

**Minutes of the MDGs Workshop held on 17th May
2004 at 9.00 a.m. at Agrarian Service Centre
Conference Hall Vavuniya**

Mr. S. Ragunathapillai, Additional Government Agent, Vavuniya chaired the workshop.

List of Participants,

	Name	-	Designation
1.	Mr. S. Ragunathapillai	-	Addl. GA, Vavuniya
2.	Mr. Jim Worrall	-	UNHCR, Vavuniya
3.	Dr. A. Shakthievale	-	Project Manager, MDGs
4.	Dr. Gamini de Silva	-	Monitoring Consultant MDGs
5.	Dr. Anita Nesiah	-	SIA Consultant MDGs - NE
6.	Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy	-	Deputy Director, MPRDPS
7.	Dr. A. Ketheeswaran	-	DPDHS / Vavuniya
8.	Mr. Cifre Mc Connachie	-	FC / UNDP, Vavuniya
9.	Mr. Todd Anderson	-	HCR / Vavuniya
10.	Mr. K. Bernard	-	President / NCOE
11.	Mr. I. A. Hameed	-	Field Officer / UNICEF
12.	Mr. A. E. Rebecca Miranda	-	Por. Asst. / WFP
13.	Mr. K. A. Srikrishnaraj	-	Dean / Applied Science
14.	Mrs. U. Peraisoody	-	ADP/DPS
15.	Mr. Kishan Ratnayake	-	Pre. Associate / UNDP
16.	Dr. S. S. Sivanathan	-	AD / AP&H
17.	Mr. S. Paramakulasingam	-	DDP / DPS
18.	Mrs. J. Jehanathan	-	ADA / Ext.
19.	Mrs. V. Kirubasuthan	-	ADP / DS, Vavuniya
20.	Mr. S. Mauravathem	-	News Reporter
21.	Mr. R. Sathiyamoorthy	-	AO / TRO
22.	Mr. George Kumar	-	Information Officer WFP
23.	Mrs. Indrani Mahalingam	-	CO / WDC
24.	Mr. K. S. Sivapatham	-	DD / I Province
25.	Mr. Rohan Dasanayake	-	ADS / Vavuniya South
26.	Mr. V. Mugunthan	-	DO / DPS
27.	Mr. G. Subramaniam	-	DEO / DPS
28.	Ms. T. Muthaiah	-	DO / DPS
29.	Mr. N. T. Sathiyaseelan	-	EDO / DS, Vavuniya
30.	Mrs. S. Subajini	-	DO / MPRDPS
31.	Mrs. V. R. A. Oswald	-	ZDE, Vavuniya
32.	Mr. Sunil De Saram	-	AD / MPRDPS
33.	Mrs. T. Manogararajah	-	DO / DPS
34.	Mr. P. Suthanthirarajah	-	DC / FORUT

Welcome address given by Mr. Rangunathapillai, Additional GA, Vavuniya District: -

I deem it a pleasure to be present amongst you today representing the Govt. Agent at the inauguration ceremony of the one-day workshop on Millennium Development Goals. Since the Govt. Agent is out of the district today he is unable to participate at the workshop. However, he has requested me to convey his best wishes for a successful workshop.

Firstly, I wish to thank the Monitoring and Progress Review Division of the Presidential Secretariat and the Secretariat for Millennium Development Goals for organizing this important workshop at Vavuniya to enlighten the officials and NGOs who have to take an active part in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. I thank all the Departmental Officers and NGO officials for the kind participation.

We are all aware that at the United Nations Millennium Summit held in September 2000, the leaders of the world, who assembled there, agreed and committed themselves to set a time frame and target to combat poverty, hunger, diseases, illiteracy, discrimination against women etc. They are referred to as the Millennium Development Goals. All the member countries of the United Nations are bound to implement the goals and in Sri Lanka, the Monitoring and Progress Review Division of the Presidential Secretariat is in charge of the implementation. The line ministries, Provincial Councils, UN Agencies, Government Agents, Divisional Secretaries, Sector Departments, NGOs have a vital role to play in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and all of us should dedicate ourselves for the successful implementation. I have to emphasize that the state officials and NGO officials should have a thorough knowledge regarding the Millennium Development Goals and this workshop will enlighten them to a great extent.

Before concluding my address, I take this opportunity to thank and welcome all officers from the Monitoring and Progress Review Division of the Presidential Secretariat and the MDGs secretariat, who have come to Vavuniya amidst their numerous duties. Thank you.

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, Mr. Jim Worrall, UNHCR - 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. Sivagnanasothy. Deputy Director, MPRDPS. Explained the background to the framework of MDGs.

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 disparity 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)

Mrs. V. R. A. Oswald, Zonal Director of Education - Explained the current situation of Primary Education with regard to

- Teaching and learning process.
- Infrastructure
- The school environment
- Community involvement in education.

She highlighted the problems facing Vavuniya District and the following recommendations were suggested.

1. Provision of building facilities in schools.
2. Provision of basic facilities in schools
3. Provision of furniture and equipment in schools
4. Co-curricular Activities (primary play field, musical instruments etc.)
5. Child centered and activity based education.
6. Community involvement (awareness programmes for parents, home visits etc.)

She further stated gender equality as well as opportunities for empowering women is essential for economic stability and the following recommendation were suggested for gender equality and empower women.

1. Promote gender equality in enrolment and achievement
2. Eliminate gender stereotypes
3. Socialize girls and boys in a non-violent environment
4. Encourage to give respect for each others rights, dignity and equality
5. Provide girl child - friendly facilities, curricula, textbooks and teaching - learning processes.

Dr. A. Ketheswaran, Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services Vavuniya -

Explained the Maternal Health Status in Vavuniya District. It was stated that the following were the major constraints in reducing the maternal and infants deaths in Vavuniya district.

- I. Lack of adequate public health midwives at grassroots level.
- II. Lack of adequate health institutions with labour room facilities, higher number of home deliveries
- III. Lack of adequate basic medical equipment at the hospitals
- IV. Lack of adequate ambulance and vehicles for MOH.
- V. Lack of communication facilities between health institutions
- VI. Inadequate access to maternal and child care in certain rural areas.
- VII. Inadequate infrastructure facilities in rural areas to conduct the MCH clinics
- VIII. Lack of adequate data on MCH in vacant PHM area
- IX. Late registration of pregnant mothers at MCH clinics
- X. Lack of specialized care for neo-natal period

The following proposals were suggested to reduce the maternal and infant mortality

- I. Filling the PHM vacancies
- II. Construction of Maternity homes
- III. Provision of basic medical equipment to all maternity homes
- IV. Provision of ambulance to the hospitals with maternity homes
- V. Provision of communication facilities
- VI. Construction of hospitals with maternity in homes remote areas
- VII. Strengthen the family planning services. Increase contraceptive use
- VIII. Measures to improve the maternal and child nutrition

He highlighted the spread of HIV / AIDS, the Malaria situation, Tuberculosis and the results of the nutritional survey in Vavuniya District.

Dr. Gamini De Silva Monitoring Consultant MDG - Explained the importance of MDGs and localizing the indicators 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 Nesiya, 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/change in the related sectors in the government departments to reach the set targets. Pradeshiya 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. | Dr. A. Ketheeswaran | - | DPDHS / Vavuniya |
| 2. | Mrs. V. R. A. Oswald | - | ZDE, Vavuniya |
| 3. | Mr. Rohan Dasanayake | - | ADS / Vavuniya South |
| 4. | Mrs. V. Kirubasuthan | - | ADP / DS, Vavuniya |
| 5. | Dr. S. S. Sivanathan | - | AD / AP&H |
| 6. | Mrs. Indrani Mahalingam | - | CO / WDC |
| 7. | Cifre Mcconnachie | - | FC / UNDP, Vavuniya |
| 8. | Mr. George Kumar | - | Information Officer WFP |

Group II

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. N. T. Sathiyaseelan | - | EDO / DS, Vavuniya |
| 2. | Mr. K. A. Srikrishnaraj | - | Dean / Applied Science |
| 3. | Mr. A. E. Rebecca Miranda | - | Por. Asst. / WFP |
| 4. | Mr. R. Sathiyamoorthy | - | AO / TRO |
| 5. | Mr. Sunil De Seram | - | AD / MPRDPS |
| 6. | Tod Andarsan | - | HCR / Vavuniya |
| 7. | Mr. K. S. Sivapatham | - | DD / I Province |

Group III

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. U. Peraisoody | - | ADP/DPS |
| 2. | Mr. K. Bernard | - | President / NCOE |
| 3. | Mrs. J. Jehanathan | - | ADA / Ext. |
| 4. | Mr. I. A. Hameed | - | Field Officer / UNICEF |
| 5. | Mr. V. Mugunthan | - | DO / DPS |
| 6. | Mr. G. Subramaniam | - | DEO / DPS |
| 7. | Mrs. S. Subajini | - | DO / MPRDPS |

The following questions were given and the three working groups discussed the answers. All groups made their presentation at the plenary.

➤ **Information: Data Collection, Analysis, Dissemination and Monitoring & Evaluation**

• Could you identify the existing data sources for the MDGs?								
Groups	Poverty	Education	Gender	Child Mortality	Maternal Health	Disease HIV/AIDS Others	Environment	Social Securities
I.	- DS Office - Kachcheri - UN agencies - NGOs / CBOs -Project Directors Office	Zonal provincial Schools Education Office DS Office UN Agencies NGOs / CBOs	Schools Zonal & Provincial Education Office DS Office	Hospitals MOH Office DPDHs Office Registrar	Hospitals MOH Office DPDHs Office Registrar	Hospitals Specialized Companies Private Clinics	DS Office Kachcheri Local Government Authorities Forest Department	District Secretariat Divisional Secretariat NGOs
II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Secretariat - Divisional Secretariat - NGOs - ACAS - DPDHS <p style="text-align: center;">} Poverty, Environment, Social Security</p>							
III.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Census - Statistic Hand Book - Department Reports - Grama Niladhari, Social Development Offices - PHI, Midwives 							
• What other data (survey data, administrative records.....) do you have?								
Group I			Group II			Group III		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Village development survey - Own survey reports - Local level survey 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGOs / INGO / UNV 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Own Survey reports - WFP, UN Agencies reports - Local level survey - Department analysis - Status reports 		
• Could you identify the data gaps?								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of staff - Incomplete data - No uniformity - In accuracy - Non reporting 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of transference, Knowledge 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of staff - Incomplete data - Different data collection methods (school dropouts, sample surveys) - Don't reflect actual data of entire area (eg. Census report) - Estimated data - Displacement, Returnees (illegal) - Non availability of qualitative data (eg. Excess of teaches in the urban areas) - Data collection for different purpose. - Fault information (eg. Income) - Different survey methods 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could we bridge gaps? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alternative mechanism to collect data in vacant PHM areas - Specialized trained team for data collection - Develop uniform indicators - Develop uniform system - Get data from relevant department - Regularly updating information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness campaign - at all levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect all data sources available & cross check - Analysis of data - Improve the quality of data (methods, designs of formats involve all agencies concerned) - Improve net work system data base - Adequate time for data collection - Analysis of data at every steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What means could you suggest to strengthen data collection / analysis - in the respective areas of the District / Divisional / Grama Niladhari Division? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing information system at district and divisional level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human capacity & financial input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect all data from other agencies - Compare with each other - Coordinating body at district level for data analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What other partnerships could you build to improve information (qualitative and quantitative) bases? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government / Private sector / CBOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Security Forces / Private Sector / CBOO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get actual & qualitative data through the organized coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How could the MDGs be incorporated into the District Development Plan (sub-national ownership)? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brain storming session among key planners at district level. - Set realistic, achievable targets in District Development plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be incorporated in the MDGs District Development plan - Plan according to the priorities of MDGs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Would you suggest adding other development goals / targets / indicators 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development