

# **Millennium Development Goals**

## **Workshop Report**

**Held on  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2004  
at  
The Kachcheri Conference Hall  
Kilinochchi**

**Conducted by  
The Monitoring and Progress Review Division of the Presidential Secretariat  
in collaboration with  
The United Nations Development Programme**

**Prepared by  
S. Subajini  
DO / MPRD / PS**

**Reviewed by  
Dr. Anita Nesiiah  
SIA Consultant, MDGs - NE**

# Minutes of the MDGs Workshop held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2004 at 9.00 a.m. at Kachcheri Conference Hall Kilinochchi

Mr. T. Rasanayagam, Government Agent, chaired the workshop

List of Participants,

Name	Designation
1. Mr. Sam. Rahubadda	- National Project Coordinator / MDGs
2. Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy	- Deputy Director / MPRD
3. Dr. A. Shakthevale	- Project Manager / MDGs
4. Dr. Anita Nesiah	- SIA Consultant / MDGs
5. Mrs. N. A. Jeyarajah	- RDO / Pallai
6. Mrs. Montiney	- DCO / AGA Office, Kandawalai
7. Ms. K. Sathiyavathani	- CRPO / AGA Office, Karachchi
8. Ms. Anitha Selvarajah	- CRPO / DS Office, Poonakary
9. Mrs. S. Subajini	- DO / MPDI
10. Mr. A. Ravindranathan	- DO / Kachcheri, Kilinochchi
11. Mr. P. H. Mathias	- DDP / Kachcheri, Kilinochchi
12. Mrs. T. Meera	- ADP / DS Office, Karachchi
13. Mr. N. Panchalingam	- RDO / AGA Office, Karachchi
14. Mr. R. S. Namamoorthy	- Divisional Secretary / Karachchi
15. Mr. K. Parthipan	- DPD / NECORD
16. Mr. M. F. Abdul Aziz	- AD / DFAR, Fisheries
17. Mr. C. Ganeshapillai	- President / NGO
18. Mr. Kawa Hassan	- UNDP / Kilinochchi
19. Mr. S. V. Rasalingam	- ACAD / Agrarian
20. Mr. H. A. Arulgunam	- UNDP
21. Mr. K. Sivarajah	- DO / RD. Kachcheri
22. Mr. V. Shanmuganathan	- SSO / DS Office, Pallai
23. Mr. Aeincavanani	- RDO / Kandawalai
24. Mr. S. Sivasoroopanathapillai	- AGA, Kandawalai
25. Mr. E. T. Shivaraasa	- Secretary / Pradeshiya sabha, Pallai
26. Mr. A. Ketheeswaran	- DO / Kachcheri, Kilinochchi
27. Mr. C. Lorance Thilakar	- TRO
28. Mr. M Uthayakumar	- CRPO / Kachcheri
29. Mr. K. Logeswaran	- AO / TEAS
30. Mr. S. Ramesnathan	- Cordinator / TEAS
31. Ms. N. Kayalvile	- Supervisor / Kachcheri
32. Mrs. J. Sivajini	- DO / Kachcheri
33. Mr. N. Kegatharan	- Statistician / Kachcheri
34. Mr. R. Laxman	- Manager / NRAO
35. Mr. Sritharan	- DO / NRCA
36. Mr. Sanmukananda	- DO / DPS
37. Mr. K. Thanabalasingam	- R / ACLG / Kilinochchi
38. Mr. K. Vairamuthu	- AGA / Poonakari
39. Mr. S. Vinayakamoorthy	- Teedor / Paranthan
40. Mr. R. Ganesharajah	- Consultant / UNDP
41. Mr. Deshal de Mel	- Intern / UNDP
42. Dr. T. Sathiamoorthy	- DPDHS / Kilinochchi
43. Mr. N. Vethanayaham	- AGA / Kachcheri

44. Mr. Amminthan	-	AO / NGO
45. Mr. T. Kandasamy	-	ACLD / DCA
46. Mr. T. Bhahiratharan	-	APO / OXFAM
47. Ms. Jeyanthini	-	Field Officer / DSO / Poonakari
48. Ms. S. Bavani	-	Secretary / Poonakari
49. Mr. V. Sriskandavel	-	PD / DRRS / Kachcheri
50. Mr. S. Sivakumar	-	AI / ADA'S / Office / Kilinochchi
51. Mr. N. Mahendiran	-	ADP / DSO / Palai
52. Mr. P. R. Jayan	-	FORUT
53. Ms. Louise Chamberlain	-	ARR / UNDP
54. Ms. Chaitri Hapugalle	-	Economist / IMF
55. Mr. Murukandy	-	OES / Planning
56. Mr. K. Ganasekaran	-	OES / Kachcheri
57. Mr. T. Munasingam	-	OES / Kachcheri
58. Mr. T. Vimalanathan	-	OES / Plaining

**Welcome address given by Mr. T. Rasanayagam, Government Agent, Kilinochchi District: -**

The population of Kilinochchi District is 14,0405. Chief occupation of the people is agriculture and there are 8 tanks for this purpose. Next to that comes, fishing. There were 6000 families and then it was reduced to 1000 families due to internal displacement and now only 400 families are engaged in fishing. Their income is very low. This group of people come below poverty line.

Before the war cultivation was done in 83000 HA. At present people are unable to cultivate such an extent of land due to bunds put up by the army and the presence of land mines.

Coconut cultivation was done in 16,000 acres earlier and now only 3000 acres of coconut cultivation takes place. When I refer to the Millennium Development Goals, the basic facilities, especially the economic base, has been destroyed.

Earlier, in Paranthan Chemical Corporation and the Saltern Elephant Pass, more than 3500 employees were employed. Now both these institutions are not functioning and raised to the ground and are unable to function.

When we look at the national level, our district is a backward one. There is a slight improvement in animal breeding activities 40% of agricultural population depends on Iranamadu Tank. Earlier 8965 HA were cultivated under irrigated land. Now this has been destroyed.

Out of the student population of nearly 29,500 there are about 3000-drop outs due to reasons such as war and poverty. We have to provide vocational training for this group of students and action is being taken to give them necessary training.

When we speak about development we are experiencing shortage of qualified personnel. Out of 13 Engineers only 3 are available at present. We require the services of skilled, professionally qualified personnel.

Therefore, if the above problems are addressed, we can definitely achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Mr. Sam Rahubadda, Additional Secretary, MPDI** in his lecture referred to the Resolving Poverty Issues in North & East

In September 2000 Sri Lanka, as one of the 191 United Nations member states, committed it self to achieve a set of time - bound and measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environment and gender. These goals have become known as the Millennium Development Goals. (MGDs).

Each goal is a specific commitment to reverse the spread of poverty and disease, in most cases by 2015. While Sri Lanka had achieved independence in 1948, poverty levels still remain high. The higher incidence of poverty in Sri Lanka in the rural sector was estimated to be 24.4% as compared to 18.3% in the urban sector and 12.6% in the estate sector (World Bank).

Poverty incidence in Sri Lanka is 23%. But there are large regional disparities especially in Monaragala & Badulla district (37%). In the North & East it is 50%. Therefore poverty incidence should be analyzed at village levels.

Poverty reduction strategy should be planned in a correct way. e.g. construction of tanks/ it should focus how to get the maximum benefits from the activities. MDGs should display the Rural Development Priorities then we can identify the targets and data.

Training on data collection and training on preparation of database should be essential for improvement of development activities.

To more forward in achieving the MDGs Kilinochchi should analyze the needs of the district and project a framework for Kilinochchi Millennium Development Goals (KMDGs).

**Mr. C. Lourence Thilakar Christie, Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)**

TRO, founded in 1985, is a self-help organization, which provides relief to the war affected people in North & East. The civil war, which decimated the social and physical infrastructure of the North & East, had caused people to lose all hope in their future.

MDGs will be achieved by 2015. I'm happy to say that the administrative organizations jointed hands with the government to help in the collection of information to monitor the achievement of MDGs in Kilinochchi District.

Administrative activities as well as other relevant activities are necessary to achieve the MDGs. It was pointed out that the TRO is not only for rehabilitation but also functioned as a development organization.

In the case of North & East, peace is necessary for development. TRO is an NGOs that takes some basic action in the development process of the North & East.

If we look at the political situation in the North & East, peace is important to achieve the MDGs in the North & East. There is no specific action plan to achieve the MDGs in North & East. Therefore it is necessary to prepare an action plan according to the prevailing situation to achieve the MDGs in the North & East. This is our target to achieve the MDGs in North & East.

Millions of people in the North and the East have become refugees today as a result of the war that has continued for two decades. Farmers are unable to engage themselves in the cultivation of crops. Children have no facilities to receive their education. As such, the TRO has great responsibilities in the upliftment of the life of the people of the North & East.

In Kilinochchi District the chief occupation of the people is agriculture. Next to that is fishing. The district was affected by various emergencies act. There is a decrease in occupation due to displacement and deaths more than thousand. 8000 acres of cultivatable lands are not cultivated, because the lands are located in security zones. Due to that 700 families lost their jobs.

There is restriction in fuel supply and non-availability of cultivatable land. It affects 1200 families. More than 1800 persons lost their jobs due to non-functioning of chemical factories. More than 2000 teachers lost their jobs due to conflict. Therefore there is a decrease (75%) in income.

It is necessary to take actions to solve these problems to achieve the MDGs in North & East. TRO is engaged in providing help at the grass root level, which has benefited nearly a million people to date. This unique structure has enabled TRO to meet the challenges posed during the height of the war and helped the people of the North and East to survive.

**Dr. Shakthievale, Project Manager MDGs** explained the objectives and expectations of the workshop.

A main challenge for Sri Lanka in meeting the MDGs will be lack of data for some of the poorest areas, particularly the North and East. Census and other surveys have been unable to cover large regions and this situation has resulted in a lack of baseline data comparable to the rest of the nation.

The absence of annual reporting on the relevant key indicators is considered as serious constraints to get a comprehensive picture on the Sri Lankan situation on MDGs.

Sri Lanka scores quite high in meeting most of the human development targets at national level in comparison with other developing countries. There are large regional disparities at the national level. Therefore regional and district level data are important to get a comprehensive picture on MDGs in Sri Lanka.

He said that on completion of the workshop participants would be able to

- Familiarize themselves with MDGs, targets and indicators

- Realize why MDGs are important & why we need to monitor them
- Understand the reasons for localizing MDGs indicators
- Identify at least a few of them
- Why we should not be satisfied with National level achievements?
  - Few of the targets are almost achieved at aggregate level
    - Net enrolment ratio in primary education 97%
  - In a few we are well ahead of our neighbours in South Asia
    - Reducing Poverty: - SL 6.6%, India, Bangladesh , Nepal >35%
  - But have we achieved this at desegregate level - Regional and District levels?
    - WP - 9.2%, Uva 31.8% (2002)
    - Colombo 5%, Gampaha 9.2% & Kalutara 17.7%
  - Also disaggregate data on gender, ethnicity, etc.
- List the various sources of authenticated data
- Identify gaps, shortcomings & pitfalls in the available data
- Identify targets and indicators that are not specified (localising) but for which data could be collected.

**Mr. V.Sivagnanasothy, Deputy Director, MPRD/ SP** addressing on the outstanding concerns, pointed out that despite conflict and weakened economic growth, Sri Lanka still scores quite high in meeting most human development targets, in comparison with other developing nations. However, levels of poverty and other indicators such as empowerment of women and seats held in parliament, unemployment etc. vary widely throughout the country and there are many places where conditions are unacceptable. He further stated there are large regional disparity below national level. Therefore monitoring at sub-national level is essential otherwise regional differences will be masked.

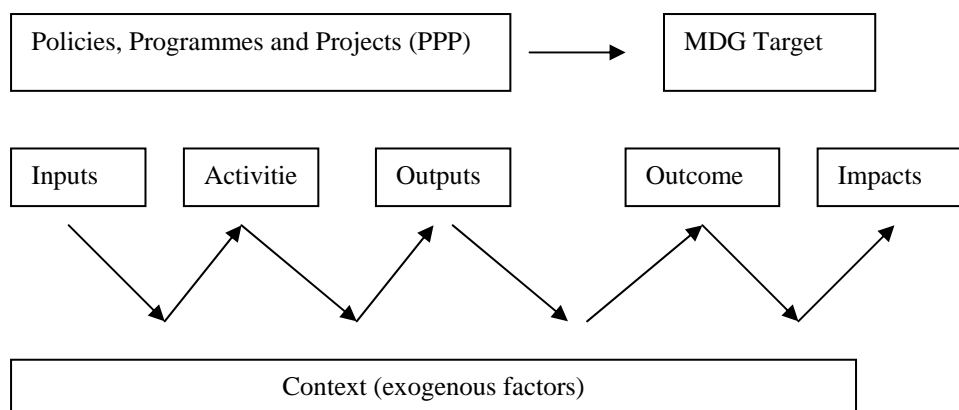
He stated by implementing the following challenges in, meeting the achievement of MDGs in Sri Lanka.

- Suitability of International indicators for local situation
- Data Generation - Frequency and time lag
- Progress by - passes poor , disaggregating indicators - (Geographical , Income group , and gender ) - Regions lagging behind

- Overcoming obstacles
- History repeats - targets often set , but seldom met
- No target set for Goal 8
- No monitoring mechanism in place for Goal 8
- Quality of growth and its distributive nature
- No acceptable definition of poverty line and the need to deal with income and human poverty ( Absolute and Relative poverty)
- Linking PRSPs to MDGs (not work in isolation) and to the Medium Term Expenditure framework or budget.

For the monitoring purposes using result chain to ensure linkages between programme impacts and MDGs outcomes. The M & E framework for MDG is as follows,

### Results Chain: Conceptual Framework



- Use of Results chain to ensure linkages between Programme inputs and MDG outcomes.

He concluded that the above are important for Strategic Direction for Advancing MDGs.

- National Ownership and localization
- Advocacy, Campaign, Publicity and Partnership
- Strengthen National Capacity for Statistics
- Strengthen National Monitoring and Coordination Mechanism
- Feedback to Planning, Budgeting and Policy Process
- Mobilizing Resources for MDG

He further stated formulation of projects and programmes are important to meet the MDGs. Project objectives should be:

- Advocacy to internalize MDGs in the NDF / PRSP
- Institutionalize MDGs as a framework for measuring performance (RBME) - Localize / Contextualize MDGs at the national and sub-national level.
- Ensure the use of MDGs as evidence based - policy advocacy tool linking to the planning, budgeting and policy process to prioritize public investments and advocate pro - poor policies.
- Building partnerships - public / policy advocacy on MDGs.
- Strengthening the MPRD to evolve as a centre of Excellence to monitor, analyze and report progress on MDGs (thematic monitoring, NOR / DMIS).

and the stakeholders are,

- Line Ministries, DCS, CBSL, ERD, Provincial Councils, District Secretariats, UN Agencies, Multilateral agencies (WB), CSOs, academia and media.

and explained the expected project purpose, major outputs and deliverables.

**Mr. P. H. Mathias DDP, Kilinochchi Kachcheri** - He explained the present situation regarding Poverty, Hunger and Environmental Sustainability in the Kilinochchi District. He pointed out the difficulties and recommended suggestions to reduce those difficulties.

(Details annexed - Annexure I)

### **Resident Co-ordinator Address to the North and East MDG Workshop**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 world leaders including Sri Lanka signed the Millennium Declaration. The Declaration recorded the global progress achieved in the struggle for human development and identified some serious threats to development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It concludes: “the central challenge that we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world’s people”. The Declaration further heavily emphasizes peace and security as a key foundation for achieving development.

In addition to laying out particular actions required to address global poverty, the Millennium Declaration articulates the necessary enabling environment, which is founded in just and lasting peace, democratic and participatory governance, respect for human rights and fundamental values such as equality, solidarity, and tolerance.

The Millennium Declaration is an ambitious manifest, stating that no effort will be spared to “free fellow men, women, and children from the abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty”.

After the Millennium Summit, multilateral agencies distilled from the Declaration a set of eight measurable goals with 18 quantitative targets and 48 indicators. These goals were termed the “Millennium Development Goals”. The ‘MDGs’ are a set of results-oriented actions required for an effective and durable reduction of poverty.

The goals are founded in broad international consensus on what needs to be done in order to improve the lives of the world’s poor. Of critical importance is that these goals apply to all countries and communities. They are inclusive of urban and rural areas. They articulate the rights of women, men, and children. They talk about rights and obligations. And they apply in situations of transition and of peace.

Looking at Sri Lanka’s performance at the aggregate level, the country has experienced remarkable progress in key areas of human development such as education and health. However, we know that the picture is much more complicated. There are severe differences in progress between different regions particularly acute in the case of the districts worst affected by the conflict. As you are aware, we are lacking comprehensive data about the situation concerning poverty in much of the North and East of the country. And some of the data we have are not reliable. Today’s workshop will discuss some of those issues.

But addressing national development goals – and setting national, regional and local targets – are about much more than the data. It is about the joint understanding of the measures required to address poverty in a sustainable way. It is about developing coalitions and partnerships, for taking action to improve people’s lives. It is about promoting equity and inclusion. It is about building the foundations for sustainable peace.

Such achievements can only be attained by all stakeholders working together towards the same goals. Sri Lanka needs to set her own targets, based on a joint understanding of the challenges in addressing poverty and overcoming conflict. Every stakeholder can contribute in this process. Each country and community decides on its course, and its stakeholder groups and citizens must be at the center.

Applying the goals and the framework that the MDGs offer will be inextricably linked to processes of local economic development, of creating just and lasting peace, and of meeting the needs of the people.

**The UN Country Team in Sri Lanka remains committed to provide its unstinted support to these lofty goals.**

**Address delivered by Ms. Louise Chamberlain, ARR UNDP**

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I also please add a few words of my own, in support of the process and the issues that we will discuss today.

Some may get the impression that the MDGs are a so-called UN agenda. The Millennium Declaration is a compact for reducing poverty among 191 of the world's countries, and we are proud to have a mandate to **support the implementation** of the declaration. But the goals are owned by the people of the signatory countries.

The idea of the MDGs is not to measure poverty or other indicators for the sake of numbers. We need to have a holistic view of what the problems are, and data are only part of that view. I think we all know that someone living by 500 rupees a day can be poorer than one who lives by 100 rupees a day. In order to make sense of the numbers, we need to understand why.

This workshop is an opportunity to increase our joint understanding of the poverty issues. The Sri Lanka MDG project was started as an effort to follow up to the global commitment to the MDGs, but it is evolving into a local campaign for taking action to improve equality. It is important to emphasize the word local. Different parts of the country have its unique situation, and no part of the country is relieved of challenges.

A campaign to reduce poverty must involve all parts of society, especially the weak and poor, and identify what their concerns are. Together, the people will own not only the problems, but also the solutions. This includes all sectors of society, for example the media, private sector, trade unions, academia and non-government organizations.

Local MDG campaigns and action plans are already emerging in many countries. These campaigns focus not only on the weaknesses, but the strengths that a region has, and they set realistic targets to catch up with the rest of the country, and in some cases do better. Local action is needed, because only with local resources – and local partnerships – can you fully mobilize the potential to achieve development goals.

And frankly, there is no point in setting development goals or targets, globally, nationally, or locally, unless there is a plan and resources for achieving them, developed in partnership by all those who can contribute in taking action.

I think we are here today to get a better understanding of the plight of the people in Kilinochchi and the North, and how, when trying to measure poverty, we can capture the dimensions of poverty for the thousands of people affected by conflict and deprivation. We are asking for your help in this regard, and offer the support and commitment of the United Nations agencies to the people in all of Sri Lanka in the achievement of their development goals.

Today is an opportunity for those of you who see these issues on a daily basis to think of how we together can act to reduce poverty and hunger. This is what the MDGs are all about.

**Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy, DPDHS Kilinochchi**

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2002, 189 World Leaders including Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaranatunge, the President of Sri Lanka signed the Millennium Development Declaration. The Declaration recorded the global progress achieved in the struggle for human development and identified some serious threats to development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

To day, I am presenting the status of the health situation in Kilinochchi in relation to the Millennium Development Goals.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Target: Reduce by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015

	2001	2002	2003
Infant Mortality			
No.of Death/1000 live births	11.6	13.5	20.34
Child Mortality Rate	11.6	13.5	20.34
1-5 years/1000child			

National

- We need to focus on the following
- To improve Primary Health Care Services
  - Staff - Infrastructure
  - Training
  - Health Education
- Maternal and Child Care service
  - Train Staff
  - Strengthening
  - W. B. C. Service
  - Home delivery
- Nutritional Staff to be increased
  - Thiriposa - will self reduce poverty
  - Corn soya blend - Awareness
  - Low Birth Weight (LBW)
- Strengthening of family Planning
- Improve Curative Service
  - Pediatric unit staff establishment
  - Improve referral system
    - Training on referral in time
    - Frenepoil Facilities

**Maternal Deaths Reduction by Three Fourths**

	2001	2002	2003
Maternal Mortality rate	9	8	13.6
No. Of Maternal deaths /10000 births	-	-	-

### Activities to be undertaken

1. Establish a specialized unit.
2. Primary health care service improvement
3. Family planning service
4. Provide optimal maternal care service being delivery
5. Staff recruitment

### HIV / AIDS

- 2003 - one case reported,
- Reason of HIV / AIDS epidemic in Kilinochchi Division.
  - ◆ Returnees
  - ◆ Free movement of people
  - ◆ Awareness among risk group
  - ◆ Poverty
  - ◆ Unemployment

### Prevention Programme

- ◆ Education - public
- ◆ Screening - returnees
- ◆ Establish a STD unit

### Malaria Control

Year	Total	PV	PF	Mix	Deaths	
1995	72183	13057	2533	10		
1996	182146	23023	10740	20		
1997	255393	24350	16343	18	261	Kilinochchi + Mullaitivu
1998	203331	27960	16527	88	132	Kilinochchi + Mullaitivu
1999	214885	33940	26512	240	32	
2000	196546	24909	22235	182	24	
2001	146696	17581	4358	50	12	
2002	121346	10533	896	18	64	
2003	85626	1354	50	-	Nil	
2004					Nil	First 6 months

Statistics: - Malaria - Kilinochchi

### Control Programme

- Will continue as present
- Improve surveillance activity
- Strengthening M. C. P

## **Tuberculosis**

### **Problem**

- Increase the case incidence
  - Poverty
  - National status
- Non availability of Tuberculosis control programme unit

### **Control Programme need to**

- ◆ Establish a unit
- ◆ Potently eliminate
- ◆ Early detection - Awareness programme
  - Health education

### **Provide Essential drugs in time**

- ◆ Inadequate Supply
- ◆ Poor storage facilities
- ◆ Transport of drugs - vehicle
- ◆ Doctors, Pharmacist, Dispensary shortage

### **Activities to be carried out**

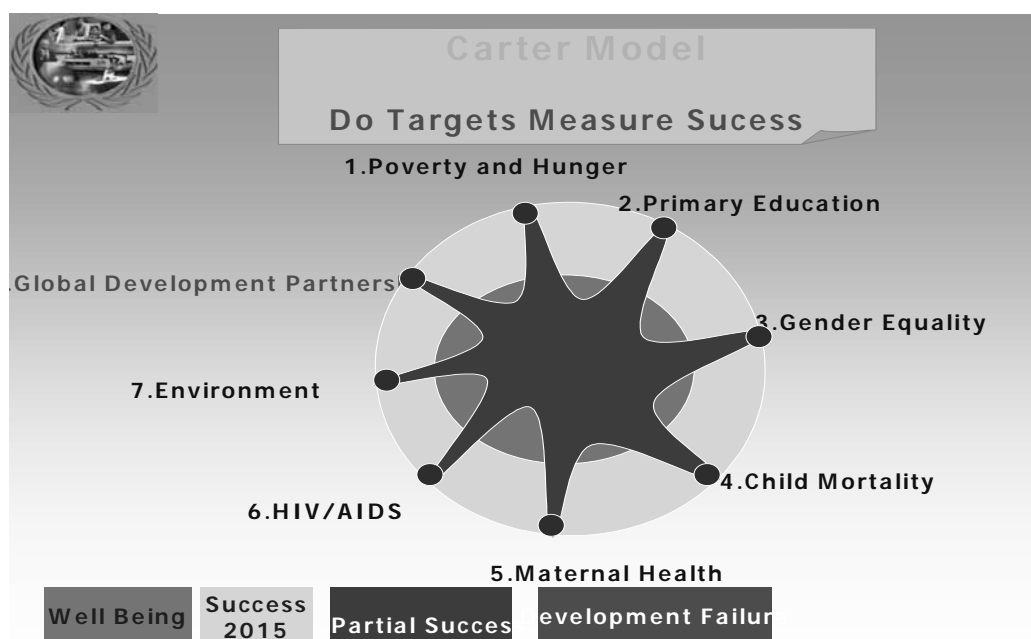
- ◆ Staff appointment
- ◆ Improve storage and transport facilities
- ◆ Ensure adequate drugs supply from medical supply division

## **Chaitri Hapugalle, Economist - IMF**

International Monetary Fund Resident Representative's Office, Sri Lanka.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to represent the IMF – Sri Lanka and bring the good wishes of the Resident Representative, Mr . Jeremy Carter to the Govt. Agent of Kilinochchi and the participants of the MDGs Workshop.

I also take this opportunity to gift books through the good offices of the Govt. Agent to the Jaffna University Library from the office of the IMF. This is a small gesture and a symbol to say that shared responsibility is at the core of the Millennium Declaration and IMF looks forward to build this link with the people of the North East. In my presentation I will go in-depth and bring out how we could finance and help improve the status of the health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation and other relevant key infrastructure.



## UN Declaration and Goal 8

- The Human Development Report 2003 clearly identifies the importance of Goal 8 by stating that “If Goal 8 is ignored, it is hard to imagine in the poorest countries achieving Goals 1-7.”
- Shared responsibility is at the core of the Millennium Declaration, which resolves
  - A) Develop “strong partnerships” to promote a more open and equitable system of international finance and trade,
  - B) Increase development assistance
  - C) Enhance international commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction.

- Prime responsibility for human development rests with the governments of poor countries, there is much agreement that they cannot achieve this on their own.
- A key component of the requirement for human development is large injections of donor financing to invest much more heavily in health, education, agriculture, water, sanitation and key infrastructure.

### **Goal 8 Partnerships**

- Financial resources
- Trade and for reform of the global system of trade
- Human resources
- Knowledge and new technology
- Policies and reforms

### **MDG Goal 8 Developing Global Partnerships**

Target 12-Calls for an open rule based, predictable, non discriminatory trading and Financial systems, more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction, and relief for the debt problems of developing countries.

Target 13-Address the special needs of the least developed countries, includes tariff and quota Free access for least developed countries' exports, enhanced program relief for HIPCs, and cancellation

Target 14-Address the special needs of the landlocked countries and small island developing states Programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing countries through ratio International measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

Target 15-Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national, International measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Target 16-In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent productive work for youth.

Target 17-In cooperation with Pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs to developing countries.

Target 18-In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technology Information and communications.

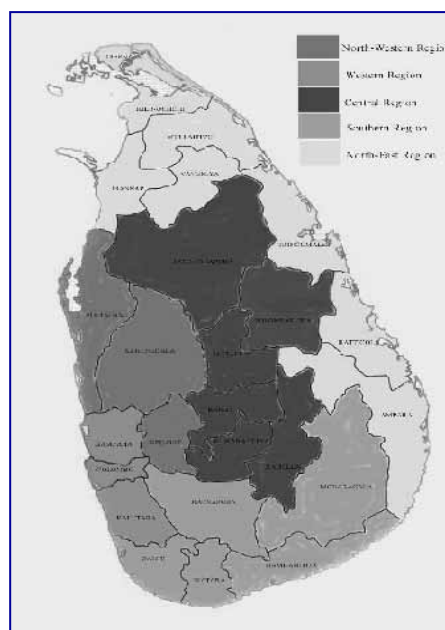
### **Attracting global partners**

#### **Sri Lankan Competitive and Comparative Advantages**

- Hub Strategic Access To The Indian Market
- Literate
- Competitive Labour Force
- Open Economy
- Attractive & Transparent Laws
- Good Infrastructure
- High Quality of Life

#### **Competitiveness of the North East**

- Availability of cheap and abundant labor
- BOI Target Sectors – Hotels, Fisheries, Housing, Hospitals, Schools.
- Trading Agreements–India, Pakistan



## **Selected Major BOI Companies**

### **Jaffna District**

- Koolair Venture Power (Pvt.) Ltd. UAE/ Sri Lanka Diesel Power Generation Plant

### **Ampara District**

- Informatics Agrotech (Pvt.) Ltd. Sri Lanka Cultivation & Processing of Cashew
- Macfa Apparels (Pvt.) Ltd. Sri Lanka Garments

### **Batticaloa District**

- East Lanka Garments (Pvt.) Ltd. Sri Lanka Garments

### **Trincomalee District**

- Fuji Cement Co. (Lanka) Ltd. Sri Lanka Cement
- Tokyo Cement Co. (Lanka) Ltd. Japan/Sri Lanka Cement
- Prima Ceylon Ltd. Singapore Flour & Flour based products
- Bismil Garments (Pvt.) Ltd. Sri Lanka Garments
- M.S.K Garments (Pvt.) Ltd. Sri Lanka Garments

Source: Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

## **Why should the MDGs be of a concern to the North East?**

- Reduce Regional Disparities in Development
- Important to overcome obstacles related to ODA, Market Access, Debt relief, and Technology Transfer