



**SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (PHASE II)**



**Advisory Panel Meeting on MDGs in Asia and the Pacific
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**OVERVIEW OF THE SECOND REGIONAL MDG REPORT
CONCEPT NOTE AND DISSEMINATION STRATEGY**

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I. MDGs – How to treat them?

- MDGs are underpinned by the MD which set out the values and principles for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
- The MDGs represent clear, measurable and time-bound development goals around which both national and international efforts can be formed.
- Multi dimensional nature of the MDGs implies that the approach has to be multi-sectoral and requires coordinated action on all fronts.
- It also requires raising the capabilities of the poor and creating an enabling environment to empower the poor.
- For ensuring sustainability of implementation, MDGs must be underpinned by an improved governance framework including strengthening administrative and financial capabilities at all levels.

II. What MDGs are all about?

- Human dignity, equality and equity at the national and global level
- Respect for all international agreed human rights and fundamental freedom, including rights to development
- Creation of an environment conducive to elimination of poverty
- Good governance at country and international level

III. What the second MDG report hopes to achieve?

- It is an advocacy tool to galvanize actions.

- A vehicle for:
 1. analytical research to assist countries in identifying policy options and sharing experiences;
 2. advocacy function to promote support and ownership of MDGs by all stakeholders at all levels.
 3. reporting progress of MDG achievements, in particular to highlight areas where further action is required
- The report supports:
 1. identifying the causes which result in some countries not achieving the MDGs
 2. highlighting best practices and lessons learned
 3. identifying areas requiring special attention

IV. What areas will it cover?

- Update assessment made in the first report with the latest data
- Special focus on Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and countries in the Pacific and Central Asia.
- In-depth analysis of the three broad groups of developing countries:
 1. Those countries which are largely on track to meet the target of halving extreme poverty by 2015 and to achieving many of the social targets of the Goals;
 2. Those making good progress towards some individual goals, such as achieving universal primary education, but have been less successful in reducing poverty; and
 3. Those which are far from making adequate progress of most goals.

V. Special Thematic Topic: Institutional Change

- Among the factors influencing the achievement of MDGs, three are key:
 1. economic growth and its impact on the poor,
 2. level of human and financial resources, and
 3. way institutions function, which is an indicator of development itself
- The first has been dealt with in first regional MDG report.
- Global MDG reports focus on resource requirements.

- Area of institutions has received less attention.

VI. Why Institutional Change?

- Institutions are crucial for effective allocation of resources
- Provide enabling environment to help deliver services, shape human behaviour, govern effectively, protect human rights
- Create equal opportunity and empower people
- Touch every facet of human interactions
- Even the best organizations can accomplish little if institutional framework is antithetical to development goals
- Informal institutions and local norms and custom play a key role at grass root level
- Lacuna in policy advocacy and development efforts in addressing institutional issues

VII. Technical Background Papers – their Purpose

- An in-depth analysis on selected thematic issues:
 1. inputs into the second MDG report
 2. stand-alone MDG Knowledge Management Series that could be built progressively
- TBPs:
 - 1) Synthesis of national and sub-regional MDG reports in Asia and the Pacific
 - 2) PRSPs - role of institutions and MDGs
 - 3) Institutional change for good governance in support of achieving the MDGs
 - 4) Enabling institutions for promoting and upscaling micro initiatives to achieve the MDGs
 - 5) Gender and institutional change
 - 6) Water, sanitation and health: institutional issues
 - 7) Implications of the Doha Development Agenda for the achievement of MDGs in Asia and the Pacific: institutional dimensions
- Missing TBP – health and education

VIII. Sourcing of quality and comparable data

- UNDESA database, supplemented with national data.
- Enhance capacity-building efforts for national statistical systems and better organize existing data relating to MDGs.

IX. Who will benefit the second MDG report?

- Key change agents
- Partners from public sector, NGOs civil society, including private sector and media.

X. Our strategy to promote key messages

- knowledge management process to promote key messages to achieving the MDGs
- Strategies:
 - 1) Development and testing of key messages at an early stage of project implementation
 - 2) A capacity development programme for key policy-makers in high-risk countries
 - 3) Ongoing development of distribution and partnership networks to disseminate key messages to key contacts:
 - Governments,
 - Civil-society (including the involvement of the MDG Ambassador)
 - Academia
 - Media
 - Private sector
 - Existing networks (Poverty-Net and MDG-Net)
 - 4) Development of a web-based MDG resource facility for Asia and the Pacific

XI. Timeline of the preparation of the report

- Launch - first week of **September 2005**.
- The preliminary findings and draft synthesis ready by **November 2004** for submission to UNDESA as inputs to the SG's report on MDGs.
- A summarized version of the report at the UNESCAP Commission Session in **April 2005**