PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE ON DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING MDG-BASED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Jointly organized by
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
and
The Royal Government of Cambodia

13-15 December 2010
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Bangladesh county paper on progress made in developing and implementing MDG-based national development strategies.
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Bangladesh is one of the 189 nations which endorsed the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000. The MDGs provide a framework of targets towards which the countries should move. The goals, targets and indicators provide benchmark for 1990 against which subsequent progress needs to be assessed.

The Government of Bangladesh is committed to achieve the MDGs within the given timeframe and accordingly prepared an action plan. The National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR-1), the Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) and the Annual Development Programs (ADPs) have also been tuned towards achieving the MDGs. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (NSAPR-11) revised by the present Government adopted a holistic approach to reduce poverty and improve other social indicators to achieve the MDGs, with special attention provided to the areas in which the country is lagging behind. Bangladesh has already initiated actions to prepare the Sixth Five Year Plan (2011-15) in pursuit of achieving the MDGs since both will coincide with the terminal year.

Bangladesh continues to mainstream MDGs in its national development goals as embodied in successive poverty reduction strategy papers. Bangladesh has consistently put poverty reduction at the forefront of its development strategy. The NSAPR I FY2005-07 and NSAPR II (revised) FY2009-11 envisage some blocks of strategies supplemented by several supporting strategies to achieve accelerated poverty reduction. Some of these strategies emphasize employment generation, human resource development comprising education and health, women’s advancement and rights, children’s advancement and rights, good governance, safe water and sanitation, and environment and climate change. These strategies reflect the development priorities of the government and also coincide with the MDGs.

Over the time Bangladesh has sought to achieve MDGs along with other development goals through a set of policies and strategies. It has been observed that the efforts have resulted in progress towards achieving these goals though the progress is not uniform for each goal.

The present paper attempts to feature the achievement of Bangladesh in MDGs and the policies, strategies and implementation programmes pursued by the government in the achievement of the targets.

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Current Status:

Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day.

1.1: Proportion of population below national upper poverty line, percent (38.7 in 2008 by linear extrapolation; 41.2 in 2009 by household self-assessment)
   Status: on track

1.2: Poverty Gap Ratio, percent (9 in 2005)
   Status: on track

1.3: Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (na)
Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

1.5: Employment to population ratio, percent (58.5 in 2006 and 59.3 economically active in 2009)
   Status: needs attention

Target 1.C: Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

1.8: Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age (6-59 months), (45% as of 2009)
   Status: needs attention

1.9: Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption, (40% as of 2005)
   Status: needs attention

There are indicators to the effect that Bangladesh is on its way to achieve targeted prevalence of poverty by 2015, however, meeting the target of hunger within the given timeframe remains uncertain. Rising inequality is offsetting some of the gains in poverty reduction. There are also pockets of high prevalence of poverty and regional variation in poverty. The unemployment rate has been low but there is widespread underemployment in the economy.

The National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction-II (NSAPR-II) has devised strategies which reflect the Government’s policy priorities to address all the targets of MDGs and it has specific plan of actions to reduce poverty within a given timeframe.

The poverty reduction strategy framework of the revised NSAPR-II consists of five strategic blocks and five supporting strategies. The strategic blocks are: (i) macroeconomic environment for pro-poor growth; (ii) critical areas for pro-poor growth; (iii) essential infrastructure for pro-poor growth; (iv) social protection for the vulnerable; and (v) human development.

In response to the needs for achieving critical and unmet targets MDG1, the Government’s policy priorities focus on enhanced agricultural production, crop diversification, comprehensive land management, comprehensive urban policy, improving effectiveness of Social Safety Nets (SSNs), implementing nutrition and health programmes, pro-poor employment generation, reducing energy shortage, and improving governance.

Agriculture is the most significant source of economic growth and has a fundamental role to play in the fight against poverty.

Agriculture benefits the poor most and it is central to the livelihoods of the rural poor who account for the majority (or around 75 percent) of the country’s population (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, BBS, 2006). 21 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from agriculture and this sector involves 48 percent of labour force (BBS, 2005-06). During the 1980s, agriculture’s contribution to GDP was more than 30 percent, with over 60 percent of the labour force (Ministry Of Finance, 2007). Though the contribution of the agriculture to the national economy and employment is diminishing, it remains the single largest contributor to income and employment generation.

The poverty situation of the country requires greater efforts on sustainable agricultural production for the food and nutrition security of all people, particularly the rural...
poor. The country has a total land surface of approximately 14.4 million hectares of which nine million hectares are used for agricultural purpose (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, BIDS, 2001).

The Government of Bangladesh has prioritized the agriculture sector to meet the domestic food demand and to make the sector commercially profitable. The first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for Bangladesh, "Bangladesh Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction" was prepared by the Government with the assistance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) where the agriculture sector was highlighted as the topmost priority sector for rapid poverty reduction. The National Agriculture Policy of 2007 also mentioned that to reduce rural poverty and improve the rural livelihood, it is necessary to extend the existing agricultural production system into a more dynamic, diversified and commercial sector. In addition, investment in road and infrastructure in the western region will help improve household characteristics and livelihood of the poor as suggested by PRSP-II.

The second PRSP for Bangladesh "Moving Ahead: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction " has also now been prepared under full Government ownership and direction. Twelve sectors were identified and an equal number of thematic groups were set up by the Government to coordinate the preparation of the various thematic background papers. A mapping of the sectors indicates that most sectors address MDG1 by focusing on poverty eradication. The PRSP-II already emphasizes the importance of agricultural and rural development in increasing productivity, and employment generation in rural areas. To increase foreign remittances, the skills-oriented manpower export from the youth labour force is suggested as a key target and the policy matrix has been suggested accordingly. To this end, the Government has also reinvigorated its pro-poor bias, allocating from FY08 an increased annual pro-poor spending of one percent of GDP. This pro-poor bias is illustrated by, for example, the guaranteed employment scheme for two million pro-poor people, providing employment for 100 days at the rate of Taka 100 per man-day. For this programme, BDT 20 billion was allocated in the national budget of FY 08/09. The link between national budgeting and MDG1 was also clearly stated in the Finance Minister’s budget speeches of FY09.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Current Status

Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

2.1: Net Enrollment Ratio in Primary Education
Benchmark: 60.5 in 1991
Current status: 91.9 (2008)
Target: 100
Status: on track

2.2: Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
Benchmark: 43.0 in 1991
Current status: 54.9 (2008)
A significant partnership between the Government of Bangladesh and development partners has been nurtured and built in the context of the MDGs 2 and 3 that pertain to education and the six Education for All (EFA) goals. Progress has been made in increasing equitable access, reducing dropouts, improving completion of the school cycle and implementing a number of quality enhancement measures in primary education. Bangladesh has achieved gender parity in primary and secondary enrolment. Initiatives have been taken to introduce pre-school education to prepare children for formal schooling. The present Government plans to enroll all primary education age children by 2011 and the Government is in the process of implementing a comprehensive National Education Policy to achieve its objectives. The National Plan of Action for EFA 2003-2015 and the Government’s Poverty Reduction Strategy reflect the MDG targets and the constitution of Bangladesh has provision for free and compulsory primary education.

In terms of bringing the primary school age children to schools, the country is well ahead of the MDG 2 target. The net enrolment rate in 2008 is 91.90% (93.3% for girls). It was 60.50% during 1990-95 and 87.2% (90.1% for girls) in 2005. The faster and relatively consistent growth in girls’ enrolment vis-à-vis boys has been an important driver of the observed improvement in Net Enrolment Rate (NER). Focused and substantive initiatives undertaken by the government such as food for education, stipends for primary school children, media outreach, community or satellite schools and a sector wide approach Primary Education Development Programme II (PEDP II) have all helped boost the NER.

The Education Policy of the Government proposes doubling of investment in education over the next five years. Even if GDP grows by an average of 7% and the Government is able to double the share of education expenditure in GDP, there will be a financing gap of over US$ 2 billion between 2010 and 2015.

To achieve the NER target, the Government has undertaken several initiatives. Under the newly adopted Operational Framework on Pre-Primary Education, the Government has planned to add one additional class in existing schools. Expanding the stipend coverage to target the hardcore population has also been approved with the target population for stipend being increased from 4.8 to 7.8 million students. To ensure enrolment and primary cycle completion, the school feeding programme is being expanded from 0.2 to one million students. The Government also plans to cover 87 Upazilas (Sub Districts) under the school feeding program. To address the special needs of physically challenged children, ramps are being constructed in schools.

Some good practices already exist in Bangladesh. NGOs and civil society organisations with partial support from the Government manage six different types of primary education institutions that serve some of the most deprived children who cannot afford to enrol in government schools and/or are dropouts. The strong linkage between household food security and school attendance has also led to a strong partnership between the WFP and the Government of Bangladesh to provide school meals in areas that are food insecure. To ensure quality education to all children, the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) has initiated a School Level Planning grant to empower schools
and communities to take local actions and intends to strengthen this process in the next phase of the primary sub-sector programme.

Improving the quality of primary education, creating a child friendly atmosphere at primary schools, creating adequate physical infrastructure provisions, reducing opportunity costs of school attendance, providing incentives for key players at both demand and supply levels and building mass awareness are some of the key areas the government has been paying special attention to.

The Government and Development Partners (DPs) have identified the following areas of focus:

• A major and carefully planned infrastructure initiative to make available sufficient child friendly classrooms in existing government primary schools, registered non-government primary schools and community schools so that universal primary education by 2015 is physically feasible;
• Build new child friendly schools where there are no schools to ensure access to education;
• Adequate number of qualified skilled teachers with better social and economic status;
• Emphasis on quality of learning as measured in learning achievement of children;
• Introduction of one year pre-primary education as an integral part of primary education;
• Second Chance Education for the non-enrolled and drop-outs through a non-formal mode of delivery;
• Equivalency and bridging between formal and non-formal education;
• Technical and vocational education opportunities for the disadvantaged population;
• Provision of school feeding for the pre-primary and primary students;
• Development of a national unified curriculum with a core (compulsory for all) portion and an elective portion for all categories of schools and madrasas (Schools with emphasis upon religious lessons);
• Adult Education Programme for illiterate adults to create opportunities for meaningful and quality life-long learning; and
• Continuing Education for new literates to prevent them from relapsing into illiteracy and enable them to apply their literacy for developing life skills, vocational skills and standard of living.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Current Status

Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015

3.1a: Ratio of girls to boys in primary education:
Benchmark: 0.83 in 1991
Current status: 1.01 (2008)
Target: 1
Status: Achieved before 2015

3.1b: Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education
Benchmark: 0.52 in 1991
Current status: 1.2 (2008)
Target: 1
Status: Achieved before 2015

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3.1c: Ratio of women to men in tertiary education
Benchmark: 0.37 in 1991
Current status: 0.32 (2006)
Target: 1
Status: needs attention

3.2: Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
Benchmark: 19.1 in 1991
Current status: 24.6 (2008)
Target: 50%
Status: needs attention

3.3: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Benchmark: 12.7 in 1991
Current status: 19 (2009)
Target: 33%
Status: needs attention

Bangladesh has made significant progress in promoting the objectives of ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women. There has been steady improvement in the social and political empowerment scenario of women in Bangladesh. Eradication of poverty with special emphasis on eradication of feminization of poverty by strengthening social safety net programmes is an important agenda of the Government. Programmes such as Allowance to Widows and Destitute Women, Maternity Allowance to Poor mothers and Vulnerable Group Development Programme have been providing food security to a large number of poor women. Extensive training programmes in income generating skills in agriculture and fisheries and livestock, computer, sewing, block batik trade, handicrafts are being conducted. Support is being given to women entrepreneurs engaged in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). There are highly supportive legal provisions and policy options to encourage women’s participation in development activities and decision making, initiatives are underway to increase representation of women in the legislative, judiciary and executive branches of the state.

The Government of Bangladesh has taken several steps towards addressing the underlying socio-cultural factors that make women vulnerable. A number of laws are in force to protect the equality of rights and opportunities of women. The Constitution of Bangladesh grants equal rights to women and men in all spheres of public life (Articles 27, 28(1) 28(2), 28(3), 28(4), 29(1), 29(2) and 29(3)) and has been supplemented by number of Acts and Ordinances to safeguard women’s equal rights. the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980, the Child Marriage Restraint Act (amended in 1984) and the Family Court Ordinance of 1985 are some of these legal provisions. 

The Parliament has passed a number of laws against acid-throwing, cruelty and violence against women and children with provision of speedy and summary trials and exemplary punishment. At the national level anti-violence against women cell has been established in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) to monitor and dispose of complaints. At the sub-district and district levels, committees have been instituted to receive and pursue cases of violence against women.

MOWCA is in the forefront of the promotion of gender equity and equality in the country. It has focal points which encourage all ministries to have gender screening of their policies and to implement gender sensitive and gender focused programmes.

MOWCA has the mandate for protecting women’s interests, and further the rights of
children. It works in all 64 districts of the country. Besides the Ministry itself, there are three implementing agencies: the Department of Women Affairs (DWA), Jatiya Mohila Sangstha (National Women's Council), and Shishu (Children's) Academy. MOWCA is mandated to act as the central motivating agency on issues of women's equality and development and to promote a broader and more consistent response by all government agencies to the needs and priorities of women. WID (Women in Development) focal point has been established in various ministries. The National Policy for the Advancement of Women was adopted in 1997 (and amended in 2004 and 2008) with strong commitments to eliminate discrimination against women in all spheres. A National Action Plan (NAP) for implementing the policy as well as meeting commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) was approved in 1998. Following the PFA Gender Focal points were appointed in all central government ministries and committees as early as 1990. Bangladesh Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) finalized in October 2005 and PRSP 2 in 2008 also provides comprehensive gender analysis with policy guidelines.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Current Status

Target 4A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

4.1: Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
Benchmark: 146 in 1991
Current status: 53.8
Target: 48
Status: on track

4.2: Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
Benchmark: 92 in 1991
Current status: 41.3
Target: 31
Status: on track

4.3: Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles
Benchmark: 54 in 1991
Current status: 82.8
Target: 100
Status: on track

The health MDGs and the Bangladesh Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) provide the goals and targets towards which Bangladesh is currently striving. Bangladesh has made considerable progress in child survival rate over the last several decades. The recent Millennium Countdown Report—Countdown to 2015 (UNICEF 2008) places Bangladesh among only 16 countries in the world that are on track to achieve MDG 4 on child mortality. The successful programmes for immunization, control of diarrhoeal diseases and vitamin-A supplementation are considered to be the most significant contributors to the decline in child and infant deaths. The high coverage of vertical programmes such as Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI), Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Vitamin A supplementation are contributing
significantly to child mortality reduction. EPI and Vitamin A supplementation have been important components of child care programmes in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has been implementing IMCI strategy since 2003. It has also developed the National Neonatal Strategy and Guidelines to address the urgent needs of improving newborn survival.

**Status of MDG4-related Policy Development and Implementation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy/Guideline Type</th>
<th>Policy Development</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Code of Marketing</td>
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<td>Partial</td>
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<tr>
<td>of Breast Milk Substitutes</td>
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<td>New ORS formula and zinc for</td>
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<td>management of diarrhoea</td>
<td>Zinc is also in the</td>
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<td>Community treatment of</td>
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<td>pneumonia with antibiotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusion of newborns 0-1 week</td>
<td>In Place</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>of age in IMCI curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newborn Health Strategy and</td>
<td>In Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Strategy on Injury Prevention</td>
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From broader perspectives, the Bangladesh National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR 2005) considers in particular the human dimensions of poverty (deprivation of health, education, nutrition, gender gaps) and commits the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to reach the poor and vulnerable, especially women and children. The Health and Population Sector Strategy (HPSS), which commenced in 1998, sets the stage to develop the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) and for the development of the Health and Population Sector Program (HPSP) which adopted some reforms to ensure improved and efficient service delivery. The main sectoral objectives of the HPSS were to maintain the momentum of efforts to lower fertility and mortality rates; reduce maternal mortality and morbidity; and reduce the burden of communicable diseases.

The current Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSNP) outlines activities from 2003-2011, with objectives to improve health outcomes, reduce health inequities, enhance quality of care, modernize the GoB health sector, and attain the health related MDGs. This document has tried to incorporate MDGs (4, 5 and 6) targets, while offering slightly different targets for HNPSNP. The Revised Programme Implementation Plan (RPIP) of Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSNP) 2003-2011,
proposed dividing the whole sector into four sub-sectors: Health Program (HP), Nutrition Program, Population Program (PP) and Ministry Level Sector Development. Major Reproductive Health (RH) components are under HP and PP.

In Bangladesh, the Health and Family Planning Program is well-established with a vast network of infrastructure spread down to union and village levels. Over a hundred thousand field staff of Health and Family Planning Programme have been trained and are being re-oriented/retrained through decentralized in-service training program. There are mainly three levels of public health facilities which are: primary health care facilities located up to Upazila level; secondary healthcare facilities at District level; tertiary health care facilities including Medical College Hospitals (MCH); and super specialized care (specialized institutions).

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Current Status

Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

5.1: Maternal mortality ratio (per 1,000 live births):
Base year 1991: 574
Current status: 348
Target: 143
Status: needs attention

5.2: Proportion of births attended by Skilled Health Personnel (percent):
Base year 1991: 5
Current status: 24
Target: 50
Status: needs attention

Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.

5.3: Contraceptive prevalence rate (%)
Base year 1991: 40
Current status: 60
Target: 100
Status: needs attention

5.4: Adolescent birth rate (per 1,000 women)
Base year 1991: 77
Current status: 60
Target: -
Status: needs attention

5.5A: Antenatal care coverage (at least 1 visit) (%)
Base year 1991: 28
Current status: 60
Target: 100
Status: needs attention
5.5B: Antenatal care coverage (4 or more visits) (%)
Base year 1991: 6
Current status: 21
Target: 100
Status: needs attention

5.6: Unmet need for family planning (%)
Base year 1991: 19
Current status: 17
Target: 7.60
Status: needs attention

Response of the Government of Bangladesh to meet the health related targets under MDGs has been discussed above in relation to Goal 4. To achieve the MDG 5 goals and targets, the Government of Bangladesh is aware that attention is needed to effectively address the three pillars for reducing maternal deaths within the health care system. These include Family Planning (FP), Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs) and Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC). Strong commitment of the Government through national policies and programme implementation, has led to a reduction in maternal mortality in Bangladesh. There is already a vast network of state health facilities for women and children; capacity building of this network is one of priorities of the Government.

Besides the broader policy options and implementation strategies, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh is emphasizing on community ownership for accelerating the achievement of health related MDGs and other health development goals. Two models are very frequently spoken of. These are Chougacha Model and Narsingdi Model.

Chougacha is a upazila (sub-district) under the Jessore district of Bangladesh. The government-managed upazila hospital of this area has been successful in mobilizing active community participation in operating the hospital and community health programs. Local elites and people participate in funding additional human resources, equipment, reagent, tracing vulnerable clients and health campaigns. Started in 1996 by the local hospital manager, the initiative has shown remarkable successes with respect to National and International health goals. Later Ministry’s HNP Sector Program, UNICEF and JICA took part in further improvement of the services. The Chougacha model made improvement in almost all the health indicators in the area.

The Narsingdi Model is in fact a Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP), which began as a pilot by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in July 2006 aiming with support from JICA to improve health status of women and neonates in the target district of Narsingdi through strengthening safe delivery service and supporting women and neonates to utilize obstetric and neonatal care. It has developed a community support system for pregnant women and newborn during obstetric emergencies organized by the community people. Regular meetings, engagement of private community birth attendants, pregnancy registration and mapping, transportation for emergency referral, funding support for poor pregnant women are, amongst others, the key elements of the activities. Local union parishads (Local Government structure) are active partners of the project. This is a successful model of Maternal and Neonatal Health built in the cultural and economic context of Bangladesh for achieving MDG 4 and 5. Results show that the Narsingdi model could improve the percentage of institutional deliveries and also the deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants in the project area.

To address the need for capacity building and improved service delivery, in support of the Human Resource Development Master Plan for 2010-2040 to close large human
resource gaps over the next 10 years, the Government, with support from development partners especially the UN system, will focus on the following areas:

- Reviewing the skills mix and deployment model for midwifery/MH/RH services.
- Improving the quality of education and training of health workers especially midwives.
- Ensure necessary regulations to protect the public from unsafe and incompetent care.
- Addressing recruitment, career development, performance management, and retention issues to reduce staff shortages, particularly in rural areas.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

Current Status

Target 6.A  Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

6.1: HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
Base year: 0.005
Current status: 0.319 (2007)
Target: Halting
Status: on track

6.2: Condom use at last high-risk sex
Base year:
Current status: 44-67%
Target:
Status: need attention

6.3: Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
Base year:
Current status: 15.8 (2006)
Target:
Status: need attention

Target 6.C  Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

6.6A: Incidence of malaria per 100 000 population
Base year: 776.9 (2008)
Current status: 586.0 (2009)
Target: 310.8
Status: on track

6.6B: Death rate associated with malaria per 100,000 population
Base year: 1.4 (2008)
Current status: 0.4 (2009)
Target: 0.6
Status: on track

6.7: Proportion of children under-5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets
Base year: 81% (2008)
Current status: 81% (2009)
Target: 90%
Status: on track
6.8: Proportion of children under-5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs
Base year: 60% (2008)
Current status: 80% (2009)
Target: 90% (By 2015)
Status: on track

6.9A: Prevalence of tuberculosis per 100,000 population
Base year: 639 (1990)
Current status: 412
Target: 320 (50% reduction)/Halting
Status: 36% reduction/on track

6.9B: Death rate associated with tuberculosis per 100,000 population
Base year: 76 (1990)
Current status: 50 (2008)
Target: 50% reduction
Status: 35% reduction/on track

6.10a: Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected under DOTS
Base year: 21% (1994)
Current status: 70% (2009)
Target: 70%
Status: achieved/on track

6.10b: Proportion of tuberculosis cases cured under DOTS:
Base year: 71% (1995)
Current status: 92%
Target: >85%
Status: achieved/on track

The Bangladesh National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2006-2010) is focused on five key areas: (i) provide support and services for priority groups; (ii) prevent vulnerability to HIV infection; (iii) promote safe practices in the health care system; (iv) provide care and treatment services to people living with HIV; and (v) minimize the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The National Malaria Control Programme pursues the achievement of the MDG targets aligned with the targets set in the Strategic Plan (2007-2015). The programme envisions a 60% reduction of malaria deaths by 2015.

The National TB Control strategy focuses on the role of the health sector in controlling TB. As TB is a poverty-related disease, any contribution in the area of improving overall living conditions, increasing household income, improving nutrition, etc. has also an impact on reducing the burden of TB. The National Strategic Plan to Control TB (2011-2015) aims at halving the prevalence and mortality and begin to reduce the incidence includes through the following strategies: (i) pursue quality Directly Observed Treatment Short Course expansion and enhancement; (ii) establish interventions to address HIV associated TB and drug-resistant TB; (iii) contribute to health system strengthening; (iv) forge partnerships to ensure equitable access to an Essential Standard of Care to all TB Patients; (v) engage people with TB, and affected communities; and (vi) promote
operational research. Several national guidelines, manuals and policies and strategies to guide specific intervention areas of the three programmes have been developed.

Bangladesh is in a favourable position for achieving the MDG 6 targets of having halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV, malaria and other diseases by 2015. The Government is aware of the fact that there are, however, several challenges facing the national responses towards the three diseases. These challenges involve service delivery, health workforce, strategic information management, medical products, vaccines and technologies, financing, leadership and governance and capacity building.

The policy responses and the implementation strategies of the government have focuses on:
(i) Strengthening coordination in the national response through advocacy, coordination and collaboration, evidence-based programme management and strengthening of systems with special focus on the following outcomes:
   • Strengthened national coordination mechanisms through reforming and strengthening government agencies and key civil society networks and building capacity of the leadership
   • Improved programme management by making use of routine quality reports as well as operational research and other evidence.
(ii) Facilitating scaling up of quality interventions to achieve universal access in prevention, treatment, care and support, for all targeted intervention groups for HIV, TB and malaria with the following expected outcomes:
   • Improved knowledge and practice of people most at risk as well as the general population to prevent the three diseases
   • Improved quality of Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support services for the three diseases
   • Institutional arrangements developed for moving from pilot to massive scale-up to have a critical mass of health care providers involved.
(iii) Improving participation of civil society (NGOs, CBOs, self help groups, vulnerable groups, etc.) in programme planning/implementation and oversight in order to incorporate rights-based approaches to the management of the three diseases.
(iv) Improving access equity for niche populations with a perceived or documented higher burden of one or more of the three diseases (ultra-poor, char population, Chittagong Hill Tracts, indigenous population, refugees, slum dwellers, migrants, garments workers, etc.).

Goal 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability

7.1: Proportion of land area covered by forest
Current status: 19.2% (Tree density > 10%), Target: 20% (Tree density> 70%) Status: needs attention

7.2: CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)
Current status: 0.30 Status: on track

7.3: Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (metric tons per capita)
Current status: 127.88 Target: 0,
Status: on track

7.4: Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
Current status: 54 inland fish species & 16 marine species are threatened
Status: need attention

7.5: Proportion of total water resources used
Current status: 6.6% in 2000,
Status: needs attention

7.6: Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
Current status: 1.78% terrestrial & 0.47% marine areas protected (2010),
Target: 5%,
Status: needs attention

7.7: Proportion of species threatened with extinction
Current status: 201 inland, 18 marine & 106 vascular plants are threatened,
Target: improvement of ecosystems for protection of species compare to 2000 situation,
Status: needs attention

7.8: Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
Current status: 86%
Target: 100%,
Status: needs attention

7.9: Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
Current status: 89%
Target: 100%,
Status: needs attention

7.10: Proportion of urban population living in slums
Current status: 7.8 %,
Status: needs attention

Environmental sustainability has emerged as a cross-cutting issue and it has implications on several targets of the MDGs including poverty reduction, health, disaster management and overall development of the country. Bangladesh has been responding to the existing as well as emerging eventualities pertaining to the environmental sustainability. Some of the important policy options and strategies in achieving MDG7 goals and targets deal with forest cover, sustainable forest management, management of protected area for biological diversity, management of ecologically critical areas, environmental degradation and protection, management of air pollution and air quality, dealing with Ozone depleting substances. There are policies and strategies and implementation programmes under a wider vision of conserving the earth and her endowments and saving, securing and rescuing the citizens from hazards caused by malfunction and maltreatment of the nature.

In recent years, Bangladesh has demonstrated increased determination and commitment to address the challenges of ensuring sustainable use and conservation of its natural resources, including its biodiversity. The objective of these activities is to develop a
National Biodiversity Action Plan which fulfils Bangladesh's international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), while also reflecting national priorities and the country's unique cultural, historical and geographical setting. A number of specific policies, laws, action plans and strategies have been developed in this regard.

Proportion of land area covered by forests: The total forest area in Bangladesh was 2.52 million hectares in 2007, according to the Forest Department (FD). Although half of the area of Bangladesh has some kind of tree cover, just 2.3% of the area has a very high tree cover (>70%) and roughly 20% has low tree cover (<5%). Recent research by FAO shows that 19.2% of total land area has tree cover of 10% or above, which is considered as the forest coverage of the country according to FAO standard. In general it can be concluded that Bangladesh is not on track to achieve the target of 20% tree cover with density greater than 70%.

The current forest policy formulated in 1994 has been considered to be the most elaborate policy in the history of the country. Under this policy, participatory social forestry has been institutionalized in Bangladesh. The real strength of Bangladesh forestry is locally based participatory forestry with co-management of protected areas and highly motivated people who increasingly recognize the need for a healthy forest ecosystem that will provide future economic stability. Because it is the rich homestead forests of Bangladesh that generate the majority of commercial forestry products, it is important that education continues at the grass-roots level. In addition, educated forestry and environment professionals have been identified as the future driving forces towards better and sustainable forest management.

CO2 emissions (Metric tons per capita): Although Bangladesh is not a big emitter and the country has no obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions given its LDC status, the government has identified mitigation and low carbon development as one of the priority areas in its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009. Since 1991, however, some increase in CO2 emission has been observed with per capita emission of 0.3 metric tons in 2007 and projections suggest a rise to 0.38 by 2015.

Ozone depleting substances (ODSs): In Bangladesh the major Ozone depleting substances (ODSs) are CFC-11, CFC-12 and CFC-15. The country is in compliance with the ODS target and consumption of ODSs has been declining. This is borne out by the fall in consumption of CFCs from 831 metric tons in 1998 to 127.88 metric tons in 2009. The major Ozone Depleting Substances dropped from 280.68 metric tons in 1995 to 155.14 metric tons in 2007. The highest consumption (870.99 MT) of CFCs was recorded in 1997 which was reduced to 328.0 Mt ODS used in 2002. Consumption reduced sharply during 2000-2002 due to the implementation of a project by ACI, a private manufacturing company. However, implementation of ‘CFC Free Technology Transfer’ project (1998-2002) by ACI Ltd reduced the highest limit consumption in the aerosol sector and reduced about 50 percent consumption of CFCs. Bangladesh undertook a good number of national policies and programmes to protect ozone layer at the national and international level since 1994. The national ODS Phase-out Plan is being implemented by the Department of Environment (DOE).

There are a good number of projects that were implemented or are under the process of implementation under the Montreal protocol which includes (i) Institutional Strengthening for Phase out ODSs; (ii) Conversion to CFC Free technology for the production of Aerosol Products at ACI Ltd; (iii) Implementation of a National Programme for Recovery & Recycling of Refrigerants; (iv) Training Programme on Good Practices in Refrigeration; (v) Training Programme for Customs Officers; (vi) National ODS Phase-out Plan; (vii) Phasing out of CFC in the manufacturing of metered dose Inhaler in Medicine manufacturing sector in Bangladesh. As per Montreal Protocol obligations Bangladesh is now in full compliance.
Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits: Bangladesh is endowed with vast inland open waters measuring 4.05 million ha and 0.3 million ha closed waters in man-made ponds and aquaculture enclosures. The country also has 166,000 km of marine water resource in the Bay of Bengal, extending up to 200 nautical miles in the exclusive economic zone, with high potential of fish production. 265 fish species and 24 prawn species inhabit inland waters, while 475 species of fish and 38 species of shrimp are to be found in marine waters. According to IUCN (2000) 54 inland fish species are threatened of which 12 are critically endangered and 4 are threatened in marine systems.

Community based schemes help low income fishermen by creating employment and livelihood opportunities in backward and forward linkage activities, fingerling production, fish catching, processing, and marketing, these are all has particular significance for poverty reduction.

Proportion of total water resources used: The MDG Database, prepared and maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division, shows that the proportion of total water resources used in Bangladesh is 6.6%. Bangladesh is endowed with rich water resources. Internal renewable water resources are estimated at 105 km³/year (based on the National Water Plan-Phase II), including 84 km³ of surface water produced internally as stream flows from rainfall and approximately 21 km³ of groundwater resources from within the country. Annual cross-border river flows that also enter groundwater are estimated at 1105.64 km³ and represent over 90% of total renewable water resources which are estimated to be 1210.64 km³.

Total water withdrawal in 2008 was estimated at about 35.87 km³, of which approximately 31.50 km³ (88%) is used by agriculture, 3.60 km³ (10%) by municipalities and 0.77 km³ (2%) by industries. About 28.48 km³ or 79% of total water withdrawal comes from groundwater and 7.39 km³ or 21%, from surface water.

Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected: According to the United Nations Statistics Division, the proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected in 2008 was 1.8%. In 2007 the proportion of protected forest areas comprised 1.6%, a miniscule improvement of 0.4% over 1991. Given current trends, it is estimated that protected areas in 2015 will be less than 2% - much lower than the national target of 5% for protected areas. A positive development in this area has been the creation of a marine reserve in an area of 698 square km (0.47% of the total area of Bangladesh) in the Bay of Bengal for the protection and conservation of marine resources.

The Government of Bangladesh has recently declared 8 areas as Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) under Environmental Conservation Act, 1995. DOE has designated six ECAs and has plans to designate several more from 2006. Activities banned in these areas include: felling or collecting trees; hunting, catching or killing wildlife; industrial establishment; fishing and other activities that might affect fish and aquatic life; and any activities that could destroy or change the natural characteristics of soil or water. Over the next five years, the DOE will concentrate on assessing the need and priorities for designating and managing ECAs, and on defining a strategy for meeting these needs.

Proportion of species threatened with extinction: Based on data from 2000, IUCN reported that of the 895 varieties of inland and resident vertebrates of Bangladesh, 13 species are now extinct and 201 are under threat. It is also estimated that 18 species among the 702 living species of marine and migratory vertebrates are currently threatened. As mentioned earlier, 54 inland fish species are threatened of which 12 are critically endangered while 4 species are threatened in marine systems. In 2001 Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) reported that 106 species of vascular plants were threatened, in addition to severe depletion of agricultural biodiversity. Moreover, the Sundarban Mangrove Forest was severely damaged during the recent SIDR and Aila cyclones.
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source: Access to improved water sources increased from 94% in 1994 to 98% in 2006. Although arsenic contamination of 22% of the tube wells in the country has lowered the access to safe drinking water to an estimated 78%, the most recent MICS of 2009 found that access to an improved source of water (adjusted for arsenic contamination) has increased to 86%. Approximately 20 million people (90% of which live in rural areas) are exposed to drinking arsenic contaminated water that exceeds the Bangladesh drinking water standard of 50 μg/L. It may be possible to reach the water target by 2015 if present progress is maintained in the coming years.

Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility: Access to an improved sanitation facility has increased from 39 to 54% between 1990 and 2009. In spite of the higher sanitation coverage in urban areas compared to rural ones, the urban sanitation situation is worse as a result of the high population density. Only 12% of households in slums use an improved sanitation facility in conformity with the GoB standard, with a large proportion of households sharing a toilet due to lack of space.

Proportion of urban population living in slums: According to the 2001 Population Census, approximately 31 million people (23% of the population) lived in urban areas, of which 7.8% resided in slums. The vast majority lives in six city corporations and approximately 300 municipalities. The urban population is increasing at the rate of 3-6% per annum. The urban population is expected to reach 50 million by 2050 surpassing the rural population before 2050. The government has some targeted programmes towards overall wellbeing of the urban slum dwellers. The Local Partnerships for Urban Poverty Alleviation Project of LGED/UNDP/UN-Habitat during 1996-2006 has improved community empowerment especially women and strong partnerships between the local government and communities in some areas of Bangladesh. The goal of the 'Local Partnerships for Urban Poverty Alleviation Project (LPUPAP)' was to alleviate poverty through empowering urban people and create a sustainable process of supporting people’s efforts to overcome poverty for it to become the mainstream policy of urban governance. Urban poor have benefited from the LPUPAP project supported by UNDP & UNICEF during 2000-2007. It is expected that additional 999 slum neighborhood upgrading schemes (one hundred families per scheme) will be taken up by 2015.

There are some important initiatives of the Government aimed at addressing the emerging issues relating to environment. Reducing vulnerability through capacity building and investment for climate adaptation and disaster management underlies these initiatives. Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) will be main basis of efforts to combat climate change over the next ten years. Adaptation to climate change is ultimately an issue of sustainable development.

Climate change has emerged as major concern in our development endeavour. This complex and composite natural disorder has posed serious threats to Bangladesh, a low lying, deltaic, monsoonal country. Though Bangladesh’s contribution to climate change is negligible, it is one of its worst victims. Erratic floods, cyclones and droughts are interrupting the agriculture, and challenging the water resources, health, energy, urban planning and other development efforts of the country. What is alarming is that a meter rise in sea level would inundate 18% of our land mass, directly impacting 11% of our people. Scientific estimates indicate, of the billion people expected to be displaced worldwide by 2050 by climate change factors, one in every 45 people in the world, and one in every 7 people in Bangladesh, would be a victim. In response to these emerging eventualities, Bangladesh has taken some immediate measures which include dredging of all major rivers and fortifying of the river embankments. A number cyclone shelters has been constructed and more are on the way. A Climate Change Trust Fund has been established with domestic resources.
Bangladesh has proved strong commitments and pro-active policy options and strategic guidelines and implementation arrangements towards achieving the goals and targets of the MDGs. One of the key features of the sustained and effective pursuit of MDGs is the systematic monitoring and reporting of the progress in the areas of different targets and indicators of the MDGs. There is a designated authority for the overall monitoring and assessing the progress of MDGs. The outcome of the efforts of the entrusted organ of the government has been publishing Bangladesh MDGs progress reports at regular intervals in 2005, 2007 and in 2009. They have also compiled an account of financial involvement of the MDGs entitled Millennium Development Goals, Needs Assessment and Costing, Bangladesh, 2009-2015.

MDGs have been at the core of development activities of different executing agencies engaged in national development. There are specific programmes attempted at carrying out specific goal and target which are implemented by agencies conventionally responsible for such task. International support measures are also aligned with the MDGs and many of the UN organs have built functional and effective partnership with appropriate government agencies in bringing out results that should be reflected in continuous and sustained progress in achieving the MDGs.

Many of the NGOs and CSOs in Bangladesh are active in advocating and promoting the MDGs which essentially add to the overall capacity of the country in meeting the socio-cultural and sometimes economic demands to reach the MDGs targets.

Participation of mass people in the successful attainment of the targets of MDGs has been one of the major strategic agenda in Bangladesh. With the help of UNDP’s MDG Localization programmes, MDG-based development activities have been brought to local level planning, implementing and monitoring in order to local and regional awareness and mobilization around MDGs, strengthen local stakeholder capacity, develop trust and cohesion among the beneficiaries and development partners, promote ownership and cooperation among local government and citizens, improve institutional capacity, performance for local service delivery and focus donor attention on local needs.

In Bangladesh there have been numbers of policies, strategies, implementation programmes, activities and interactions and debates surrounding the MDGs. In fact MDGs have emerged a way we are travelling through to the one goal of peace, prosperity and humanity.