

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs), PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE CHANGE

M. Adil Khan
Chief

Socio-Economic Governance and Management Branch
Division for Public Administration and Development Management

UNDESA

STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Why MDG is so important?
2. In what way MDG is unique?
3. The MDG Targets, Issues and Imperatives
4. The implications of MDG for Public Administration
5. MDG and Governance Implications

Why MDGs are so important?

- It has the endorsement of world leaders
- The Goals are human development-oriented and not input or sector-oriented
- The Goals are appealing (extreme poverty cut in half; all children in school; infant, child and maternal mortality to be greatly reduced)
- Goals are achievable (many believe)

The Key Challenges leading to MDGs:

- Abject poverty: 1 billion in poverty**
- War and violence**
- Environment**
- UN lacking effective instruments to tackle challenges mentioned above**

These Challenges led to MDGs, which also added three more goals:

- Human rights, democracy and good governance**
- Protecting the vulnerable from natural and man-made disasters**
- Meeting special needs of Africa**

THE MDGs TARGETS

8 Goals, 18 Targets and 48 Indicators

The 8 Goals (1990-2015)

- Halve the proportion of extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, etc.
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop global partnership for resource mobilization

IN WHAT WAY MDGs ARE UNIQUE?

MDGs are underpinned by social objectives –

- ❖ 7 Goals are poverty or socially-oriented and linked to 11 targets
- ❖ The 8th Goal – ‘Partnership in Development’ concerns
 - international resource for development; and
 - greater opportunities for developing countries in the global economy

There are, however, questions asked about the utility of some of the indicators or targets: for example, school enrolment rate is no guarantee for quality of education, etc.

ELEMENTS THAT ARE KEY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDGs

- Enabling policy environment
 - Suitable institutional framework with technical and partnership capabilities
 - Improvement in service delivery
 - More money*
- * Many argue that money is the least important of all the elements
This has implication for Public Administration, the MDG mentor

MDG Targets and Imperatives

Goal 1: Reduce Income Poverty & Hunger

***TARGET - Reduce abject poverty by half by 2015**

ISSUES:

- Economic growth is key, but not the only factor
- South East Asia grew at a rate of 6% annually between 1990-1999 and reduced poverty from 28% to 14% (50% reduction)
- South Asia grew by 4% and reduced poverty more slowly, 2% per annum
- In Eastern Europe, poverty increased by 9% annually, though per capita GDP fell at a much slower rate
- Slow growth in Sub-Sahara had no impact on poverty

IMPERATIVE:

- ◆ Strategizing growth with provision for income distribution, employment, etc.

MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

Goal 2: Universal Primary Education

***TARGET - Reach Universal Primary Education enrollment by 2015**

ISSUES:

- Enrollment rate is an important indicator of progress but not a sufficient one
- Quality of education is an issue not given much attention
- Completion rate is more important than enrollment rate
- Measuring net enrollment is a problem
- More public expenditure does not automatically contribute either to increased enrollment or to improved quality

IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ Combine enrollment policy with monitoring quality and completion
- ◆ Improved measurement
- ◆ Improved delivery: The role of State?

MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

Goal 3: Gender Equality

***TARGET** - Equal enrollment rates for boys and girls, at primary level by 2005; at secondary by 2015

ISSUES:

- Many countries have either reduced or eliminated disparity between boys and girls in net enrollment rates
- Girls' enrollment rates are lowest in lowest enrollment rate countries
- Improving girls' enrollment rates involve overcoming social and economic barriers and importantly, "higher income" on its own has little significance

IMPERATIVE:

- ◆ Targeted policy initiatives and consistent monitoring and evaluation

MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

Goal 4 & 5: Infant, Child and Maternal Mortality

***TARGET-** To reduce child and maternal mortality rates by two-thirds by 2015

ISSUES:

- Ambitious target
- Child mortality is falling except in Sub-Sahara Africa
- Though low-income countries are reducing child mortality at slower rate, two low-income countries, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, reduced child mortality significantly
- Maternal mortality is difficult to measure and the data are limited
- Maternal mortality is often a reflection of quality of medical system in a country

IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ Targeted policy and proper prioritization contribute to these goals, even in low income countries
- ◆ Greater effort needed to capture data on maternal mortality

MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

Goal 6: HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

***TARGET-** Eradicate HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases

ISSUES:

- Data on communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS are either incomplete or irregular
- Successful prevention program in country like Uganda has helped reduce the infection rates of HIV/AIDS.

IMPERATIVE:

- ◆ Focused government policy backed up by resources, the right strategy

MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

Goal 7: Environmental Sustainability

*TARGETS

- Integration of principles of sustainable development
- Providing access to water to all by 2025
- Provide improved water and sanitation and land tenure to urban slum dwellers

ISSUES:

- The targets are somewhat vague and esoteric
- Issues are country specific

IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ Mainstreaming of SD concept within the development management and value processes
- ◆ Clear policies and strategies on water and urban poor

MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership

*TARGETS

- Doubling of aid-flow to \$40-\$70 billion per year
- Better trade deals

ISSUES:

- Possibilities of securing additional aid resources do not look good
- Agricultural subsidies and continued protection provided by some developed countries render improved trade deal a slow moving accomplishment

IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ More internal savings, more domestic resource mobilization and increased cost-effectiveness in public expenditure
- ◆ Continuous dialoguing to enhance international resource flow
- ◆ DFI

The Overall Imperatives of MDGs and the Implications for the Public Sector

OVERALL IMPERATIVES

- MDGs are a complex package of goals and targets requiring great deal of harmonization, re-organization and re-orientation and renewed partnerships.
- In terms of goals and targets, a clear bias towards social development goals is perceived, stressing the need for a social or “pro-poor” orientation to all aspects of development management – the strategies, tools, techniques and indeed, the processes for policies and programmes need to change.
- Need for great deal of data gathering, analyses, policy advice, integrated implementation, followed by results oriented monitoring

Overall Imperatives...cont'd.

- New options, strategies and tools are needed on the one hand, to generate more resources internally and on the other, better planning and improved monitoring for making more efficient use of the existing resources (making the \$ go further concept!)
- Continuous dialoguing at the international level for enhanced resource mobilization, debt relief, improved trade deals and DFIs etc.

THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR MDGs

● INSTITUTIONAL

- Rethinking
- Repositioning
- Integrating
- Linking
- Decentralization
- Capacity-building

● METHODOLOGICAL

- Tools, techniques
- Strategies
- Procedures
- Approaches

● PROCESS (ENGAGED GOVERNANCE)

- Public/private/CSO engagement/partnering
- Dialoguing
- Advocacy

● MONITORING AND REPORTING

- Shift from traditional monitoring to results based monitoring and evaluation(the RBME Concept)
- People-based monitoring/social accounting

- Among others, implementation of MDGs requires significant changes to Governance environment

- What is Governance Environment

Governance: The manner in which decisions are made (i.e, institutional arrangements)

Governance Environment: Institutional processes and arrangements that situate the institutions and the citizens, communities and/or the interest groups to exercise their rights to participate in the decision-making, freely (i.e., processes/interactions).

MDG and Good Governance: Relevant Institutional and Process Issues

- Empowerment
- Participation
- Inclusiveness
 - ◆ Equal access to decision-making
 - ◆ Equal access to and control over resources
 - ◆ Equal access to information
 - ◆ Guarantee of exercise of fundamental rights

A variety of institutions and institutional arrangements are important to achieve good governance

In institutional terms, these elements can be grouped into two broad groups:

● 'Rights' Institutions	←→	● Development Management Institutions
❖ Democratic Institutions		❖ Economic Institutions
❖ Judiciary		❖ Institutions of engagement
❖ Law and order institutions		❖ Public Administration (national/sub-national)
❖ Legislative		❖ Accountability/Transparency institutions
❖ Social Institutions(CSOs, NGOs etc.)		

- Elements of Good Governance is difficult to achieve without achieving the complementarities that exist between these two types of governance institutions. Inter-facing these is the **institution of market**.

From the perspective of Development Management Institutions what is needed is, what we call, capacity-building of the socio-economic governance structures:

- Shift from dirigiste to engaging, partnering
- Strengthening social and economic institutions
- Tools, techniques, strategies, etc., that help mainstreaming MDG concerns within the planning and budgeting process
- Engaged governance for citizens dialoguing
- Pro-poor public finance and budgeting