme mainly focused on project planning, monitoring and evaluation, one Module focused on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and awareness was created. The cost of this workshop was met by the District Secretariat, Colombo.

e. Orientation of MDGs to Staff of District Secretariat, Ratnapura

On the request of District Secretariat, **Ratnapura** a training programme on Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation was organized to the Development Officers attached to the District Secretariat Ratnapura. 35 participants attended the programme. MPRD introduced the MDGs to the officers as one module.

f. Orientation to officers of the District Secretariat, Jaffna

On the request of the Government Agent, **Jaffna** a training programme was organized to the senior and middle level officers of the District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariats. The programme was on Development Planning, Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. This programme was supported by UNICEF. The MDGs were introduced to the officers. The total number of participants attended this programme was 65.

g. Orientation on MDGs / RBME to District Secretariat, Kurunagala;

On the request of the GA **Kurunagala** an orientation programme was organized by the MPRD to introduce RBME, project report writing and planning techniques. The MDG framework was also introduced as part of this module. The programme was funded by the District Secretariat, Kurunagala.

h. Social Impact Assessment Workshop in N'Eliya District

A workshop was organized in the **N'Eliya** District to orient the officers on the Social Impact Assessment Methodologies by the MPRD under the UNDESA funded by SIA programme. A presentation was made by the MPRD on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This workshop was attended by over 40 participants from public, private sectors and civil society organizations and awareness was created on MDGs.

i. MDG Workshop in Vavuniya for the North East Province

Under the UNDP MDG Project, an MDG launching workshop was organized for the North East Province in Vavuniya. This workshop was attended by over 100 participants. Presentations focused on MDG themes and poverty.

j. A workshop on Micro Credit, for NECORD Project: The NECORD organized a workshop on micro credit for the NECORD Project staff at Trincomalee and invited MPRD to introduce RBME and MDGs. This workshop was

attended by over 40 participants. The workshop also discussed micro-credit as a strategy for Rural Poverty Reduction and developed a Logical Framework Matrix for micro-credit programme.

- k. Workshop on Stakeholder Consultation on Management Information System, Trincomalee:

Under the UNDP funded project on "Creating Dividends of Peace" (SRL/02/007) - a stakeholder consultation workshop on Management Information System (MIS) was organised in **Trincomalee** on 24-01-2004. A presentation was made by MPRD to create awareness on MDGs. About 35 participants from government and civil society attended this workshop.

## 8. Partnership Building with Civil Society

- a. **Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)** organized an open forum on MDGs to discuss the issues and challenges. About 40 participants from academia, private sector and CSOs attended this Open Forum. MPRD presented the achievements MDGs in Sri Lanka with special reference to sub-national status, challenges and issues. This presentation was followed by an extensive discussion.

- b. **A Public Advocacy Workshop** was organized by **Christian Alliance for Social Action (CASA)** to create awareness on MDGs to general public including **school children. School Prefects from leading schools** participated at the MDG awareness workshop. The workshop was followed with a discussion. CASA is keen to work in partnership with MPRD and UNDP to take MDGs forward.

- c. MDG presentation for Poverty Core Group Members, UNDP.

At the request of poverty core group, a presentation was made by the MPRD on the present status of the MDGs and a brief on the UNDP initiated MDG Project. This meeting was attended by over 25 participants including public sector, academia and civil society.

- d. National Evaluation Conference of the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association

An MDG focused **National Evaluation Conference** was held in March 2004 by MPRD with **Sri Lanka Evaluation Association** and about 40 participants from Ministries, Civil Society and Private sector attended the conference.

**Also a training of trainers programme of M&E with focus on MDGs** was organized by obtaining the services of **Dr. Ray Rist, Senior Evaluation Specialist of the World Bank**. Millennium Development Goals were also discussed at the above conference and TOT programme.

- e. Presentation on MDGs to the Data Management Committee at the World Bank

On the request of the World Bank Data Management Committee a presentation was done on the MDGs, its achievements at national and sub-national level and also on the MDG project strategies.

- f. A presentation was made to the **Federation of Chamber of Commerce (FCC)** to explore the ways of involving private sector in MDGs. Follow-up workshops are to be held.

All these workshops, and orientations are intended to create wider awareness on the Millennium Development Goals and to present the status of MDGs in Sri Lanka as well as the sub-national level. Such awareness and campaign is a pre-requisite to mobilise support, localized MDGs and to create national ownership.

## 9. M&E Capacity Building

- a. Distance Education for Public Servants : The MPRD was requested by the **Distance Education for Public Servants Programme** to prepare a **training module on Monitoring and Evaluation concepts and principles**. This module has been prepared and it focuses on the Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation System. The module also gives strong **emphasis to the Millennium Development Goals** (MDG) initiative. Also a **radio programme** was broadcasted on monitoring and evaluation concepts that also covered the Millennium Development Goals. A **CD on M&E** was also developed which emphasises on MDGs. All costs were met from the DEPS programme.
- b. In-house training of MDG Team: The young 10 Development Officers in the MDG Team are being given training on defining MDG indicators and collecting data from secondary sources. The groups were asked to prepare presentations on assigned Millennium Development Goals. Also the Monitoring Consultant has designed an in-house statistical capacity building programme for the MDG/MPRD Team. Three concept papers on Monitoring MDGs, linkages between MDGs and PRSPs, and localizing MDGs were prepared by the MDG consultant. These documents will be discussed as part of the statistical capacity building programme. MS Access Training was organised through a resource person from DCS. Also a Gender Clinic was conducted by Dr. (Ms) Romo Bhattacharyea for the MDG Team. Training should go beyond statistical capacity to include analytical skills, casual analysis, drawing and designing programmes / projects, strategic planning, PRSPs results – based monitoring and evaluation, policy analysis, thematic-policy evaluations and impact assessments to understand the linkages between projects / programmes and MDG targets.

MPRD presently under the Presidential Secretariat with strong linkages with the policy-making bodies such as National Council for Economic Development (NECD) and Strategic Enterprise Management Agency (SEMA) supported by its web-based National Operation Room (NOR) has planned to take MDG initiatives forward, by placing advocacy at sub-

national level through evidenced based Monitoring and Evaluation feedback.