

Minutes of the MDGs Workshop held on 18th May 2004 at 9.00 a.m. at Kachcheri Conference Hall Trincomalee

Mr. M. D. A. G. Rodrigo, Government Agent, Trincomalee chaired the workshop.

List of Participants,

Name	Designation
1. Mr. V.S. Swaminathan	- Deputy Secretary, Provincial Planning Secretariat
2. Mr. B. Sivapiragasam	- Asst. Director, Provincial Planning Secretariat
3. Mr. S. Suntharalinkam	- Asst. Director, Ministry of Education
4. Mr. V. Gowritharan	- Asst. Director, Provincial Planning Secretariat
5. Mr. Philip Manuel	- Project Officer, OFAM
6. Mr. S.P. Senarathne	- Health Education Officer, DPDHS Office
7. Mr. T. Manikkavasaham	- Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Department
8. Ms. Sharmila Diyanilla	- Administrative Officer, DOA
9. Mr. B. M. K. W. Kumarasinghe	- DS/ Padavisripura
10. Mr. M.C.M. Sheriff	- Divisional Secretary, D.S. Kinniya
11. Mr. E.M.D.B. Ekanayake	- Divisional Secretary, D.S. Seruwila
12. Mr. H.A.A. Chaminda	- Divisional Secretary, D.S. Gomarankadawala
13. Mr. T. Chandran	- Statistician, Kachcheri
14. Mr. V.T. Yogarajah	- Programme Officer, UNDP
15. Mr. B.S. Gamage	- Assistant Commissioner Samurdhi, Kachcheri
16. Mr. A. Vijayananthamoorthy	- ADE, Prov. Dept of Education NEP
17. Mr. S. Rajanathan	- DD, Sewalanka Foundation
18. Mr. A.S.M. Fayis	- Asst. Director, DS Murthur
19. Mr. A.C.M. Mussil	- ADP, DS Morawewa
20. Ms. S. Subajini	- DO, MPDI
21. Mr. A. Rajaratnam	- Zone Coordinator, CARE International TR
22. Mr. S. Sivakumar	- ADA (Ext)
23. Ms. Rohini Singarayer	- Director, CIRM
24. Mr. R. Umakanthan	- DPD, NECORD
25. Dr. E.G. Gnanakunalan	- DPDHS Office, Dept. of Health
26. Mr. A. Nadarajah	- D.S. Muthur
27. Mr. J. Husaideen	- PD, DRCC, Kachcheri
28. Mr. H.K.S. Hettiarachchi	- PMES, NEAP
29. Ms. T. Sutharshana	- DO, DPS
30. Mr. H.W. Yasaratna	- DS, Morawera
31. Mr. M. Sivakumar	- DD, CEA/RO
32. Mr. A.M. Jesuraja	- Accountant, Kachcheri
33. Mr. M.M.J. Bandara	- Development Officer, DPS Kachcheri
34. Ms. Brita Helleland	- Head of Office, UNHCR
35. Mr. N. Kovintharajan	- DO, DPS, Kachcheri
36. Mr. E.M.S.B. Eka	- DO, DPS
37. Ms. Gabriella Elroy	- UNICEF, Trincomalee
38. Mr. N. Pralanavan	- Development Officer, DPS, Kachcheri
39. Mr. V. Kengatharan	- Development Officer, DPS, Kachcheri
40. Dr. J.R. Prashanth	- MOH
41. Mr. H.W. Yasaralina	- DS, Morawera

42. Dr. S. Arulkumaran	-	MOH
43. Mr. V. Yoosuff	-	DS Thampalagam
44. Mr. F. Johnson	-	Asst. Director, Provincial Planning Secretariat
45. Mr. J.J.C. Philician	-	Asst. Director, Provincial Planning Secretariat
46. Mr. S. Sivapala	-	Asst. Director, Planning, Thampalagamam
47. Mr. V. Geevananthan	-	District Press Officer, Information Department
48. Mr. S. Arumainayaham	-	Divisional Secretary
49. Mr. U. Anura S Weeraratne	-	Asst. Director, Kachcheri
50. Mr. P. Sundaralingam	-	DDP, Kachcheri
51. Mr. T. Thavasilingam	-	Consultant/ NGOs
52. Mrs. K. Vijaiyathan	-	ADP, Divisional Secretary
53. Mr. M.D.U.G. Rodrigo	-	Govt. Agent
54. Ms. S. Yogeswary	-	DO, DPS

Welcome address given by Mr. Rodrigo, Government Agent, Trincomalee District: -

This is the day to discuss Macro level Millennium Development Goals and translate them into Micro level activities. The workshop will contribute on raising awareness to the local stakeholders, policy makers and implementers.

Today's theme of the workshop the Millennium Development Goals were discussed and decided at the UN in the 2000, and the member countries were asked to proceed with the work plans to achieve the objectives at national level.

International community at the highest level - the Heads of State and Government convened at the Millennium Summit - to adopt the target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, and so lifting more than 1 billion people out of it, by 2015.

There are many challenges to achieve the goals at the district level. Lack of information system, insufficient capacity of the government institutions, lack of awareness of the civil society and lack of private sector initiatives are some of them.

All sectors need to contribute to achieve these goals. There are many areas that need improvement such as, the key services in access, in quantity and, in quality. A set of development targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), call for halving the global incidence of poverty, and broad improvements in human development by 2015.

The goal of the above can't be achieved unless poor people receive wider access to affordable, and better quality services in health, education, water, sanitation and electricity. Two of the most important ways poor people can escape poverty will remain elusive to many. Without such improvements in services, freedom from illness and freedom from illiteracy.

Mobilizing to reach the 2015 development goals will require both a substantial increase in financial provisions and more effective use of all resources, internal and external. This will also help improve their policies and institutions.

The World Bank has its strategy for long-term growth and poverty reduction has two pillars: improving the investment climate; and empowering and investing in people.

The following are the critical factors to be addressed for achieving the MDGs.

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV / AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

For the district it is also important that conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building, humanitarian assistance, need to become more effectively integrated. The Government's role in this is in defining objectives, setting standards and monitoring. Success in meeting the challenges in achieving MDGs ultimately comes down to meeting the needs of peoples.

The people are nevertheless telling us that our past achievements are not enough, given the scale of the challenges we face. We must do more, and more and we must do it better. A set of indicators should be defined to monitor the progress of the efforts.

Sustained and broad-based growth also requires investments in health and education, as well as other social policies. Education is the key to the new global economy, from primary school up to life-long learning. It is central to development, social progress and human freedom.

Aside from the above the following aspects should be integrated in development plans.

- Upgrading slums
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Strengthening peace operations
- Environment sustainability
- Preserving forests, fisheries and biodiversity
- Building a new ethic stewardship

Partnership with the private sector, civil society, national and international NGOs foundations have also become extremely important to our recent successes and it should continue in the future for the development in achieving Millennium Development Goals in our district. Once again I must thank the officers from the Monitoring and Progress Review Division of the Presidential Secretariat, and provincial as well as other representatives from various department and agencies for the valuable contribution to this workshop.

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

In September 2000, Sri Lanka as one of the 198 United Nations Member States committed itself to address critical Human Development issues and agreed upon 8 development goals to be achieved in 2015. The 8 goals were translated into 18 targets and 48 indicators and these were defined to monitor the achievement of MDGs.

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
- List the various sources of authenticated data
- Identify gaps, shortcomings & pitfalls in the available data
- Recognize the need for data collection.

Resident Co-ordinator Address at the North and East MDGs Workshop

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 21st 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 dehumanizing 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 fundamentals 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.

Mr. V. Swaminathan (SLPS - I), Deputy Chief Secretary - Planning, Provincial Planning Secretariat, North East Province, Trincomalee.

On NEPC's behalf, I am pleased to thank the Government Agent Trincomalee District for having extended the invitation for the MDGs workshop on 18th May 2004.

In many ways the NEPC, GA and divisional secretaries in NEP co-operate to achieve the targets towards the upliftment of the war affected, marginalised population in NEP.

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of results oriented actions required for an effective and durable reduction of poverty. The goals apply to all countries and communities and they are inclusive of urban and rural areas. They articulate the rights of women, men and children. They talk about rights and obligations.

In Sri Lanka global MDGs are planned coordinated and implemented by the Ministry of Policy Development & Implementation, that is directly under her Excellency the President.

The experience that the NEPC had in the past was that the policies decided at international and national levels were not suitable to the conflict affected North East Provinces. For better implementation and impact of the benefits to the target groups a lot of adjustments have to be made appropriately for the ground condition in NEP.

In order to fill the gap I wish to suggest that the Policy Development Ministry could establish a cell at the Chief Secretariat in NEP and this will really be a workable mechanism to ensure the implementation & benefits to the NEP population.

On behalf of the Hon. Governor & Chief Secretary I am in a position to assure the corporation of NEPC for the genuine efforts, which will ensure quality living conditions to the NEP population

Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy, Deputy Director, MPRDPS. The background to the framework of MDGs was explained.

In September 2000, Sri Lanka as one of the 198 United Nation Member states committed itself to achieve a set of time bound measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. These goals are known as the MDGs.

The 8 goals were translated into 18 targets and 48 indicators were defined to monitor the achievement of these targets and goals.

He 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 by women in parliament, unemployment etc. vary widely through out the country. There are many places where conditions have to be improved and there are large regional disparities below national level. Therefore monitoring the national level is essential otherwise regional differences will be masked.

He concluded with the following challenges to be met for the achievement of MDGs in Sri Lanka.

- Suitability of International indicators for local situation
- Data Generation - Frequency and time lag
- Progress, by 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.
- 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)

Dr. E. G. Gnanakunalan, Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services Trincomalee:

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Explained the indicators regarding to the MDGs in Trincomalee District as follows,

MDGs Indicators - Trincomalee District		
Goals	2002	2003
3. Poverty		
Underweight Children	-	31.3%
4. Gender		
Sex Ratio - Primary Education	1:0.97	-
Sex Ratio - Secondary Education	1:0.93	-
Sex Ratio - Tert. Education	1.04:1	-
% of Bread Winners	11.76%	-
5. Child Mortality		
Infant mortality rate	-	6.5
6. Environment		
Forest Cover	-	30%
Access to safe water	-	14.6
Access to proper sanitation	-	41.5
Irrigated land on % of crop	-	35.8

Dr. Gamini De Silva Monitoring Consultant MDG - Explained the importance of MDGs and localizing the indicators in relation to the Sri Lankan situation.

He said that MDGs provided a measurable set of indicators for monitoring development and commended the international support given towards the campaign to fight against poverty. It brought vulnerable areas into focus and drew attention when analyzed at disaggregated levels.

He said that some of the indicators are relevant to Sri Lanka but some other indicators are more relevant to the Sri Lanka situation. When localizing the following concerns should be considered.

- I. It should be within the 'scope' of suggested list of indicators.
- II. Availability of data.
- III. Keeping ownership of data and indicators with the NGO / Line Ministers.
- IV. Keeping focus on outcome as in MDGs.
- V. Goals and targets should be limited in number.
- VI. Be stable - overtime.
- VII. Communicate clearly to a broad audience.
- VIII. Help trigger action.

Dr. Anita Nesiah, SIA Consultant - NE, explained the Framework for the Application of MDGs in the NE Context”.

The Ministry in partnership with the UNDP and other related agencies act as advocates to influence the executive, the legislative and the civil society to share common objectives to meet the MDGs by 2015.

There is a need to build partnerships from grass-roots level to bi-lateral, multi-lateral and UN agencies to link advocacy to the policy implementing process.

Advocacy related to MDGs could be further promoted with the partnership of bi-lateral, multi-lateral and UN agencies, government departments, INGOs/NGOs, business Entrepreneurs and private sector organizations like the Chamber of Commerce.

There is a need to raise awareness on MDGs by campaigning at all levels to enhance policy making/changes in the related sectors in the government departments to reach the set targets. Pradeshिया Sabhas, Divisional, Provincial and National level officers were encouraged to hold similar workshops so that there will be transference of the messages given at the workshop. Special reference was made to the factors affecting civil society that need to be taken into consideration, especially in the North-East. It was pointed out that the socio-economic, cultural and related factors were affected due to the conflict situation. As such it was noted that the challenge to achieve the MDGs targets was greater.

There was good interaction between the participants and the speaker. The questions relating to some of the social issues were taken up by the representatives from the relevant departments at the district level Awareness raising in schools, religious institutions and the role of the media, and the importance of capacity building were discussed. These would in turn contribute to influencing policy and the creation of institutional memory.

This discussion led to continued interaction and dialogue at the workshop in the afternoon.

The session was on Information, Data Collection, Analysis Dissemination and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Questions were given to the groups and the participants divided themselves into three groups and came up with info relating to the workshop.

Attached see documents relating to the session and the working groups.

Group I

1.	Mr. Sivakumar	-	Environmental Office
2.	Mr. R. Umakanthan	-	DDP, NECORD, Kachcheri
3.	Mr. V. Gowritharan	-	ADP, Provincial, Planning
4.	Mr. J. J. Philician	-	ADP, Provincial, Planning
5.	Mr. S. Sundaralingam	-	ADP, M / Education
6.	Mrs. K. Wijayathasan	-	ADP, T& G
7.	Mr. Anura Weeraratna	-	ADP, Kachcheri
8.	Mr. M. C. M. Shariff	-	DS, Kinniys
9.	Ms. Brita Helleland	-	Head of Office, UNHCR
10.	Dr. Rohan	-	MOH, Tricomalee

Group II

1.	Mr. S. Suntharalingam	-	Asst. Director, Ministry of Education
2.	Mr. Philip Manuel	-	Project Officer, O&FAM
3.	Mr. S.P. Senaratne	-	Health Education Officer, DPDHS Office
4.	Mr. T. Manikkavasaham	-	Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Department
5.	Ms. Sharmila Diyanilla	-	Administrative Officer, DOA
6.	Mr. E.M.D.B. Ekanayake	-	Divisional Secretary, D.S. Serawila
7.	Mr. H.A.A. Chaminda	-	Divisional Secretary, D.S. Gomarankadawala
8.	Mr. T. Chandran	-	Statistician, Kachcheri
9.	Mr. V.T. Yogarajah	-	Programme Officer, UNDP
10.	Mr. B.S. Gamage	-	Assistant Commissioner Samurdhi, Kachcheri

Group III

1.	Mr. A.S.M. Fayis	-	Asst. Director, DS Murthur
2.	Mr. A.C.M. Mussil	-	ADP, DS Morawewa
3.	Ms. S. Subajini	-	DO, MPDI
4.	Mr. A. Rajaratnam	-	Zone Coordinator, CARE International TR
5.	Dr. E.G. Gnanakunalan	-	DPDHS Office, Dept. of Health
6.	Mr. A. Nadarajah	-	D.S. Muthur
7.	Mr. J. Husaideen	-	PD, DRCC, Kachcheri

Group IV

1.	Mr. N. Kovintharajan	-	DO, DPS, Kachcheri
2.	Mr. E.M.S.B. Eka	-	DO, DPS
3.	Ms. Gabriella Elroy	-	UNICEF, Trincomalee
4.	Mr. N. Pralavan	-	Development Officer, DPS, Kachcheri
5.	Mr. V. Kengatharan	-	Development Officer, DPS, Kachcheri
6.	Dr. J.R. Prashanth	-	MOH
7.	Mr. H.W. Yasaralina	-	DS, Morawera
8.	Mr. V. Yoosuff	-	DS Thampalagam
9.	Mr. F. Johnson	-	Asst. Director, Provincial Planning Secretariat
10.	Mr. J.J.C. Philician	-	Asst. Director, Provincial Planning Secretariat

**News item Reported in the Virakesari on Wednesday 26th May 2004.
Workshop on Millennium Development Goals**

The Workshop on Millennium Development Goals in the North East was conducted under the chairmanship of Government Agent / District Secretary Mr. A. G. Rodrigo in Trincomalee recently. The Monitoring and Progress Review Division of the Presidential Secretariat Officers conducted it for Heads of Departments. The lectures were delivered by Dr. Anita Nesiya, SIA Consultant, MDG - NE Dr. Gamini De Silva, Monitoring Consultant, MDG, Dr. Sakthivale, Project Manager, MDG, Mr. Sivagnanasothy, Deputy Director, MPRDPS, Mr. V. S. Swaaminathan, Deputy Chief Secretary, Planning, NEPC and Dr. Gnanakulalan, DPDHS, on Poverty, Education, Hunger, Diseases, Illiteracy, Environmental degradation, Discrimination against Women, Child protection, Health, HIV / AIDS, Social Security and Global Partnership.