

Millennium Development Goals

a people's progress report

Bangladesh

Main Report



December 2005

Jointly published by

People's Forum on MDG (PFM)

In association with

Manusher Jonno Campaign For Popular Education Social Watch Bangladesh Unnayan Shamannay

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PFM

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Campaign For Popular Education

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Unnayan Shamannay

Millennium Development Goals

A People's Progress Report

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CONTENTS

Table of Contents	i
Preface	ii
The Study Team	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Acronyms	vi
Bangladesh MDG Status at a Glance	x
1.Introduction	1
1.1 Background	
1.2 Objectives	
1.3 Process	
1.4 Limitations	
2. People’s Assessment on Bangladesh MDG	12
2.1 Overview	
2.2 Goal 1: Poverty	
2.3 Goal 2: Primary Education	
2.4 Goal 3: Gender Equity	
2.5 Health	
Goal 4: Child Health	
Goal 5: Maternal Health	
Goal 6: HIV/AIDS & other Diseases	
2.6 Goal 7: Environment	
2.7 Goal 8: Global Partnership	
3. Cross Cutting Issues	57
3.1 Human Rights	
3.2 Governance	
3.3 Indigenous People	
3.4 Disability & Development	
3.5 Youth Development	
3.6 Information & Communication Technology	
4. Concluding Remarks	83
<i>Bibliography</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>Annexes</i>	<i>89</i>
A. Goal Specific Background Papers	89
A-1 Poverty (Goal 1)	
A-2 Primary Education (Goal 2)	
A-3 Gender Equity (Goal 3)	
A-4 Health (Goal 4,5,6)	
A-5 Environment (Goal 7)	
A-6 Global Partnership (Goal 8)	
B. FGD & Local Consultation Matrix	113
C. Important Readings (On Millennium Declaration & 2005 outcome)	126

PREFACE

This is the main and final version of the People's Progress Report on Bangladesh MDG 2005. Due to time constraints, an interim version of the report was published in September 2005 and circulated for dissemination among delegates and peoples representative to the UNGA (Millennium Summit held on 13-14 September 2005 at NY) from the country.

We want to take this opportunity to thank those involved in the process particularly people in rural areas, men and women who participated in the assessment with their valuable information and pragmatic insights. Many thanks to the principal researcher Arifur Rahman, who is currently a Program Manager at Manusher Jonno and Coordinator of Social Watch Bangladesh, for his tremendous effort to carry out the study and compilation of the report.

The other study team members, mainly graduate students from reputed universities, including Md. Akhter Hossain deserve special thanks. We would like to thank all the facilitating NGOs, which organized the regional consultations at six divisions and helped the field research team during the participatory assessment. Thanks also to the members of the local community, journalists, activists, NGOs and government officials who helped the study team by providing timely assistance and valuable information.

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We are grateful to CAMPE and Manusher Jonno for sponsoring the study and Social Watch Bangladesh at Unnayan Shamannay for providing technical and managerial services. Finally thanks to the editors, particularly Dr. M. Asaduzzaman of BIDS for his sincere effort in shaping up this document.

We expect that this People's Report will be given due consideration in framing and implementation of policies and plans including PRSP, budget and annual development/investment plans for achieving MDGs in Bangladesh with special emphasis on the extreme poor, marginalized and socially excluded including women, youth, children, ecologically vulnerable groups, *adivasis* and the disabled.

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(in coordination with Manusher Jonno)

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Bangladesh Adivasi Forum

Rights of the Disabled Persons

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Acronyms

AAB	: Action Aid Bangladesh
ACC	: Anti Corruption Commission
ADD	: Action on Disability & Development.
ASK	: Ain O Salish Kendra.
AIDS	: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BAF	: Bangladesh Adivashi Forum.
BBS	: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
BIERN	: Bangladesh Education And Resource Network
BIDS	: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.
BNWLA	: Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association.
BRAC	: Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BSEHR	: Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights
BTF	: Bangladesh Teachers' Federation
CAMPE	: Campaign for Popular Education.
CAS	: Country Assistance Strategy
CEDAW	: Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CGG	: Campaign for Good Governance.
CHT	: Chittagong Hill Tracts
CNG	: Compressed Natural Gas.
CS	: Civil Society.
CSO	: Civil Society Organization.
CBR	: Crude Birth Rate.
CDR	: Crude Death Rate.
CMR	: Child Mortality Rate.
CPR	: Contraceptive Prevalence Rate.
DAM	: Dhaka Ahsania Mission
DCI	: Direct calorie Intake
DAC	: Development Assistance Committee.
DPE	: Department of Primary Education
DW	: Democracy Watch
DWA	: Disability Welfare Act

EPI	: Extended Program for Immunization.
EU	: European Union.
ESP	: Essential Health Service Package.
FDI	: Foreign Direct Investment.
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion.
FNB	: Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product.
GED	: General Economic Division.
GM(food)	: Genetically Modified Food.
GNI	: Gross National Income.
GO	: Government Organization.
GPS	: Govt. Primary School.
GoB	: Government of Bangladesh.
HCR	: Head Count Ratio
HFW	: Hunger Free World
HIES	: Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	: Human Immune Virus
HIPC	: Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HPI	: Human Poverty Index
HPSP	: Health and Population Sector Program.
HR	: Human Rights
ICT	: Information and Communication Technology
IPM	: Integrated Pest Management
IMF	: International Monetary Fund
IMR	: Infant Mortality Rate
JA	: Jubo Academy
KG School	: Kinder Garten School.
LDC	: Least Developed Country.
LFS	: Labor Force Survey.

MDG	: Millennium Development Goals.
MJ	: Manusher Jonno.
MP	: Member of Parliament.
MMR	: Maternal Mortality Rate.
MPRI	: Millennium Development Goals Peoples' Report Initiatives.
MoPME	: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.
NG	: Non Government
NFE	: Non Formal Education.
NFOWD	: National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled
NFYOB	: National Federation of Youth Organizations in Bangladesh
NGO	: Non-government Organization.
ODA	: Overseas Development Assistance.
OECD	: Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development.
PFM	: Peoples' Forum on MDG.
PHM	: Peoples' Health Movement.
PLAGE	: Policy Leadership Advocacy for Gender Equality
PMED	: Primary and Mass Education Directorate.
PPP	: Purchasing Power Parity.
PPA	: Participatory Poverty Assessment.
PPRC	: Power and Participation Research Center.
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
RNGPS	: Registered Non-government Primary School.
SPSS	: Statistical Package for Social Science.
STD	: Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
STD	: Steps Towards Development.
SWB	: Social Watch Bangladesh.
TAG	: Technical Advisory Group.
TFR	: Total Fertility Rate.
TLM	: Total Literacy Movement.
TRM	: Tidal River Management.
TB	: Tuberculosis.

UN	: United Nations.
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program.
UNICEF	: United Nations Children’s Fund
UNO	: United Nations Organization.
UPC	: Universal Primary Education Completers.
US	: Unnayan Shamannay
US	: United States
UP	: Union Parishad (Lowest level of local govt.)
UNO	: Upazila Nirbahi Officer (Govt. Executive at sub district level)
VAW	: Violence Against Women.
WSSD	: World Summit on Social Development
WTO	: World Trade Organization.
WHO	: World Health Organization.
WB	: World Bank
YFM	: Youth Forum on MDG

Bangladesh MDGs

STATUS AT A GLANCE

		<i>With special reference to the</i>	<i>GoB-UN</i>	<i>Progress</i>	<i>Report on</i>	<i>Bangladesh MDG</i>	
GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE YEAR 1990-1995	CURRENT STATUS 2000-2002	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger	Target 1 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	Reduce proportion of people below US\$1 per day (PPP) from 58.8% in 1991 to 29.4% by 2015	Proportion of population below US\$1 per day (PPP-values)	58.80%	49.60%	29.40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target for year 2015 for Bangladesh is set at 29.4 % based on available data for 1990 (1991-92), which has reduced the challenge to make it 25 per cent, because the Millennium Declaration was adopted in 2000. In that case If we consider base figure for 2000, the target for 2015 will be around 25 % (half of 49.8% or 49.6) not 29.4 (half of 58.8%). If the goal is achieved, in 2015, more than 40 (25%, base 2000) to 50 (30%, base 1990) million people will still live in poverty. Analysis shows that, the rate of poverty reduction was only 1 percentage point over 1991/92 to 2000, which in absolute figure reduced the poor from 65.6 million to 64.7 million (only one million) in the same period. So, if we assume 60-63 million poor now in 2005, to reduce it to 40 or even 50 million (as per MDG target) will be extremely difficult, if other things remain same. In the present study, rural poverty is estimated as 63 % in 2005 as against 53 % of BBS (HIES 2000). However, the estimates shown here for different years actually use CBN method (HIES 2000, BBS: 49.8 %). The 1\$ per day PPP value may not be a standard measuring unit for Bangladesh. WB estimates for the year 2000 shows 29.1 per cent live below poverty line. Gini co-efficient, a measure of inequality rose from 0.398 in 1991/92 to 0.47 in 2000. Rural Gini coefficient rose in the same period from 0.364 to 0.43
	Target 2 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger			Proportion of people in extreme poverty	28%	20%	14%

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 2	Ensure that, by 2015, children	Increase net enrollment rate from 73.7%	Net enrollment rate in primary				<p>The GoB –UN report acknowledges the civil society estimates on adult literacy as far as quality is concerned. The Education Watch data show that 38.8 per cent adults are literate as against various government data, which varies from 47 to about 60/62 per cent. People have much more to say about quality of education NOT numbers or mere slogan in the name of total literacy movement (TLM).</p> <p>People's perception provides indication that the present status is quite satisfactory so far as the quantitative targets are considered regarding increased net enrolment, decreased drop out, increased number of teachers in the context of government incentives and supports, infrastructure development, and expansion of girls' education.</p> <p>However, there is still lack of adequate number of qualified teachers, teaching aids and classrooms and people are highly concerned about low quality education and would like to see changes in the unemployment situation through skill training and vocational education. Remote <i>char & haor</i> areas need priority and affirmative actions.</p> <p>Under inclusive education, the mild disabled can be mainstreamed in the formal schools along with more special education for the severely disabled.</p> <p>Special programs for addressing educational need of the working children (mostly worst form of child labor) to be adopted.</p> <p>Apparently, major education indicators can be achieved before 2015 but new set of indicators need to be developed for Bangladesh with focus on quality aspects of education and literacy.</p>
		in 1992 to 100% by 2015	education	73.70%	82.70%	100%	
		Reduce primary school dropout rates from 38% in 1994 to 0% by 2015	Proportion of pupils starting				
		Class 1 who reach Class 5	42.50%	80.60%	100%		
ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION	Everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling		Adult (15+ years) Literacy Rate	36.90%	38.80%		

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN	Target 4 Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Ratio of girls to boys in primary				<p>There has been substantial improvement over the last decades on gender equity particularly in primary education. The target has already been achieved in primary education and gaps are being narrowed down sharply in secondary education as well. Female participation in tertiary education is still very limited.</p> <p>Overall performance in closing the gender gap is highly appreciated by the people, though they are concerned over employment opportunities of these girl students in the formal sector.</p> <p>Women's share in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is very low because of their limited opportunity in education, training, social interaction and mobility mainly due to social barriers and backwardness</p> <p>In 2004, the government passed a bill through the 14th Amendment of the Constitution introducing 45 reserved seats (selected by the representing political parties proportionately) which increase the percentage share to about 15 per cent of total (if all the seats are fulfilled) However, the demand for direct election in the reserved seats has been neglected and the question of women's stronger participation in the parliament has remained elusive and unresolved</p>
			Primary	55:45	48:52	48:52	
			Secondary	34:66	52:48	50:50	
			Tertiary education	25:75	36:64	50:50	
			Ratio of literate females to males of 20-24 years olds	42:65	55:71	100:100	
			Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector		22%		
			Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament			2%	

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY	Target 5 Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Reduce under-five mortality rate from 151 deaths per thousand live births in 1990 to 50 by 2015	Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1000 live births)	151	82	50	<p>According to the participatory assessment, average score for IMR was found satisfactory with a mean value of 3.66 while CMR status was rated slightly less than that of IMR (3.62) in the 5 point rating scale. Both the values for IMR and CMR refer to a better and improved situation in these indicators.</p> <p>GO-NGO collaboration has worked well in the area.</p> <p>Immunization coverage although substantial, remote areas including the char, <i>haor</i>, hills are not covered comprehensively.</p> <p>Overall, goal 4 can be achieved if special efforts are continued with focus on remote areas on a priority basis. Media campaign and awareness programs are also very crucial.</p>
			Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1000 live births)	94	56		
			Proportion of 1-year -old children immunized against measles	54%	69%	100%	
						57 million per year, 2005-2015*	

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH	Target 6 Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	deaths per 1,00,000 live births in 1990 to 143 by 2015	Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 1000 live births)	574	320-400	143	<p>Although still alarming, progress in reducing MMR has been observed in the last two decades.</p> <p>In the peoples' assessment, average score for MMR was found satisfactory with a mean value of 3.63, which refers to an improved and better situation.</p> <p>GO-NGO collaboration can better be utilized.</p> <p>Therefore, progress although substantial, remote areas including the char, <i>haor</i>, hills are under high risk of maternal mortality.</p> <p>Overall, goal 5 might be achieved if special efforts are taken with focus on remote areas on a priority basis. Media campaign and awareness programs are also very crucial.</p> <p>Domestic violence is a real concern and deeply rooted in the society. However, improved medical facilities (doctors, trained birth attendant, ambulance, health centers within reach, good transportation) and awareness of the people are two other major critical areas of concern.</p>
		Increase the proportion of births attended by skilled birth personnel to 50% by 2010	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	5%	12%	50% by 2010	
		Reduce TFR to 2.2 by 2010	Total fertility rate	3.3	3.3	2.2 by 2010	
		Reduce maternal malnutrition to less than 20% by 2015	Proportion of mothers who are malnourished		45%	< 20%	
		Increase by two years the median age of girls at first marriage	Legally stipulated age at girl's first marriage		18 years	20 years	
		Eliminate violence against women	Proportion maternal death caused by violence		14%	0%	

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES	Target 7 Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Condom use rate among :				Overall situation of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB prevalence in Bangladesh although not very bad, Bangladesh is at high risk of HIV and incidence of some other diseases including Hepatitis B, diarrhea, child pneumonia are quite high which need to be carefully handled. Health awareness, lifestyle, improved medical facilities and social supports are essential to combat diseases like HIV, Hepatitis. People recommended for stronger preventive mechanism and social movement through awareness and safe practices. Medical check up facilities needs to be expanded at district hospitals and sea, air and land check posts.
			female sex workers		2-4%		
			rickshaw pullers		2%		
			truck drivers		25%		
			HIV positivity among:				
			IDUs		4%		
			female sex workers		0.2-0.7%		
			men who have sex with men		0.20%		
			Needle sharing among IDUs		25-75%		
			Blood screened before transfusion		NA		
Health facilities with adequate equipment for screening HIV-infected blood		NA					
Target 8 Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Reduce by 50% the incidence of cases and the number of deaths from malaria by 2015 Detect 70% and cure 85% of detected cases by 2005	Prevalence of malaria (million cases annually)			1	0.5	
		Death rates associated with malaria			1%	0.05%	
		Prevalence of tuberculosis (per 100,000)			233		
		Death rates associated with tuberculosis (annually)			70,000		
		Proportion of tuberculosis cases under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS):					
detected			34%	70% by 2005			
cured			84%	85% by 2005			

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	Target 9 Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	Proportion of land area covered by forest	9%	10.20%	20%	Overall, environmental situation in Bangladesh is vulnerable. The target for doubling of proportion of land area covered by forest is highly ambitious and people are highly skeptic on the assumption. Proportion of the population with access to safe water and sanitation although improved, recent crisis of arsenic contamination and rapid urbanization, over use of chemicals in farming and shrimp culture pose huge threat to the situation.
			proportion of protected area to surface area to maintain biological diversity		0.01%		
			Energy use (kilogram oil equivalent) per US\$ 1000 GDP (PPP)	123.18	92.36		
			Carbon dioxide emissions (metric tons per capita)	0.141	0.189		
			Proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water sources:				
	Target 10 Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Ensure that 100% of urban and 96.5% of rural population have access to safe water by 2015	Urban		82%	100%	Life of urban slum dwellers in major cities in Bangladesh (particularly in Dhaka) is miserable with poor water and sanitation amidst other environmental hazards .
			Rural		72%	96.50%	
		Ensure that 100% of urban and rural population have access to improved sanitation by 2010.	Urban		56%	85.50%	
			Rural		29%	55.50%	
	Target 11 By 2020, have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers		Proportion of (urban poor) households:				
Owning dwelling				26%			
Owning land				18%			

GOALS	GLOBAL TARGET	BANGLADESH TARGET	INDICATORS	BASE 1990	CURRENT 2000	TARGET 2015	People's Progress Report
GOAL 8	Target 12 Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	ODA (billion US\$)		1.02		The GoB-UN report clearly pointed out the gaps in developed countries' promises in case of Bangladesh as quoted here "ODA from countries belonging to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has been decreasing in recent years, both in real value and as a share of the GNI of donor countries. It has dropped from US\$ 1.24 billion (0.28 per cent of GNI) in 1996 to US \$ 1.02 billion (0.22 % of GNI) in 2001). ODA to LDCs has also fallen from 0.06 per cent of donors' GNI in 1996 to 0.05 per cent in 2001. This is far from the target of 0.7 and 0.15 per cent, respectively set as the MDG requirements for these indicators."
	ODA to LDCs (percentage of OECD/DAC donors' GNI)			0.05%			
	Target 13 Address the special needs of the least developed countries	Address the special needs of the least developed countries	Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is united		79.10%		
			Export from Bangladesh to developed countries:				
	Target 14: Not applicable for Bangladesh	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long-term	value (billion US\$)		58.31		
			proportion admitted free of duties		66%		
			Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on textiles and clothing from Bangladesh		12%		
			Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity				
	Target 15 Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long-term	Agricultural support estimated for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP	Debt service as a percentage of export of goods and services		7.29%		
			Unemployment rate of 15-24 years-olds		8%		
Proportion of Bangladesh population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis				80%			
Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, developed and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	In cooperation with developing countries, developed and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population		1.32			
		Personal computer in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population		0.34			
		Internet users per 100 population		0.15			
Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in Bangladesh	In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in Bangladesh	Proportion of Bangladesh population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis		80%			
		ICT and Youth development is two most important interlinked areas, which needs special efforts.					
Target 18 In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefit of new technologies, especially information and communication	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefit of new technologies, especially information and communication	Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population		1.32			
		Personal computer in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population		0.34			
Target 18 In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefit of new technologies, especially information and communication	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefit of new technologies, especially information and communication	Internet users per 100 population		0.15			
		ICT and Youth development is two most important interlinked areas, which needs special efforts.					

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

“We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.”

Millennium Declaration, 2000

1.1 Background

Bangladesh is one of the signatories among 189 countries in the world to the Millennium Declaration (2000). As a part of that agreement, Bangladesh is working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) committing herself to a set of internationally agreed development targets. These targets include reducing poverty and hunger, ensuring elementary education for all, combating diseases including HIV/AIDS, promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability and, global partnership between the developed and the developing nations including the least developed countries (LDC). The year 2005 is the 5th year since the Millennium Declaration, and 10 years since the UN's fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing and World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) held in Copenhagen. From 14-16 September 2005, the implementation of the Millennium Declaration was assessed in the UN General Assembly in New York in the light of developments that have taken place since its adoption in 2000. As a part of this process, a joint progress report on MDG has been published by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and the local UN system (led by UNDP) (henceforth, GoB/UNDP report) in February 2005.

The GoB/UNDP report is not a comprehensive assessment of progress and does not contextualize MDGs for the country although one of the important prerequisites for such an effort is planned to be achieved by localizing the issues, problems and priorities. Therefore, the goals, targets, and indicators of MDG need to be identified and reviewed against the current situation in Bangladesh. Consequently, the report did not fulfill the expectations of the people of Bangladesh including the wider civil society, CSO, NGO and Human Rights organizations. Even the preparation of the report lacked a sufficiently participatory process. Furthermore, the report did not address the underlying causes of poverty and deprivation focusing on the rights of the socially excluded and marginalized groups. Given this backdrop, some of the civil society, non-government and human rights organizations and concerned individuals formed a forum on MDG called “People's Forum on MDG” (PFM) coordinated by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). The PFM decided to prepare “A People's Progress Report on Bangladesh MDG” based on wider participation of the people from different walks of life particularly of the civil society and incorporating the voices of the poor to assess the progress of MDGs in Bangladesh. Several organizations joined hands in the effort. Social Watch Bangladesh at Unnayan Shamannay was responsible to carry out the work of research and publication of the report on behalf of PFM with support from CAMPE

and *Manusher Jonno*. It was also agreed that an overview of the report synthesizing the voices of the people would be shared with the general public, the broader civil society as well as the Government and other stakeholders before the UN GA on MD +5 in September 2005 to sensitize them all to the gravity of the situation. After the launching of the interim report as an overview of the whole initiative, a tremendous volume of feed back was received from different quarters of local, national and international experts, academics, practitioners, UN and other international agencies, activists, students, media people and development partners, women and human rights groups, various social, development networks and coalitions. The report was shared in the NY summit as well.

A full blown report was planned to be published with necessary analysis and reports from the coalitions members on different sectors related to MDG and some cross cutting issues which needs special emphasis. This is the output of that organized joint effort to pursue peoples' voice and participation at the center of policy making process.

1.2 Objectives of the People's Progress Report

This is the first people's progress report on Bangladesh MDG, which has the following broader objectives:

1. To inform the general public and all stakeholders in the government and other development actors about the on-the-ground reality of progress towards MDG.
2. Increase knowledge and awareness of people on MDG through wider dissemination, campaign and advocacy.
3. To sensitize government and UN agencies for a pro-people progress report
4. To lobby government to implement the goals in line with the commitments by monitoring the status
5. To complement the efforts and activities of the Government, NGOs, and development partners in implementing the MDGs by providing facts, figures and analysis based on the views of the general public and the people on the street.

Millennium Declaration Highlights

4. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.
5. Central challenge: globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed
6. Fundamental values to be essential to international relations: Freedom. Equality. Solidarity. Tolerance. Respect for nature. Shared responsibility.
11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.
20. We also resolve: To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

1.3 The Process: MDG People's Report Initiative

Under the banner of People's Forum on MDG, the process for the preparation of the people's progress report was a highly inclusive one and followed systemic steps in carrying forward the work as indicated below (see the detailed process calendar by activities at the end of this section) .

- **Core Group Members**

Three institutions namely, Social Watch Bangladesh (SWB) at Unnayan Shamannay, Peoples' Forum on MDG (PFM) at CAMPE & *Manusher Jonno* (MJ) were selected to work as the coordinating body of the peoples' report initiative to give over-all direction to the research and management team.

- **A Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**

A technical advisory group (TAG) was formed drawing its membership from senior experts and specialists from academia/research institutions, activists and sector specialists. The TAG members were chosen on the basis of their technical knowledge, work experience, availability and willingness. The TAG members helped in finalizing the research and reporting plan at the beginning. They provided valuable comments and observations in finalizing the analysis/findings of the study and the report as a whole when the draft was presented to them for review and comments. Like the previously published interim report, they have overseen the preparation of this main report as well.

- **Sectoral/Thematic Contributors**

Sixteen networks/forum and organizations with specialization or work experience in specific areas were identified through a participatory process in the PFM meetings. Their main responsibility was to submit a sector-specific report with reference to specific MDGs, targets and indicators. The themes and the sectoral/ thematic contributors against assigned topics/sectors were as follows:

1. Poverty: Social Watch Bangladesh
2. Education: Education Watch/CAMPE
3. Gender: Steps Towards Development
4. Health: PHM: Peoples' Health Movement -Bangladesh
5. Environment: Unnayan Shamannay
6. Trade Justice& Global Partnership: Action Aid Bangladesh
7. Human Rights: ASK, BNWLA & BSEHR (in coordination with Manusher Jonno)
8. Governance : Campaign for Good Governance /SUPRO
9. Rights of the Indigenous People: Bangladesh Adivasi Forum (BAF)
10. Rights of the Disabled: Action on Disability & Development & NFOWD
11. Youth: Youth Forum on MDG/bEARN
12. Information & Communication Technology (ICT): D.Net

- **The Study Team**

A total of 16 people led by the principal researcher, Arifur Rahman of Manusher Jonno (also coordinator of Social Watch Bangladesh) assisted by several graduate students carried out the background research. Unnayayn Shamannay, the secretariat of Social Watch Bangladesh was the secretariat for the people's report initiative.

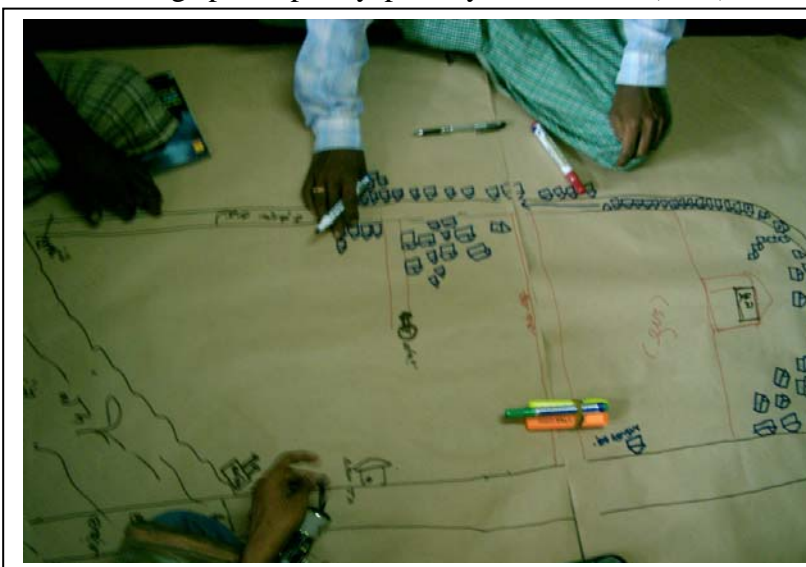
- **PFM Management Committee and G-CAP Working Group**

Members of the management committee of PFM and working group of G-CAP Bangladesh contributed positively by extending timely assistance and guidance throughout the process.

Research Methodology

The study was designed to collect data from both primary and secondary sources with a focus on qualitative and participatory methods. However, quantitative methods were also integrated with the qualitative approach at different levels particularly in carrying out the assessment and interview with about 658 participants across the country. The study was designed carefully to increase the validity and reliability of data and a number of methods including triangulation were adopted to crosscheck the facts and figures.

The study methods included review of literatures, individual interview of villagers identified through social mapping and wealth ranking/ participatory poverty assessment (PPA), FGD with male and female groups in the villages, case study documentation of government primary schools and health centres in each of the 12 study locations (Upazillas) around the country with a geographical balance. Consultation with the civil society had been carried out at three different levels with participants from different socio-economic background and occupation.

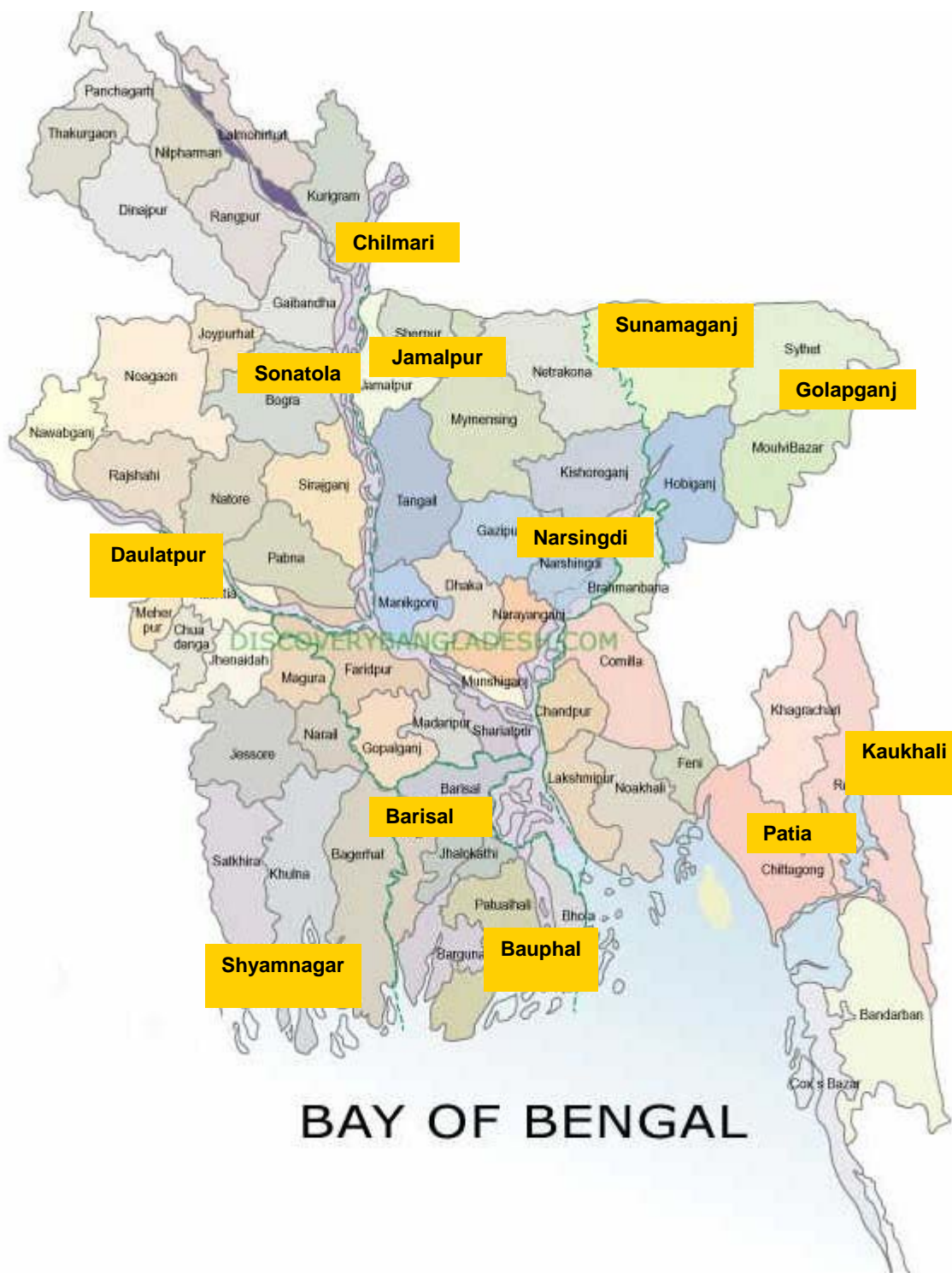


The three levels include Upazilla (12), Division (6) and National (Dhaka). Some government officials also attended the consultation meetings/workshops. For better understanding of the issues at the local level, UNO (executive officer at the upazilla level) of the local administration were also consulted along with some of the upazilla parishad members and line ministry officials. Several Union Parishads were also studied for triangulation. As a part of the process, the report initiative also interfaced with the UN Advocacy Group on MDG, which is being coordinated by UNDP, Bangladesh by actively participating in their meetings and sharing the information

updates. A meeting was held with the member, General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, which is the focal point of MDG-PRSP issues in Bangladesh.

Looking beyond MDG: A Review

A broad based critical review of national and international documents and sources have been



carried out. These include web resources, publications and resource documents of government, WB, UN system and development partners'; various reports and reviews of international and national CSO/NGOs/ activists groups, and the GoB-UN progress report on Bangladesh MDG, in particular. All those review findings and analytical information were used as building blocks towards a critical discussion in seeking people's opinions and assessments within a participatory framework.

Countrywide Field Study

A field Study has been carried out in 12 villages in 12 Upazillas (1 Upazilla X 2 Districts X 6 Division). Two districts were selected in each division by considering both high and low



performance on poverty and social development (HDI, HPI, IPI) along with judgements based on recent available information to have average representative rural figures.

Upazillas and villages were selected in the next steps by using local knowledge and available information so that they could represent their respective districts and match with its' average profile. Participatory tools including general discussions, FGDs, social mapping, wealth ranking/ PPA, and individual in depth interview through open ended

schedules where report card method The field investigation was carried out in June 2005.

The step-by-step method captures peoples' perception, records their views and understanding through their own assessment on the core issues of livelihood and socio-economic problems. The tools employed for the purpose were several depending on the situation. These included wide range of A total of 1000 households were identified by the village-level participants in the social mapping exercises in 12 villages across the country. The mapping exercise empowered the villagers to speak up on their problems and share their knowledge in assessing poverty in their community through a participatory poverty assessment (PPA) using wealth-ranking method.

Report Card Testing on Services & Indicators

After social mapping, among the 1000 households, 675 households were selected through wealth ranking, for in-depth study by carrying out questionnaire survey and report card testing. However, due to unavailability of several participants, a total of 658 households were studied, of which 157 were female headed (Table 1.1) During individual interview with the poor households in the rural Bangladesh, respondents were asked to give score on a 5 point scale rating where the higher values refer to higher services or performances to assess mainly the quality of various socio-economic services and also on some indicators related to MDGs. (1=very poor/very bad, 2= poor/bad, 3=moderate, 4=good, 5= very good/excellent) The

method is easy to use and assesses performance mainly at the outcome level whatever the input level is although they consider the reality and context of the problems/issues. Respondents were also asked to measure the degree of changes (progress mainly) in the same rating scale.

Table 1.1: Location wise Studied Poor Households

Location/Upazilla	Participants		
	Male	Female	Total
Chilmari	79	11	90
Sonatola	57	2	59
Jamalpur	44	6	50
Narsingdi	34	6	40
Daulatpur	49	7	56
Shyamnagar	61	1	62
Barisal	39	14	53
Baufal	34	30	64
Kaukhali	44	9	53
Patia	26	29	55
Sunamgonj	20	20	40
Golapgonj	14	22	36
Total	501	157	658
Missing/Not available			17
Total Poor HH			675
Non-Poor HH			225
Grand Total			1000

FGDs & Case Studies

In addition to the survey, 24 Focus Group Discussions were carried out (one with male, one with female group) in each of the 12 survey locations in rural Bangladesh. Moreover, several Case studies on government primary schools and Upazilla Health Centers and Union Parishads (lowest administrative unit) were carried out. On an average 12-15 participants were participated in the FGDs whereas case studies were developed on the basis of available secondary information (school registers) and informal interview with relevant stakeholders (teachers, students, doctors, patients, UP chairperson, Secretary etc).

Upazilla Consultations

In order to validate the information and analysis provided by the rural people, findings were shared separately with civil society groups and government administrative officers (mainly UNO and other officials) at Upazilla level in the concerned survey areas. The civil society meeting was attended by NGO activists, members of peoples' organizations/CBOs, teachers, journalists, political leaders, UP leaders, business people, students etc.

Regional/Divisional Consultation

Six Regional/Divisional Consultations had been carried out during 21-30 July in Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Mymensingh in association with local NGOs



working in the regions with the participation of on average 60 - 70 participants of which more than a quarter was female (see Table 1.2 below). Participants were from wide range of citizens/people including member of Civil Society, CSO, NGO leaders/activists, Activists of Human Rights and Women Rights Organizations, representatives of various professional bodies and socio-cultural organizations/associations, peoples' organizations, teachers,

academics, researchers, journalists, local government officials, political leaders, various development network members along with other Government officials and representatives particularly working on primary health, education, women, environment, employment, social service and similar issues.

A concept paper was presented first on MDG. Group analysis and work were subsequently carried out on a goal by goal basis. The analysis focussed on the identification of challenges and options in the context of regional situation in the problem areas. This was followed by group presentations and discussion and critiques by others (validation). In this manner, the people themselves evaluated the status of the goals in the context of the social and economic and other situations in the regions from different perspectives. They also recommend some actions to be taken to meet the goals and also to assign goal- specific responsibilities and wherever possible work out their financial implications in some of the cases. The participants' profile are presented in table 1.3 by occupational backgrounds:

Region	Facilitating NGO	Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Sylhet	RIO	45	26	71
Chittagong	YPSA	53	11	64
Khulna	UTTARAN, Satkhira	60	25	85
Barisal	Speed Trust, Barisal	47	18	65
Rajshahi	ASUS & TRINOMUL	44	19	63
Mymensingh	Caritas, Mymensingh	46	12	58
Total		295	111	406

Table 1.3: Profile of the Regional Consultations Participants

Occupation/Sex	Chittagong	Rajshahi	Mymensingh	Sylhet	Khulna	Barishal	Total
Teacher	3	5	6	7	5	5	31
Lawyer	2	2	5	5	4	7	25
Journalist	10	14	2	9	8	8	51
Doctors	-		2	5	4	3	14
Business people	5	1	4	4	5	4	23
NGO & Dev. Activists	20	33	30	26	34	23	166
Service (GO & non-Govt.)	9	5	5	8	6	4	37
Students	7			2	9	2	20
Social Worker	4	2	4	4	6	5	25
Politician	3	1	2		4	4	14
Male	53	44	46	45	60	47	295
Female	11	19	12	26	25	18	111
Total	64	63	58	71	85	65	406

National Consultation

A national level consultation was held in Dhaka on 9 August 2005 at the National Press Club, Dhaka after the regional consultations. More than 105 participants from multidisciplinary backgrounds participated in the national consultations. Member of Civil Society, CSO, NGO leaders/activists, activists of Human Rights and Women Rights Organizations, representatives of various professional bodies and socio-cultural organizations and associations, peoples' organizations, teachers, academics, researchers, journalists, local government leaders, national level political leaders, various development network members along with participants from development partners, international organizations attended the meeting. Many of them made constructive suggestions and comments. Several sector specialists took active part and spoke as panel discussants on the eight goals. The meeting was well covered by the press and electronic media. Table 1.4 provides an idea on the profile of the participants of the national consultation.

Table 1.4: Participants' Profile – National Consultation

Occupation/Type of Org	Male	Female	Total
NGOs	17	05	22
CSOs	04	04	08
Labor Organizations	01	02	03
Donor/Int. Development Partners	02	02	04
Govt. Organizations	02	01	03
International NGOs	02	01	03
Women Organizations	-	07	07
Researchers	10	03	13
Economist	03	-	03
Lawyer	-	02	02
News agencies	02	-	02
Journalist	28	04	32
Other Organizers	02	-	02
Grand Total	73	31	104

Process Calendar

Millennium Development Goals Bangladesh: A Peoples' Progress Report 2005

Event/Activity	Tentative Date	Remarks
<i>Core Group Meeting</i>	<i>13 April 21 April</i>	At Manusher Jonno
<i>Coalition Meeting</i>	<i>30 April 8 May</i>	At SWB/Unnayan Shamannay
Core Group Meeting (Availability of Fund)	10 May	At Manusher Jonno
Team Mobilization	Closed by 10 May	
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting	12 May	At CAMPE
Review of documents & Database development	By 30 May	Using secondary sources
Interface with UN Advocacy Group	May-June	UNDP & MDG Advocacy Group
Survey Preparation (Field Setting, Tools development, Training)	15-29 May	
Field Survey & data processing	30 May-30 June	Simultaneous Field Team
Last date of sectoral paper submission by the coalition members	25 June 2005	
6 Divisional Consultations	21- 30 July	Dhaka divisional consultation held at Mymensingh.
Core Group Meeting (on national consultation)	08 August	At Manusher Jonno
Steering Group Meeting /Management Committee	June-August	At CAMPE, BIM
Findings and Report Outline Sharing with Coalition Members/Sectoral Contributors	08 August	At Manusher Jonno
National Consultation at Dhaka	09 August	
Interface with the Government	17 August	GED / Planning Commission (PRSP-MDG Focal)
Draft Report presented to TAG	28, 30 August	At CAMPE
Draft Sharing with coalition members/NGOs/SC	30 August	Electronically
Editorial Works	4 Sep	BIDS
Printing of interim report (Overview)	5 September 2005	
Report Launching (wider dissemination meeting)	6 September 2005	IDB Bhaban
<i>Sharing the report at NY during the UN General Assembly</i>	<i>14-16 September 2005</i>	<i>5 Years of UN Millennium Declaration</i>
<i>Follow up comments and reviews</i>	<i>Oct-December</i>	<i>Including TAG meeting</i>
<i>Drafting, Editing & Finalization of the Report</i>	<i>December 2005</i>	
<i>Launching of Main Report</i>	<i>28 January 2006</i>	<i>LGED Bhaban Auditorium</i>

1.4 Scope & Limitations of the report

Unlike traditional evaluation, the People's Progress Report on MDGs relies mainly on the ordinary poor peoples' knowledge, attitude and practices, validated later with recourse to views of other informed citizens and published documents including the web resources. People have their own way of interpreting and explaining a situation, which sometimes might not have statistical significance. However, the study carefully and purposively designed to have voices of the people on MDG status although the issues were placed before them in terms of their understandable indicators and issues. Statistical validation was not considered a core issue; instead people's perceptions on the quality of services to achieve the MDG outcomes were emphasized. Such qualitative reports are not, however, substitutes of rigorously carried out quantitative analysis and they should complement each other. Unfortunately time and resource constraints did not permit us to do so to the extent we had desired. The present report based on the qualitative perceptions... has the same limitations as those of the preliminary report.

Chapter II provides the main findings of the peoples' assessment along with necessary analysis within a comparative discussion framework, which is presented goal by goal. Six reports on cross cutting issues are presented in Chapter III and finally Chapter IV gives some concluding remarks with some concrete lessons learnt through the process. In the annexes, goal specific sectoral papers, findings from group discussions and summary points of consultations are presented along with some important readings related to millennium summit 2000 and follow up world summit in 2005.

MDG needs assessments is very important because it provides detailed information for planning and budgeting for public expenditures, such as

- ❑ *Comprehensive lists of specific interventions required to meet the MDGs;*
- ❑ *Coverage targets for each intervention to be achieved by 2015 together with interim milestones;*
- ❑ *Infrastructure needs to meet the MDGs (e.g. schools, health centers, and roads);*
- ❑ *Human resource needs to achieve the Goals (e.g. doctors, nurses, and teachers);*
- ❑ *Detailed costs for each set of interventions that differentiate between capital and recurrent costs; and*
- ❑ *A financing analysis for meeting the MDGs, distinguishing between household and government expenditures as well as external finance.*

Source: UM Millennium Project, *Methodology: Millennium Development Goals Needs Assessments*, September 2004

Chapter II

People's Assessment on Bangladesh MDG

*“Those whom you push down will chain you down,
Those whom you leave behind will pull you behind
The more you envelope them under darkness of ignorance
The more distant will your own welfare be!”*

Literal translation from a poem of Rabindranath Tagore: “Disgraced” in *Gitanjali*

2.1 AN OVERVIEW

This chapter focuses mainly on the ordinary and informed people's assessment on Bangladesh MDG and beyond with a comparative analysis of available secondary information including the GoB-UN progress report and deals with a set of basic socio-economic and public services and relevant indicators. Analysis has been carried out in terms of present status, progression or regression over time and the degree of changes. Special focus has been given on gender, other marginalized groups including the disabled and *adivasis* and also on regional variation by divisions.

The experience of the field study makes it quite clear that by using different tools at different levels the people can take part in an intelligent and coherent manner in the assessment of any intervention, program or plan through

their personal experience and understanding as they come across the problems and issues in their daily life. The field investigation also reveals that there are ample scopes for improving the socio-economic situation of the people and to meet the goals provided that there are additional efforts in terms of resources and better planning and monitoring on a priority basis with regional and gender focus. Inclusion of the socially excluded and the marginalized in the mainstream development agenda was identified as one of the major challenges because public resources could not reach them.

Box 2.1 Why are the Millennium Development Goals so different? There are four reasons:

First, the Millennium Development Goals are *people-centered*, time-bound and measurable.

Second, they are based on a global partnership, stressing the responsibilities of developing countries for getting their own house in order, and of developed countries for supporting those efforts.

Third, they have unprecedented political support, embraced at the highest levels by developed and developing countries, civil society and major development institutions alike.

Fourth, they are achievable.

The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005

As mentioned earlier, a set of participatory tools were used in the assessment along with some quantitative techniques through an integrated approach using triangulation of sources, data collection and analytical methods and information sharing. Although the major focus is on socio-economic development in the light of MDGs, the assessment goes beyond MDGs because there are many crucial issues and problems, which need to be addressed immediately in the context of current Bangladesh. Human rights and governance issues are among them. Similarly huge corruption has direct impact on the process of impoverishment. Moreover, there are some missing perspectives as well, which need to be included in the analysis. These include vulnerability of marginalized groups including the indigenous, physically challenged, women and children, those in geographically backward / or isolated char or remote areas (ecologically vulnerable) and professional or religious/ racial

Box 2.2 Bangladesh 2005 Fact Sheet
BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Bangladesh is the 10 most rapidly growing economy among 31 large developing countries with populations above 20 million, with GDP growth averaging 5% since 1990s.
- Income poverty in Bangladesh declined by 1 percentage point per year since 1990 - faster than almost all other developing countries.
- Primary school enrollment is almost 100% - one of the highest rates in the developing world. The ratio of girls to boys in primary school is higher than most developing countries.
- Bangladesh is the only country to have eradicated polio in South Asia. 77% of all children are immunized before age 2, a national coverage rate far exceeding that of India or Pakistan.
- Bangladesh has consistently allocated its budget in a pro-poor way, injecting substantial public resources into education and health. Bangladesh's military expenditures are the lowest by far of any country in the region, as a percentage of GDP.
- While infant and child mortality remains high, Bangladesh has reduced this scourge faster than any other developing country.
- Despite progress, governance and corruption remain a major concern in Bangladesh. Bangladesh performs poorly relative to other low-income countries in political stability, regulatory quality and control of corruption.

Source: Internet /The World Bank Website

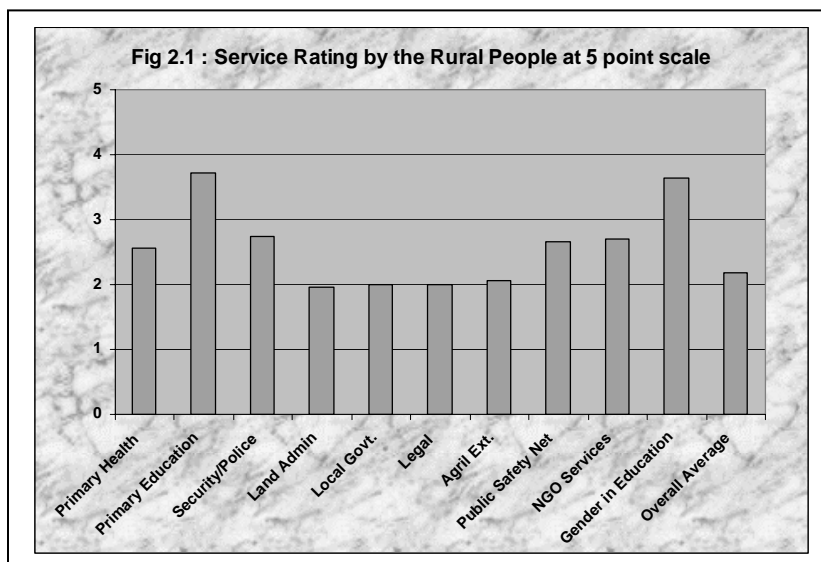
or weaker sections. On the other hand, achieving MDGs in 2015 will highly depend on the development of young men and women who will be the citizens of tomorrows' Bangladesh. Proper attention needs to be given towards this section of people as well.

Given this background, goal specific peoples' assessments are analysed in the later part of the chapter based on available secondary data and analysis.

Now as a part of the broader assessment, the present initiative captures peoples' opinion on overall performances of some socio economic indicators and services through report card testing based on a 5 point rating scale where the higher value refers to better or improved situation. Through the process, people themselves identified the contributing factors as well for any change that occurred in each of the indicators or services. Using this report card method, the goal specific assessment is synthesized in the relevant part of this chapter.

2.1.1 Results on Report Card Testing on Services

From the report card testing, it is revealed that, only services such as primary education including gender development has a value of more than average (3+), which refers to satisfactory status while villagers gave poor value to the services provided by Land offices, local government (UP), Legal and Agricultural Extension services (see Figure 2.1). On the other hand, primary health, security/police services, public safety net programs and even NGO services



were identified very close to a moderate / average situation (i.e.; NOT BAD). It might be confusing to give higher value to security/police services, which might be for lesser interaction of the poor villagers with Thana-Police compared to their close relationship with land or *Union Parishad* services. However, the table below (Table 2.1) shows an average national figure of 2.18 considering all services, which refers to a poor situation as a whole.

Table 2.1: Mean Results on Report Card Testing on Services

Services	Present status
Primary Health	2.57
Primary Education	3.73
Security/Police	2.74
Land Admin	1.96
Local Govt.	2.0
Legal	2.01
Agril Ext.	2.07
Public Safety Net	2.66
NGO Services	2.70
Gender Equity in Education	3.64
Total Average	2.18

Note: Rating Scale: 1-5 (1=Very Bad, 2= Bad, 3=Moderate, 4=Good 5=Excellent)

In relation to improvement, most people see positive changes in primary education both in terms of enrollment and gender balance. On average, about two thirds of the respondents had observed improvement in the overall services although about 15 percent respondents observe that the situations have been deteriorated while about a quarter stays in between referring the

situation unchanged over the last 5 years (2000-2005) (Fig 2.2.) The highest improvement was seen in the area of primary and girls education while the lowest were in agricultural extension and land administration services followed by legal services. About one-half of the respondent's see no change in these agril-extension and land administrative services over the last five years. The Table below 2.2 presents detailed of peoples' perceptions on the improvement status across various socio-economic

services in the rural areas.

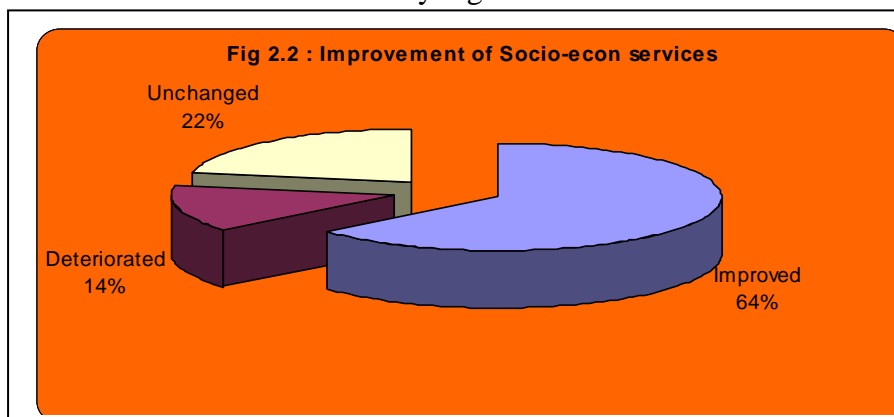


Table 2.2: Improvement in the Socio-Economic Services

Services	Improved	Deteriorated	Unchanged
Primary Health	63.1	18.6	18.3
Primary Education	94.3	1.9	3.8
Security/Police	61.9	13.5	24.7
Land Admin	30.1	23.4	46.5
Local Govt.	49.2	25.6	25.2
Legal	32.6	30.5	37
Agril Ext.	27.8	20	52.1
Public Safety Net	73.9	9.2	16.9
NGO Services	83.7	6.1	10.3
Gender Equity in Education	96	0.2	3.9
Total	63.8	14.1	22.1

2.1.2 Report Card Testing by Socio-economic development Indicators

From the report card testing, it is also revealed that, people are satisfied mainly with the health related indicators which indicates that mortality rate among the infant, children and mother has been reduced along with reduced incidence of TB, Malaria diseases. On the other hand, above average situation is rated for tree plantation, gender development and caring for the disabled. However, despite all these good impression, people were very sceptic about the situation of poverty and overall quality of life followed by their income & expenditure situation. The overall situation considering all the indicators (as assessed by the people) is very much a moderate one. (See table 2.3)

Figure 2.3 also demonstrates the overall performance of various socio-economic services through graphs.

By the socio-economic development indicators, almost similar trends were observed in the rate of improvement like the services. Fifty per cent indicated that poverty situation has deteriorated although more than a quarter suggests an improvement and similar proportion indicated an unchanged situation. On the other hand most people see significant improvement in health indicators including IMR, CMR, MMR, TB, Malaria but not satisfied with the overall income, expenditure and quality of life. Developments in tree plantation and gender issues are also prominent whereas more than half of the respondents pointed out to the inadequate caring for the disabled although things are improving very slowly.

Table 2.3 Mean Results on Report Card Testing on Socio-economic Development Indicators

Indicator	Present status
MMR	3.63
IMR	3.66
CMR	3.62
Plantation	3.16
Water & Sanitation	2.64
Income	2.26
Expenditure	2.5
Poverty	2.13
TB, Malaria	3.53
Gender Dev	3.04
Caring for Disabled	3.09
Quality of Life	2.39
Total	2.96

Note: Rating Scale: 1-5 (1=Very Bad, 2= Bad, 3=Moderate, 4=Good 5=Excellent)

2.1.3 FGD and Consultations

People have pointed some important overall assessment on various socio-economic development and MDG issues within their capacities and experiences which is annexed for the nature of the information mostly in aggregated form derived from FGDs and local and regional consultations with informed citizens and civil society members. . These are village levels FGDs with poor men and women, Upazilla level consultation with government administration and civil society members and finally overall summary points of the divisional consultations. These opinions are very useful particularly to have a comparison at regional and local level with some gender-disaggregated information as provided by the people. (See Annex B for more details).

The next few sections provide first an assessment of MDG based on secondary information. People's perceptions on these achievements follow along with their regional dimensions. Goal/issue specific major findings of the field study and consultations are synthesized in the following sub-sections on each of the millennium development goals.

2.2 MDG 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER¹

Emancipation of peasants and workers

14. It shall be a fundamental responsibility of the State to emancipate the toiling masses- the peasants and workers –and backward sections of the people from all forms of exploitation.

Provision of basic necessities

15. It shall be a fundamental responsibility of the state to attain through planned economic growth, a constant increase of productive forces and a steady improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the people, with a view to securing to its citizens-

- a. the provision of the basic necessities of life, including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care;
- b. the right to work , that is the right to guaranteed employment at a reasonable wage having regard to the quantity and quality of work.
- c. the right to reasonable rest, recreation and leisure; and
- d. the right to social security, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases.

Rural development and agricultural revolution

16. The State shall adopt effective measures to bring about a radical transformation in the rural areas through the promotion of an agricultural revolution, the provision of rural electrification, the development of cottage and other industries, and the improvement of education, communications and public health, in those areas, so as progressively to remove the disparity in the standards of living between the urban and the rural areas.

The Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

2.2.1 Situation Analysis

Indicator 1: Proportion of population below poverty line

According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), 2000 the headcount poverty ratio declined from 58.8 per cent in 1991/92 to 49.8 percent in 2000 in Bangladesh. The depth and severity of poverty decreased over the decade at the national, rural and urban levels in terms of relevant statistical indicators such as poverty gap index and squared poverty gap. The average annual decrease in poverty was only one percentage point during the period.

Against this background, the MDG poverty reduction targets for year 2015 for Bangladesh was set at 29.4 % as the global benchmark for the reduction of poverty refers to the year 1990. However, as the Millennium Declaration was adopted in 2000, a more relevant

Box 2.3

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

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

Indicator 1. Proportion of population below \$1 per day (PPP-values)

2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty

3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

4. Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age)

5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

¹ Background paper prepared by Social Watch Bangladesh

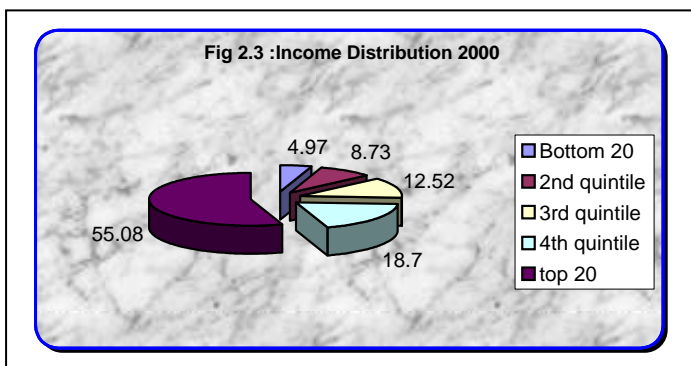
benchmark poverty incidence should be that of the year 2000. In that case, the target for 2015 will be around 25 % (half of just about 50% in 2000).

However, considering population growth, the present number of the poor is around 60-62 million. Even if the nation achieves the target, the total number of the poor would still remain extremely large in 2015, some 40-50 million. This is the real challenge. Those left behind in the race to eradicate poverty will certainly be a most desperate, frustrated group of humanity.

Indicator 2 Poverty gap index

Both depth and severity of poverty decreased over the decade both in the national and rural-urban levels in terms of poverty gap index and squared poverty gap. National data shows in aggregate term 25 per cent decrease in poverty gap index, lowered from 17.2 percent in 1991/92 to 12.9 per cent in 2000

Indicator 3: Consumption Share /Income Distribution of poorest quintile

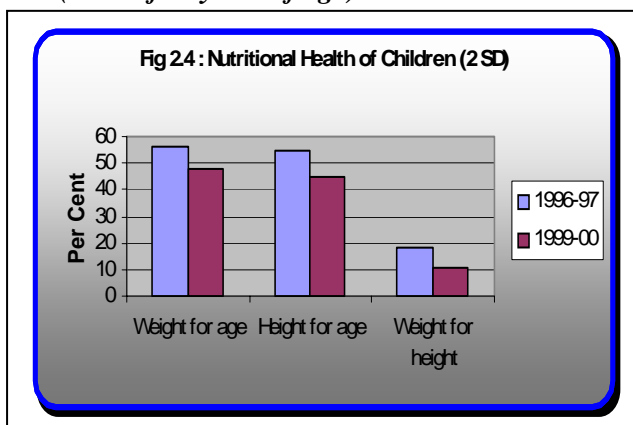


Reduction in poverty could have been more had there been no increase in income inequality. But income inequality increased significantly over the decade. Recent BBS estimates (HIES 2000: BBS 2003a) indicate that the upper quintile (the top 20 per cent) mainly benefited from growth. Their share in total income increased from 44.9 per cent

in 1992 to 55.07 percent in 2000 whereas the poorest quintile has less than 5 per cent share in the national income in 2000.

Indicator 4: Prevalence of underweight children (under-five years of age)

The BDHS 1999-2000 (NIPORT 2001) estimate indicate that about 45 per cent children under five were considered short for their age or stunted (height for age) Like most other social indicators, percentage of children under 5 who are considered undernourished in each criteria are also higher in rural areas than those of urban (See Fig 2.4).



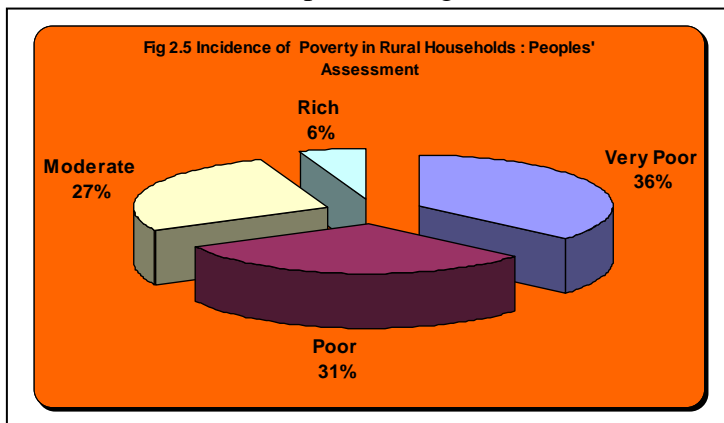
Indicator 5: Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

According to HIES 2000, 19.98 per cent population were below the minimum consumption level of 1805 K.Cal/per person/per day, which was 28 per cent in 1991/92. In the rural areas, 18.72 per cent were under the line whereas 25.02 % was so in urban areas.

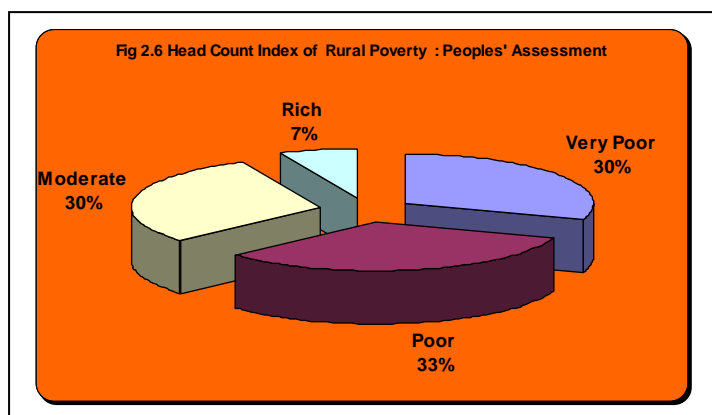
2.2.2 Peoples' Assessment

Let us now consider the findings from the field from the present analysis. Out of a total of 1000 sample households, 67.5 per cent were identified as poor through their self-assessment and definition (Fig 2.5). In terms of head count ratio, the rate was estimated by 63 per cent through the peoples' assessment as against 53 percent rural poverty in 2000 as estimated in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2000 (BBS 2003a).

More than one third of the rural household (36.3 %) were identified by the people as very poor and they were majority (54%) among all the poor. In terms of head count ratio, 30.5 per cent population were identified under this category.



The HIES figure for extreme poverty, however, is estimated as 20% using direct calorie intake method for 2000. It was shown in the GoB/UNDP report (GoB-UN 2005) that 63 million people are poor with one third caught in hard core-extreme poverty (about 17 %). Therefore, the GoB/UNDP report based on BBS (the statistical arm of the Government)



indicates a much lower incidence of the very poor compared to the peoples' own assessment.

The participatory assessment also identified non-poor people in two categories moderate/middle class and rich. On average, 27 per cent of the total studied households were identified as of moderate means whereas 5.5 per cent were rich. In terms of head count ratio, the rate was 30 and 6.5 per cent for the middle class and rich respectively (Fig 2.6). The HIES estimates indicate that in the rural Bangladesh the top 5 (here the rich) per cent are sharing more than 25 per cent of the total income while the moderate 25 (here the middle class) per cent owns 35 per cent of the

income and the rest bottom 70 (the poor) per cent are sharing only 40 per cent of the total. Within this 40 per cent of the income share of the poor, the bottommost half are sharing only about 12 per cent while the upper half are getting the rest 28 per cent share of whole income.

Peoples' Perception also indicates that the present poverty situation although pretty bad may also be improving. The respondents were asked to rate their poverty situation in a 1-5 scale where the higher value indicates improved situation. At the household level, more than a quarter indicated improvements in their poverty situation while one-half appeared to have experienced a worsening situation. To the rest (24%), things have remained basically the same.

Regional Dimensions

Regarding regional dimensions of poverty, HIES 2000 and World Bank estimates (WB 2003 a) of head count ratio (HCR) indicate that among the five administrative divisions², highest concentration of poverty was observed in Rajshahi Division (61%) followed by Khulna (51.4%) in 2000. The lowest rate was seen in Barisal, which was about 40 per cent in the same period. However, all divisions except Chittagong have experienced a decreasing trend of poverty over the last twenty years.

The people's perceptions (Table 2.4) may be contrasted with those of the officially approved reports. Rajshahi (77.9%) still tops the list in terms of poverty incidence but Sylhet (56.2%) now has the lowest relative concentration of the poor. Whatever these relative figures are, these indicate a very distinct regional dimension in poverty incidence and thus call for targeted actions for certain areas.

Table 2.4: Head Count Estimates of Poverty in Rural Bangladesh by the Villagers

Division	District	Upazilla	Rural Poverty Rate (%)	
			Village %	Division %
Rajshahi	Kurigram	Chilmari	94.0	77.9
	Bogra	Sonatola	61.8	
Dhaka	Jamalpur	Jamalpur Sadar	60.7	60.1
	Narsingdi	Narsingdi Sadar	59.4	
Khulna	Daulatpur	Daulatpur	57.9	64.5
	Shyamnagar	Shyamnagar	71.1	
Barisal	Barisal	Barisal sadar	56.5	56.9
	Patuakhali	Bauphal	57.2	
Chittagong	Rangamati	Kaukhali	70.7	62.7
	Chittagong	Patia	54.7	
Sylhet	Sunamaganj	Sunamaganj Sadar	62.5	56.2
	Sylhet	Golapganj	50.0	
National			63.0	63.0

Source: Source: PPA /Wealth Ranking, June 2005, carried out by Social Watch Bangladesh for PFM

² Data on Sylhet division was not available

Problems, priorities, challenge and opportunities also varied significantly by region/ division as evident from the regional poverty analysis and consultations at the divisional level (See Annex B for more details).

Profile of the Poor

People characterise poverty through their own indicators by classifying themselves into poor and very poor as well as the non-poor (middle class and the rich). The characteristics of poor and very poor as identified by the poor are shown in the matrix (2.1) below. As other previous studies including the government reports have found, poverty is most pervasive among the day labourers including agricultural labourers.

Matrix 2.1: Peoples' Definition of poverty profile in the rural areas

Indicators	Poor	Very Poor
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Bamboo made houses	<input type="checkbox"/> No house (stay in other people's places, public)/makeshifts
Food intake	<input type="checkbox"/> Somehow manage two meals in a day <input type="checkbox"/> No additional food stock	<input type="checkbox"/> One meal a day
Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Only homestead Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Functional landless <input type="checkbox"/> A little; only homestead land
Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/> Day laborer/agricultural labor <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant/mostly work on farm <input type="checkbox"/> Fishermen, low level transport worker, small traders	<input type="checkbox"/> Physically disabled <input type="checkbox"/> Beggars/depend on others <input type="checkbox"/> Hardly any opportunity to work
Coping mechanism	<input type="checkbox"/> Some savings <input type="checkbox"/> Can take loans and advances <input type="checkbox"/> Some may have some poultry, livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> Can't cope with disaster/flood
Seasonal employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal unemployment for about 4/5 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed for about 8 months
Expenditures on education and health	<input type="checkbox"/> Can't afford children's education	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of education, health <input type="checkbox"/> Can't afford children's education
Entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of capital for business	<input type="checkbox"/> No way
Livelihood	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily earning 100-120 Taka	<input type="checkbox"/> From hand to mouth/day laborer/
	<input type="checkbox"/> Live on every day's earning/if no work, can borrow money	<input type="checkbox"/> No work, no meal.

In the draft PRSP (GoB December 2004), a self-assessment of rural poverty (in percentage of rural household) has been referred for different time period of 1989 to 2001. We contrasted the result, although using two different participatory methods, to have a critical understanding of the situation. Matrix 2.2 provides the comparison. Apparently the ultra poor are far more numerous as perceived by the people in 2005 in contrast with official estimates.

Matrix 2.2: Contrasting Participatory Assessments on Rural Poverty

Self assessment 2001 BIDS/PPRC study		Peoples' Participatory assessment 2005		Contrast with National Survey/BBS HIES 2000
Always deficit	9.9	Very Poor	30.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government statistics (2000) of 53 per cent rural poor is closer to peoples' assessment (2005) of 63% than Self assessment (2001) estimates of 36.2 % who have deficit (Always + Occasional) in terms of food intake. ▪ Figures for the Poor and Middle Class both in total and individually match with the self-assessment estimates. ▪ Wide differences are seen in the top and bottom two categories (Very Poor and Rich). It is evident from the peoples' assessment that average number of rich household in a typical village is 5-6 with a maximum of 10. In poorest villages, the number was almost nil.
Occasional Deficit	26.3	Poor	33.0	
Break Even	40.8	Middle Class	30	
Surplus	23	Rich	7.0	

2.2.3 Multidimensionality of Poverty

Poverty has many faces and dimensions. It has direct nexus with many other cross cutting development issues and can be affected negatively due to bad governance, lack of democracy and participation, physical illness or challenges (disability), gender discrimination and violence against women, lack of security, and even due to lack of information and knowledge, among others. On the other hand, in right-based approach, it is believed that “poverty is the results of failure to observe and implement human rights”. This approach gives emphasis on the right to live as a dignified citizen without any fear, want or discrimination, with necessary facilities of provisions or access

- ❑ Poverty is not a statistic and is not defined by USD 1, or even USD 2 a day. Poverty is based on radically unequal distribution of income, but also in similarly unequal distribution of assets, unequal access to opportunities for work and employment, social services and benefits, and in the unequal distribution of political power, access to information and political participation.
 - ❑ This is largely the result of deep-seated and persistent imbalances in the current workings of the global economy, which according to the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation is "*ethically unacceptable and politically unsustainable*." Women are most often among those who suffer these inequalities. Inequality and social injustice are major sources of national and international instability and conflict.
- Source: Social Watch: A civil society benchmark for the 5-year Review of the Millennium Declaration

to services (justice, information, basic social services). Pro-poor affirmative action by the state on a priority basis for the disadvantaged and socially excluded is also important for addressing underlying causes of poverty and vulnerability. The next few items of this section focuses on those interfaces with peoples' perceptions and realities

I. Poverty & Governance

The poverty governance interfaces are very strong. The poor indeed are often denied the services that the state is expected to provide which in turn helps accentuate and perpetuate poverty. In line with this critical area of concern, a recent report of World Bank (WB 2003a) has focused on governance issues quoting the major development challenges in Bangladesh. The issues and governance constraints are identified through numbers of consultations commissioned by the government of Bangladesh as quoted below:

“Lack of physical infrastructure, law and order, organized crime, extortionist and economic violence, lack of effective local government and decentralizations, quality of education, health, and other social services, lack of co-ordination among development agencies and institution, lack of remunerative employment and economic opportunities, lack of social capital at the community level, resulting in low level collective action, and lack of democratizations of political process.”¹⁵

In the present initiative, people assess overall governance issues with special reference to some of the important governance indicators as presented below:

a. Security / Police

People provided their opinion on overall security issues with focus on police services and the results were very interesting. In the report card testing, they gave an overall score of 2.74 (out of 5) which indicates a below than average performance. Similar trends were also observed across the studied locations in Bangladesh.

Box 2.5

What People Says on Security /Police Service

- Social security at village / community is much better than the administrative /public security services generally provided by the police.
- The Police are not interested to work for prevention of crimes and corruption.
- Policemen are not faithful (*Can we really believe them?*) and cooperative.
- Without bribe no case was filed.
- Polices are themselves a threat to security
- Access of the poor to police is restricted
- Police works are politically bias
- Policemen are not pro poor
- Women are more insecure / their vulnerability is very high.
- Corruption increased by the police

¹⁵ Memorandum for the Bangladesh Development Forum: 2002-2003, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh as quoted in the WB 2003a.

b. Land Administration Services

Traditionally land-poverty meant income poverty in Bangladesh because land was the most productive asset while land has lost some of its' previous prominence, it still remains a major source of income both directly or indirectly. Access to proper land administration services is thus crucial for the poor. Evidence shows that the poor are denied these services in two ways. Much of the public land is being occupied by the powerful rich people sometimes in connivance with the land administration employees and officials although these are to be distributed among the landless according to law. Even when the poor possesses some land, the land administration of the government provides them little service. The current participatory assessment reveals the fact by providing the lowest scoring against the services, which was less than 2, indicating a bad or poor situation. In this connection, people themselves pointed out some important aspects of the services through the following points:

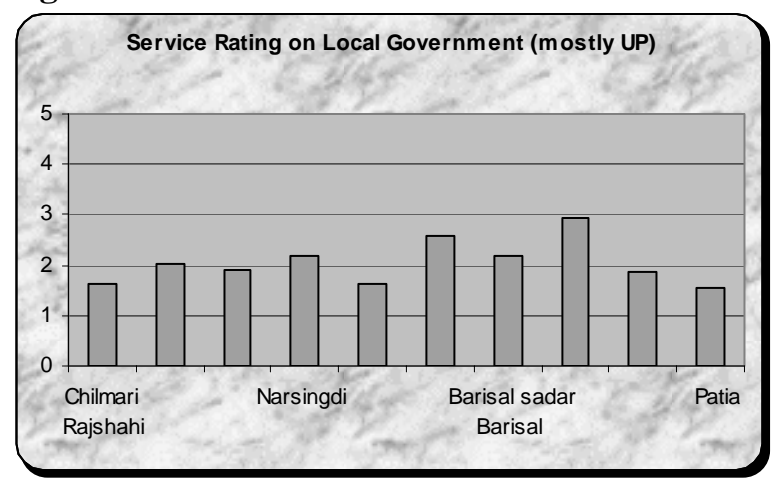
- Those who are educated and have land, they don't have any problem. Both side (land administration & the powerful/rich) come under an informal agreement and solve their problems
- Without bribe *tahashildars* do not work
- They took long time to do anything.
- Uneducated people face harassment from them
- The procedure of land purchase or sale is complex.
- Legal cases/ disputes take too much time to solve.
- Land admin is very poorly equipped and public did not get proper services
- Govt. did not give the rights of land to the indigenous people (CHT)"

c. Local Government

People also gave poor score against the services of local government. Figure 2.7 demonstrates the level of quality services by upazilla and divisions. However, they have some specific observations on recent trends in this service area, which are as follows:

- Increased Peoples' participation in local governance
- They (LG leaders) worked for us due to their vote bank
- They tried to do some good work
- They help us a little bit.
- Those who come for work here (UP), will be corrupted
- We could not find them except during the time of election

Fig 2.7



- They do not work for the interest of the people
- We did not get the govt. assistance properly through them.

d. Legal (Court, Judicial)

Similar opinion was also recorded on poor legal services with an average score of 2.01 with the following comments:

- Chances of getting justice by the poor is limited
- For conducting and maintaining continuity of cases we need a lot of money
- It takes too much time to do anything
- Harassment by the lawyers is common
- Misuses/interpretation of laws
- Complex process
- Powerful tried to impose their will to the poor”

e. Agricultural extension

People also gave poor score for agricultural extension services with an average score of 2.07, which varies by Upazillas particularly by socio-economic characteristics of the locality.

«

- Although farmers are more aware than before, poor farmers do not get extension services
- There is huge lack of farmers' training, interaction and visit of Block Supervisor (BS)
- Those who have land, they get assistance
- Agril inputs are not available
- Block Supervisors do not consult with us
- Lack of financial assistance/credit “

f. Safety Net Programs

Despite corruption, nepotism and political bias, compared to many other public services, the social safety net programs are appreciated by many of the. While the overall score was close to a moderate situation (2.7), people acknowledged that volume of assistance has increased both in terms of number of recipients and amount of money/wheat. To them, it is an indication that “ Govt. has started thinking about the disadvantaged people” because of the exclusive nature of the programs targeted only the vulnerable poor, and the destitute although corruption and nepotism were there in the selection procedure. On the other hand, coverage and amount is still far smaller than the actual demand. The views expressed were as follows:

“

- Old age pension, widower allowance is functioning well.
- Widower allowance is a very good initiative
- Nepotism is common in selection
- Sometimes bribe (to UP) is required to get selected.
- Everybody does not get assistance. Some people get every time, others never
- Need more agricultural subsidies, farmers loans, allowance for the marginalized farmers”

g. NGO service

People identified NGO services as pro-poor but not at the desired level. NGO services got a score of 2.7, which is lower than a moderately satisfactory situation. However, they acknowledged the prompt services of NGOs with micro-credit and human development supports. But high rate of interest is a concern to them along with bypassing the hard-core poor. Here is some summary point's identified by the people through discussions:

- Micro credit could not address the hardcore poor.
- Credit makes people poorer. There is a vicious circle.
- The amount of credit is too little to do anything productive.
- The repayment schedule is very short, particularly the first one.

II. Poverty & Disability Interfaces

Evidence show that the incidence of poverty among the disabled (various types of physically challenged) is very high. Although government statistics do not give us any figure in terms of incidence of poverty by physical ability, people identified disability as one of the most important apparent causes of poverty. Disability is often treated as a curse. The disabled person can not afford general services available. There are many cases of huge discrimination against them and gross violation of their rights. Restricted mobility mainly due to user unfriendly infrastructures (roads, buildings, houses, educational institutions, health centers/hospitals, and transports) is hindering them to even claim their rights. Sometimes poverty itself is a cause of disability, particularly in rural villages and urban slum areas where minimum nutritional intake of food by the mother and child is rare, which reduces immunity and increases physical vulnerability to diseases and finally led to disability. Many of these "differently able" people can demonstrate better workmanship than the able one in many of the jobs or crafts, but access to jobs is denied to them in most cases. During the present assessment, people pointed out that among the disabled, incidence of poverty is much higher. People have also analyzed the situation that indicates a mixed result in caring for the disabled because although awareness has been increased, rights of the disabled are still far from being acknowledged. They pointed out that family level caring has increased along with increased NGO assistance. Inadequate budget is allocated for the disabled. There is significant lack of GO-NGO coordination.

III. Gender Perspectives of Poverty

Poverty affects both men and women but the sufferings and consequences are not always the same for men and women. Because of women's lower status/position in the socio-economic, legal and political spheres of life, women do not have the same opportunities as men to participate in and benefit from development programs. Evidences and national statistics show that incidence of income poverty is a bit higher among the female headed households than those of male. However, there is no denying the fact that non-income poverty is much higher among women and female-headed households. On the other hand, from a traditional approach women's unpaid household works are not considered in the system of national accounts. Huge potential of women's great role in socio-economic development of Bangladesh is not

yet effectively unlocked although they constitute almost 50 per cent of total population. The current study reveals that women's vulnerability is enchained with their low education, child marriage, low calorie or nutritional intake, negative social attitude towards women's empowerment, equity and their mobility.

IV. Annual Income, Expenditure and Poverty

People acknowledge that over time monetary equivalent of income has risen. Income although increased, expenditures, however increased more due to higher price of essential goods and services and their raw materials. The challenging factors for a faster rising income are lack of training and employment particularly for the educated youth, natural disasters, protection of local industries, dowry payment, lack of GO - NGO coordination, landlessness, ecological vulnerability (like shrimp cultivation in southern Bangladesh). Therefore, overall quality of life has not improved of the rural poor in Bangladesh.

In addition to the above areas, poverty is also interlinked with health and education status, employment level and opportunity. Incidence of poverty among the indigenous people /adivasis is also quite high and the underlying causes are very complex but unique in nature. People of some pocket areas including ecologically vulnerable shrimp zone in the south to, people suffering from acute on chronic seasonal unemployment and food deficit in the northern districts are on the sideline of the mainstream development. Poverty perpetuates among the people living in char lands of coastal and river basin or still living with traditional labor-intensive occupation by inheritance. Their challenges and opportunities to fight against poverty are really very difficult and complex as well.

2.2.4 Challenges and Options Identified by the People

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in fighting poverty. These widespread, huge and multidimensional challenges are as follows which are not necessarily in order.

Environment and Sustainable Development

- ✓ Tackling Natural disasters
- ✓ Addressing Water logging.
- ✓ Ensuring safe and arsenic free water
- ✓ Stop hill cutting
- ✓ Stop unplanned shrimp cultivation.

Reducing discrimination and inequality

- ✓ Combating increased income inequality
- ✓ Addressing regional discrimination

Human Resource Development and Employment generation

- ✓ Promoting/expanding technical & vocational education
- ✓ Managing population pressure
- ✓ Addressing huge unemployment

- ✓ Supporting Self employment
- ✓ Opening of mills and factories.

Social Development

- ✓ Providing adequate health care services
- ✓ Promoting gender equality
- ✓ Promoting education for all

Infrastructure Development

- ✓ Improving communication system

Agricultural Development

- ✓ Promoting modern agriculture and providing incentives to the farmers
- ✓ Addressing problems of agricultural marketing

Improving Governance

- ✓ Curbing corruption
- ✓ Delegating more authority to the local government
- ✓ Realization of political commitments and improved governance

Addressing Special Needs

- ✓ Of the Disabled
- ✓ Addressing needs of the Slum dwellers

Mobilizing Resources

- ✓ Mobilizing both local and foreign resources

B. Strategic Recommendations

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had also put forward some recommendations, which were strategically grouped and summarized below in bullet points. However these recommendations are not necessarily in order.

Monitoring MDGs at local level

- Data generation by sex, by region, by districts
- Regular monitoring at disaggregated level (socio-economic, regional, sex)

Addressing Special Needs

- Special strategies have to be adopted to ensure equal benefits for both men and women.
- Special needs of the *adivasi* (indigenous) to be addressed
- Special needs of the disabled to be addressed

Resource Mobilization

- Internal resource mobilization through increased direct taxes
- Creating a people's fund for pro-poor development

Governance

- Strengthening anti corruption commission
- Facilitate mass mobilization to pressurize the Government to eradicate discrimination in local based development.
- Better GO/NGOs coordination in development work particularly in disaster management
- Pro-poor land reform (includes indigenous peoples' land rights)

Investment

- Investment (including FDI) on power sector, electricity for all
- Corruption free timely, soft / easy loan to farmers particularly to the small & marginal

Reducing risk of natural disasters

- Precautionary and necessary steps against natural calamities

Agricultural Development

- Promoting modern agriculture, expanding new technology and training to the farmers
- Supporting agricultural marketing system

Protection /Safety net Programs

- Allowance for the laborers of the closed mills and factories. New mills and factories to be set up
- Protect the poor from the land grabbers and money lenders
- Proper distribution of the khas/public land (including char land) to the landless

Skilled Knowledge

- Establishing vocational training institutions
- Knowledge based society should be promoted.

Environment and Sustainable Development

- Promoting scientific shrimp culture by minimizing externalities
- The Government should take special steps to solve the water logging problem
- Rehabilitation of the riverbank eroded people is needed

2.3 MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

“We believe in immediate result. If I send my children to the land he will bring us cash, but I am not sure how I will benefit if I send him to the school instead. “

Bulbul Islam, Lakhmir Char, Jamalpur

“17. The state shall adopt effective measures for the purpose of –

- a) establishing a uniform , mass-oriented and universal system of education and extending free and compulsory education to all children to such stage as may be determined by law;*
- b) relating education to the needs of society and producing properly trained and motivated citizens to serve those needs*
- c) removing illiteracy within such time as may be determined by law.*

*28. (3) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth be subjected to any **disability**, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to any place of public entertainment or resort, or admission to any **educational institution**. “*

The Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

2.3.1 Situation Analysis³

In the primary education sub-sector (including mainstream schools, ebte dayee madrassas, NGOs NFE-centers and KG-schools) the country aims to attain net enrollment rate of 100%

Box 2.7
The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005
Progress in Goal 2

Five developing regions are approaching universal enrolment. But in sub-Saharan Africa, fewer than two thirds of the children are enrolled in primary school. Other regions, including Southern Asia and Oceania, also have along way to go. In these regions and elsewhere, increased enrolment must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that all children remain in school and receive a high quality education.

by the year 2015. The present net enrollment rate is 82.7%; it is slightly higher for the girls. The universal primary education completers' (UPC) rate of those enrolled is around 67% by the GoB-UNDP report (GoB-UN 2005). According to the same report the current (2004) UPC rate for eligible children (of age 6-10) is around 56%. Therefore, special efforts need to be taken to achieve the goal of

100 per cent universal completion by 2015. Available information is given below for adult

³ Situation analysis is based mainly on Education Watch/CAMPE sectoral report (see Annex A for more details)

literacy rate and school enrolment in other levels as these affect one way or other over all educational achievement and thus create demand for primary education. .

Adult literacy rate

According to the official estimates the country has made a significant progress in basic education in recent years. According to the national report of the population census 2001 the rate was 47.5 in 2001. Among other estimates on Adult Literacy, the interim -PRSP 2003 and BHDR 2000 (BIDS-UNDP 2001) report estimated it as 56 per cent, while the World Development Report 2003 of World Bank reports (WB 2003) this as 59 percent. An alternative estimates by CAMPE (Campaign for Popular Education) in *Education Watch 2002* is much lower than the government claim. It is around 38.8 per cent (15 Years and above). This wide variation is perhaps mainly because of differences in defining the indicator and in collecting information. Although evidences indicate that there is a significant differential across rural and urban regions and also by gender, both the gaps in adult literacy have been narrowing down in the recent years. In other words, there is no denying the fact that there has been continuing improvement in the field of adult literacy in the 1990s.

School Enrolment

Despite differences in estimates, primary level enrolment is high. Unlike primary education; there was relatively lower enrolment rate in secondary education, which increased from 18 per cent in 1980 to 65 percent in 2000(HIES 2000, IPRSP 2003). However another estimate shows a much lower figure of secondary enrolment (18 in 1990 and 43 in 2000: UNDP 2003). Similar patterns were also observed by sex where the rate was much higher among the female students (71.5%) than their male counterparts (59.4 %) in 2000(UNDP 2003). An alternative estimate showed that the rate was 42 and 44 per cent respectively for male and female. Although average schooling hours for both sexes have increased, the rate is still lower (2.6) and gender gap is significant.

Although resource mobilization issues are considered in achieving above MDG Targets by 2015, strategies and challenges are not well focused in the government-UN progress report. Adult literacy target figures have not been estimated. The report considered instead, Education Watch data for adult literacy (38.8%) testifies to the quality of the civil society estimate.

2.3.2 People's Assessment

The people's perception provides indication that the present status is quite satisfactory so far as the quantitative targets are considered regarding increased net enrolment, decreased drop out, increased number of teachers in the context of government incentives and supports, infrastructure development, and expansion of girls' education. The villagers gave a score of 3.73 out of 5 when they were asked to rate the primary education situation in a 1-5 scale⁴(table 2.5). In terms of percentage, the respondents gave a mark of 75 on the overall situation of primary education.

⁴ 1=Very bad/poor, 2=bad, 3=moderate, 4=good, 5=excellent

Interestingly, the household survey also indicates that almost all people see positive changes in primary education both in terms of enrollment and gender balance. More than 94 per cent of the respondents had observed improvement in the overall services although about 4 per cent respondents observe that things have remained unchanged over the last 5 years. Primary education is therefore considered to be in better shape compared to other services and sectors.⁵ The average value of 10 various public interests services was 2.18 far lower than the score of 3.73 for primary education (See Table 2.1).

Box 2.8: Case Study Findings

During the field survey, 11 government primary schools were studied using specific indicators and available official information that shows interesting findings:

- Ratio of girls to boys enrolment varies from 70 to 133 with an average of 103
- Average no. of teachers per school is 5.5 which varies from 3 to 8 where female to male teachers' ratio is 1.4
- Average teachers: students ratio is 1:57 which varies from 1:30 to 1:78
- Average drop out rate is 20 per cent, which varies from 10 to 35 per cent.
- Average attendance rate is 83 per cent, which varies from 75 to 90 per cent.
- Promotion rate is 63 per cent, which varies from 40 to 80 per cent.

Regional variation in rating scores is not found to be substantial. However, economically advanced areas scored better compared to the poorer areas

Table 2.5 Performances Rating of Primary Education Services in Rural Bangladesh

Division	Upazilla	Present Status
Rajshahi	Chilmari	3.52
	Sonatola	3.52
Dhaka	Jalpur Sadar	3.80
	Narsingdi Sadar	3.23
Khulna	Daulatpur	3.93
	Shyamnagar	3.92
Barisal	Barisal sadar	3.49
	Bauphal	3.37
Chittagong	Kaukhali	3.73
	Patia	4.06
Sylhet	Sunamaganj Sadar	3.79
	Golapganj	4.45
Total		3.73

A set of contributing factors were identified by the poor household for the apparent success in the primary education which are given below:

⁵ Includes primary health, education, police, land, local gov, legal, agril extension, safety net, NGO, gender in education.

- ❑ Stipend for the poorest students
- ❑ Increased monitoring by Govt. authority
- ❑ Provision of tiffin (at some schools)
- ❑ Increasing awareness about importance of education among the people
- ❑ Free education services/materials
- ❑ Better GO-NGO collaboration
- ❑ Availability of books increased
- ❑ No. of teachers increased
- ❑ Availability of school within reach (jurisdiction of UP area)

Box 2.9

National Consultation Summary points

- We have achieved some positive improvement in primary education over 1990 to 2005.
- Gender balance in education has been improved a lot for various incentives.
- To achieve the optimal goal of education MDG, its importance and significance must be disseminated to the general people.

2.3.3 Challenges and Options Identified by the People

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in achieving goal 2. For further improving the situation the people identified several challenges, which are not necessarily in order. These included:

Infrastructure problem

- ❑ Lack of school, classrooms
- ❑ Poor communication system

Teacher Problem

- ❑ Lack of teachers (lots of vacant posts)
- ❑ Unskilled teachers
- ❑ Lower salary structure for teachers

Student Problem

- ❑ High drop out rate

Teaching Aids

- ❑ Lack of books

Stipend

- ❑ Lack of stipend / Stipends are not available for all (only for bottom 40%)

School Management

- ❑ Inefficient managing committee (politically bias)

Other Challenges

- ❑ Natural disaster
- ❑ Lack of awareness among parents
- ❑ Poverty & working children: Trade off between work & education
- ❑ Lack of mainstreaming mild disabled students in formal schools and lack of special schools for the disabled

B. Strategic Recommendations (based on people's opinion)

The stakeholder consultations indicated that meeting the challenges would necessitate moving in several directions, which include the following:

Teacher

- Number of teachers to be increased.
- Existing salary structure should be increased for the teachers
- Teacher's training on specialized courses

Students

- Expanding scholarship programs and providing lunch.
- Supply of safe drinking water and sanitation in the primary schools

School Governance

- Have to overcome the problems in managing committee
- Involving local government in the education monitoring system.
- Removal of political influence in the formation of School Management Committees.
- School monitoring visit need to be increased
- Transparency in teachers' recruitment.
- Combating corruption in education department.
- Teachers-parents consultation for improving the quality of education
- Established relation among teachers, guardians, students and the managing committee

Infrastructure

- Improving school infrastructure
- Supply of books at the beginning of the year.

Teaching Mode

- Creating pleasant learning environment
- Introduce attractive co-curricular activities.
- Maintain only one shift in schools.
- Identify the weak students and delivering special education to them

Employment, Poverty and education

- Prevent child labor
- Income generating/ employment creation for the poor household to tackle the trade off between poverty and education

Special education

- Inclusive education for the mild disabled and exclusive for the severe
- Special provisions in Education policies for the coastal areas

Gender Equality

- Awareness programs can be taken to bring equality in boys to girl ratio.

2.4 MDG 3: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

“Discrimination on grounds of religion, etc.

28.1 The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

2) Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the state and of public life.

4) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens. “

The Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

2.4.1 Situation Analysis⁶

Education

Gender equity in primary and secondary (school) education levels have been achieved in Bangladesh. At the same time, it has to be remembered that when about half of the children are not completing primary education, achievement of equity still leaves a very large number of both girls and boys deprived of their right to education. At the higher secondary level (grade 11-12) the ratio (male-female) is 65:35. It is not conceivable that under the given socio-economic scenario the gender ratio at the higher secondary level and beyond (undergraduate and graduate levels) is going to change significantly.

Possibly, only much higher and sustained economic growth (about 7-8 percent per annum) and positive interventions at the HSC and tertiary levels can improve the gender-balance.

Violence against Women

Violence against women (VAW) is a major concern in Bangladesh. It is a widespread problem across the country that exists at the family, society and national levels. VAW extends from violation of right to freedom and women's human rights to right to life. Women, irrespective

Box 2.10

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015

9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds

11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

Box 2.11: Progress in Goal 3

The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005

The gender gap is closing — albeit slowly — in primary school enrolment in the developing world. This is a first step towards easing long-standing inequalities between women and men. In almost all developing regions, women represent a smaller share of wage earners than men and are often relegated to insecure and poorly paid jobs. Though progress is being made, women still lack equal representation at the highest levels of government, holding only 16 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide.

⁶ Taken from a background paper prepared by Steps Towards Development on Gender and partly of Education Watch/CAMPE on gender in education.

of religion and culture, social and economic status, become the victim of violence. Patriarchy, discriminatory laws, religious and cultural practices encourage the existence and persistence of VAW in Bangladesh society.

Economic Disparity

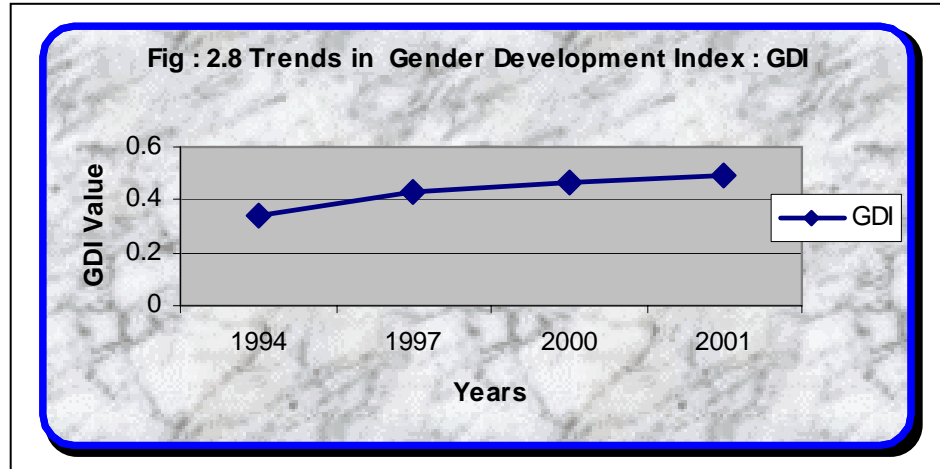
Although economic life of women contribute very significantly to production in agriculture sector, particularly in all post harvest activities; only 45.4% of them are considered to be employed in agriculture. Women are more than 70% of the workers in the garment industry,

which is the most important foreign exchange earner of the country among the goods sectors. Women also work in the construction sector and are emerging as small traders and entrepreneurs.

According to the Labor Force

Survey 1999/2000(BBS 2002), women's participation in the labor market indicates that only 23.9 percent of the women participate in labor force while male participation rate is 84 percent - using the conventional definition of work as out of home activity. Gendered nature of poverty is also manifested by the number of female-headed households, which was singled out as a represented category. Findings of a number of researches showed that women are more likely to be victim of poverty, deprivation and powerlessness in the female-headed households compared to the male-headed households.

Although incidence of poverty on female-headed households has been decreasing both nationally and in the rural areas, it is still very high. Although income poverty affects both male and female-headed households almost equally non-income poverty is much higher among them. The HIES 2000 (BBS 2003) estimates indicate that nationally 48 percent of female headed households were below poverty line in 2000 compared to 49.9 per cent among male headed household .The rate was 51.2 % in 1995-96 at national level among the female headed households. The estimate also indicates that about 52 per cent of female-headed households now live below poverty line in the rural areas. This was about 56 per cent in 1995-96.The incidence of poverty among female-headed households thus declined in rural areas. On the other hand, in the urban areas, incidence of poverty of female-headed households increased from 31.4 per cent in 1995-96 to 37.0 per cent in 2000. However, despite many bottlenecks, overall gender development index (GDI) has increased over time, which is really substantial (Fig 2.8).



Disparity in the Political Field

At the local level the government took several measures for empowering women politically. The most important among those was the reservation of three seats for direct election out of the total in each Union Parishad for women. However, the Constitution of Bangladesh provides reserved seats for women only through an indirect election in the parliament.

There are only 3 women ministers (including the Prime Minister) in the 50 plus member Cabinet, and only 7 directly elected women in the Parliament along with 45 reserve seats. Majority of women's groups supported by several political parties, civil society organizations and the media demand an increase in the reserved seats for women in the national parliament, but that they should be elected directly in their respective constituencies instead of being selected by the members of the parliament. This is yet to happen. In other areas of decision-making such as the bureaucracy and high level jobs, which entail visibility and exercise of authority, women's presence is negligible.

Progress in the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Advancement of Women (NAP) and Beijing+ based on CEDAW was not satisfactory. Government needs to dedicate greater effort to achieving targets that set in the NAP in the light of CEDAW and this in turn would facilitate the achievement of the MDG Goal 3 for gender equality and empowerment of women. The recent change in the National Women Development Policy without taking the concern of women activists and development organizations has also raised questions on the continued and unimpeded progress towards women's emancipation as it has reduced the spirit of women's rights as a broader part of human rights and development.

2.4.2 People's Assessment

In the participatory assessment exercise, while participants were asked to rate about gender development in education obtained an average value of 3.64 out of a maximum of 5 points (Table 2.6). Thus, gender

empowerment according to people's perception is at a rather satisfactory level. But this is more a reflection of parity in education, particularly primary education and also the result of government strong monitoring and support (stipend program, free book distribution) and increased awareness through NGO's and media campaign.

Box 2.12
Participants of National Consultation on Gender Development

- We should give special attention to the special needs of women and their poverty
- We need to seriously review our attitudes and commitment towards women empowerment
- Women rights are much talked in UN declaration, national policies, constitutional provisions, but we did not see much changes in women development.
- Strong monitoring is required for achieving the MDGs.
- Women participation in primary education has increased but it is not all about women empowerment.
- Wages of female workers are too low in our country.

In case of overall gender development scenario, participants gave a somewhat moderate value of 3.04 to indicate an average situation. On the other hand, through the social mapping exercises in the households survey with the identified poor, 10% female-headed households were found poor and among them incidence of extreme poverty was much higher. Assessment shows that more than two third of the poor female-headed households were caught (68%) under extreme poverty.

2.4.3 Challenges and Options Identified by the People (with emphasis on women's advancement)

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in achieving goal

3: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment. For further improving the situation the people identified several challenges, which are not necessarily in order. These included:

Social challenges

- Lack of education
- Traditional belief and social taboos
- Child marriage.
- Women trafficking
- Lack of awareness about rights of women
- Lower proportion of female students in secondary and tertiary education

Economic Discrimination

- Discriminatory salary/wages/ low wage
- Poverty
- Lack of employment opportunity

Insecurity and Rights

- Minority community women are more vulnerable to discrimination and violence
- High insecurity of women
- Violation of human rights particularly of women rights
- Legal complexity

Political Issues

- Women members in the parliament are dominated by their male counter parts.

Infrastructure

- Poor communication system
- Lack of women friendly transportation

Table 2.6 Performance Rating on Gender Equity in Primary Education		
Division	Upazilla	Present Status
Rajshahi	Chilmari	3.73
	Sonatola	3.46
Dhaka	Jamalpur Sadar	3.52
	Narsingdi Sadar	3.46
Khulna	Daulatpur	3.76
	Shyamnagar	3.98
Barisal	Barisal sadar	3.47
	Bauphal	3.52
Chittagong	Kaukhali	3.60
	Patia	3.43
Sylhet	Sunamaganj Sadar	3.89
	Golapganj	3.83
Total		3.64

B. Strategic Recommendations for an improved Situation

The following recommendations were made by the people for a gender-balanced development:

Training & Employment

- Providing skill training to women also in the male dominated work
- Providing institutional facilities (entrepreneurship, more credit, training)
- Creating employment

Infrastructure

- Promoting women friendly transportation
- Safe and secure housing for women
- Improvement of road and transportation made easy access to school and job market for women.

Economic

- Recognition of non-paid household work
- Women participation in the labor market

Awareness

- Increase awareness about rights through electronic and printing media
- Attitudinal change towards women through awareness raising, curriculum
- Reducing dowry incidences (through education and awareness)

Legal Supports

- Gender sensitive legal services/ ensuring proper implementation of laws.



- Enforcement to prevent women trafficking
- Gender sensitive curriculum in textbooks from the elementary level.

Local Government

- Providing specific job and authority to the elected women leaders in the local government bodies.
- Sensitizing religious leaders on gender

Participation

- Women's participation in the UP elections
- Family members should be sensitive to the opinion of their female members
- Creating space for women in household decision making.

2.5 HEALTH

18. (1) The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.....

The Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

2.5.1 Primary Health Services in Bangladesh

Regarding overall primary health services, people gave an average score of 2.6, which indicates close to a moderate situation (Table 2.7). However, significant variations were observed across study areas, particularly between the remote *charlands* and *haor* areas with very limited communication and risky situation during monsoon and mainland area.

However, villagers identify some factors contributing to the progress made so far over the last five years time (2000-2005) in primary health services despite weaknesses of the available services. These are:

I. Contributing factors for partial improvement in some areas/ health centers/hospitals

- UP monitoring system increased
- Increased supply of medicine
- Number of doctors increased
- Developed communication system: easy to reach hospitals
- Improved medical science
- Availability of equipment increased
- GO and NGOs are working together on health issue
- Increased coverage of immunization program
- Increased public awareness

Division		Present Status
Rajshahi	Chilmari	2.92
	Sonatola	2.95
Dhaka	Jamalpur Sadar	3.10
	Narsingdi Sadar	2.85
Khulna	Daulatpur	2.38
	Shyamnagar	2.52
Barisal	Barisal sadar	2.67
	Bauphal	2.16
Chittagong	Kaukhali	1.38
	Patia	2.53
Sylhet	Sunamaganj Sadar	1.36
	Golapganj	3.91
Total		2.6

II. Negative remarks: why the overall situation is still not satisfactory?

People also identified the weaknesses of the system. These are:

- One medicine prescribed for all diseases
- Doctors' absenteeism is high
- Rich people get better service from public hospitals
- Doctors don't want to live in the rural areas
- Lack of health center, beds, quality doctors and free medicines

- Doctors are not responsible to their job
- Tendency to refer the patients to private clinics
- Hospital management is very poor/ corruption
- Improper treatment/poor and costly treatment
- Dirty hospital environment
- Poor but costly communication system
- Sometimes the local health complex were closed
- Lack of awareness
- Health workers are not aware/not available also
- Medicine (of public hospitals) sold in the market
- No scope for a major treatment
- No treatment for the disabled people

III. National Consultation

Participants of the national consultation identified some problems and put some recommendations on the overall health services in Bangladesh to achieve Goal 4,5 & 6. These are:

- Bangladesh can achieve the MDG goals in due time, but obviously there is a process. We should go through this process
- Initially we should go for achieving the first goal. If it is possible than every goal will automatically be achieved
- There is a correlation between health and nutrition. If we want to ensure nutrition, we have to reduce poverty. To reduce poverty we should confirm political will and good governance
- The root cause of infant mortality is lack of care and malnutrition of the pregnant mothers; sometimes-domestic violence/torture and unhygienic environment also act negatively for child health.
- Rate of maternal mortality is so high and will really be difficult to reduce in future in achieving the goal

Box 2.13
Case study on Upazilla Health Centers

- All the studied health centers have serious lack of doctors working with less than 50 per cent staff strength mainly due to high absenteeism of doctors and vacant positions.
- Lack of medicine and medical equipments (including ambulance) were identified as the other major problems followed by lack of trained health workers.
- Corruption in medicine supply was reported
- Poor communication system to get the health centers from villages (particularly in rainy seasons, from remote *charland*, and *haor* areas)
- Lack of hospital bed
- However, overall situation has been improved over time.

- The doctors in public hospitals are not attentive to the patients. Sometimes they are just not available. So it is not possible to reduce infant and child mortality under the supervision of upazilla level doctors.
- Most private clinics in the local areas are not able to provide quality treatment
- Maternal mortality is not only found in the hardcore poor or poor families, it also found in the lower middle class or middle class families.
- Without ensuring quality health facilities at the local level (UP, Upazilla), maternal mortality would not be reduced.
- The clinic business of doctors should be banned
- If people's rights and participation are ensured, the goals related to public health can be achieved
- Due to lack of money people cannot afford the treatment cost for the disabled

2.5.2 MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality

2.5.2.1 Situation Analysis¹

Health occupies high prominence among the MDG's; three of the eight development goals, nine of the 18 targets spread over 6 of the goals, and 18 of the 48 indicators are directly related to health. Besides, indirectly, health is an important precondition for achieving other goals.²

Infant Mortality Rate

Estimates of BBS, Bangladesh Human Development Report (BHDR) 2000 and Bangladesh Demographic and Health survey (BDHS) 1999-2000 (NIPORT 2001) indicate that the progress in reducing IMR has been significant. It decreased from 131 per thousand live births in 1970 to 101.5 in 1980 and 94 in 1990, which further decreased to 57 in 2000. This decreasing trend was also seen across region over the two decades. The estimates for rural areas indicate that it was 104 in 1980. It decreased to 97 in 1990 and again decreased to 66 in 2000 whereas in urban areas it decreased from 81 in

Box 2.14

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Indicators

13. Under-five mortality rate

14. Infant mortality rate

15. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles.

Box 2.15

The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005 Progress in Goal 4

Death rates for children under age 5 are dropping, but not fast enough. Eleven million children a year — 30,000 a day — die from preventable or treatable causes. Most of these lives could be saved by expanding existing programs that promote simple, low-cost solutions.

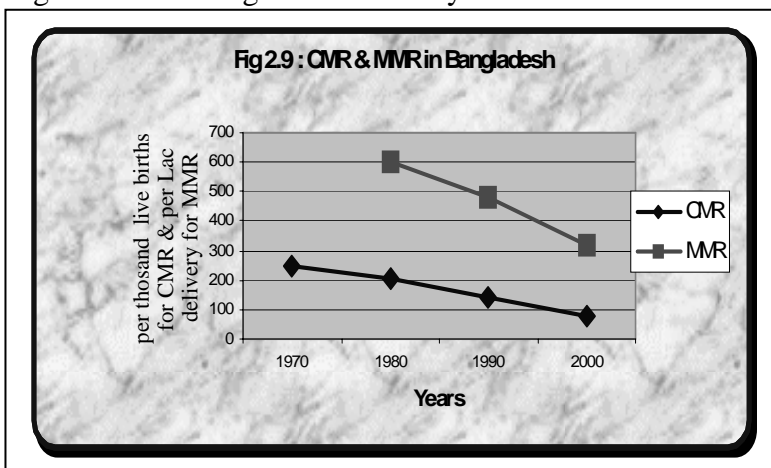
¹ Based on background paper prepared by People's Health Movement Bangladesh

² According to Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO): "Improvements in health are essential if progress is to be made with the other Millennium Development Goals".

1980 to 71 in 1990 and further decreased to 47 in 2000. Above figures suggest that the rate though falling is still higher in the rural areas. Almost similar patterns were also observed by sex.

Child Mortality Rate

Despite many bottlenecks, the progress in reducing child mortality rate is in track with target and time as projected in MDG's. Estimates on Child mortality Rate (CMR) (among children under 5 years) indicate significant progress in Bangladesh. The figure below shows that CMR was decreased from 250 in 1974 to 77 per thousand live births in 2001. It was 205 and 144 in 1980 and 1990 respectively (Fig 2.9).



2.5.2.2 People's Assessment

According to the participatory assessment, average score for IMR was found satisfactory with a mean value of 3.66 while CMR status was rated slightly less so than that of IMR (3.62) in the 5 point rating scale. Both the values for IMR and CMR refer to a better and improved situation in these indicators.

Villagers identified a set of contributing factors to this positive trend in reducing infant and child mortality particularly from the 1990s. The factors were:

- Increased coverage of immunization program
- Improved monitoring system by UP
- Number of doctors increased
- Developed communication system (easy to reach hospitals)
- Improved medical science
- Availability of equipment increased
- Doctor's behavior improved
- GO and NGOs are collaborating on health issues

2.5.2.3 Challenges and Options

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in achieving goal 4: Reducing Child Mortality. For further improving the situation the people identified several challenges, which are not necessarily in order. These are:

Challenges Identified by the People

Physical /infrastructure

- ◆ Lack of specialized doctors, health center, beds, and free medicines, skilled birth attendants and female doctors.
- ◆ Lack of communication and transport facilities
- ◆ Doctors are not responsible to their job.

Health issues

- ◆ Lack of health facilities in rural areas.
- ◆ High incidence of some diseases (Diarrhea, Pneumonia)
- ◆ Lack of immunization in due time.
- ◆ Malnutrition due to poverty
- ◆ Lack of safe water and sanitation.

Social issues

- ◆ Religious and social superstitions.
- ◆ Lack of health education
- ◆ Lack of enforcement of law in case of child/early marriage.
- ◆ Lack of integrated planning and coordination at the grassroots. (GO-NGO, inter governmental)

B. Strategic Recommendations

Stakeholders made the following recommendations for improving the present situation:

Implementation of relevant policy and planning

- Proper implementation of health policy.
- Proper coordination among all concerned agencies (at national and local levels).
- Implementation of the laws regarding child marriage.
- Compulsory birth and marriage registration

Women development

- Create employment opportunities for the women.

Improved support system

- Ensure supply of safe water and better sanitation facilities.
- Improve communication system.

Monitoring health service providers

- Monitoring health centers by the private sectors
- Ensure transparency and accountability of the concerned departments.
- Inclusion of the religious leaders in the mainstream development
- Supporting NGO activities.

Health Education/Awareness

- Health literacy to be at grass root level
- Lesson on nutritional issues for mother and child health in the curriculum.
- Create opportunities for female in higher education.

2.5.3 MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health

2.5.3.1 Situation Analysis³

Maternal Mortality Rate

Progress in MMR has been observed in the last two decades. It decreased from 600 in 1980-87 periods to 480 in 1990, which further decreased to 318 in 2000 per 100,000 deliveries. However, the HDR 2003 (UNDP 2003) data show that MMR in Bangladesh was 400 over the period 1985-2001. Despite these difference in estimates, the fact remains that MMR is still very high and a matter of great concern.

WHO, UNICEF and UNDP have reported that more than half a million pregnant mothers had died in 2000 and 95% of them were from the Asian and African countries. Bangladesh is one of those countries with high maternal death rate of 3.2 per thousand live births. More than half of the pregnant women do not have access to necessary health care, and 20% of total deaths of women aged 15 to 49 are caused by complications related to child delivery. Low nutrition and ill health are common amongst most women in Bangladesh. About 70% of mothers suffer from nutritional deficiency and anemia, less than 40% of the populations have access to basic health care, and 50% of the pregnant women do not receive antenatal care from trained medical service providers (Bangladesh Maternal Medical Survey 2001).

Box 2.16

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

16. Maternal mortality ratio

17. Proportion of births attended by skilled birth personnel

2.5.3.2 People's Assessment

Like child mortality, according to the participatory assessment, average score for MMR was found satisfactory with a mean value of 3.63, which refers to an improved and better situation, compared to the earlier situation. The contributing factors as identified by the poor villagers for this comparatively positive scenario are as follows:

Box 2.16: Progress in Goal 5 **The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005**

More than half a million women die each year during pregnancy or childbirth. Twenty times that number suffers serious injury or disability. Some progress has been made in reducing maternal deaths in developing regions, but not in the countries where giving birth is most risky.

(through media, health workers)

- Developed medical science/ better medicine
- Increased number of doctors, TBA
- Increased awareness

³ Background paper prepared by People's Health Movement Bangladesh

- Increased mother and childcare.
- Free medical services (treatment, Immunization)
- Adopting family planning (fewer children reduced the high risk of MMR).
- Access to health complex improved for transportation
- Quality of treatment improved
- Awareness and campaign to go to hospital in pregnancy period (including anti and neo natal)
- Health centers increased both in Govt, NGOs and private sectors
- NGOs are working on health issues
- Mothers are duly immunized through govt. initiatives (e.g., tetanus)
- Increased women awareness
- Family members take proper actions for the pregnant women timely
- Reduced superstition, mistaken ideas

2.5.3.3 Challenges and Options

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in achieving goal 5: Reducing Maternal Mortality. For further improving the situation the people identified several challenges, which are not necessarily in order. These are:

Health education

- Illiteracy and superstitions.
- Lack of health education

Early marriage and malnutrition

- Child marriage
- Premature pregnancy
- Frequent childbirth
- Malnutrition

Family supports

- Non-cooperation of husbands.
- Non-cooperation from the family.
- Domestic violence.

Institutional challenges

- Lack of coordination among GO and NGOs
- Non-functional community clinics
- Health workers/assistants do the job of doctors during delivery

B. Strategic Recommendations

Several recommendations for further improving the situation were made. These are:

Training, Knowledge and Awareness

- Proper training to develop a pool of active health workers
- Increasing awareness and knowledge about nutrition at household level.

- Providing health literacy at the grass root level
- Media campaign on maternal health care.
- Raise awareness on pregnant mothers' care.
- Developing trained birth attendant at the community level.
- Ensure access to information
- Increasing health workers' skill, accountability and transparency

Institutional response

- Creating employment opportunity.
- Increased coordination between GO and NGOs
- Increased donor's assistance in the area

Social Protection

- Strong social and legal steps to stop early marriage
- Family planning
- Combating superstition, unnatural belief

Infrastructure development

- Increasing ambulance, mobile hospitals
- Create separate unit for maternity health care at the local level hospitals

2.5.4 MDG 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, TB, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

2.5.4.1 Situation Analysis⁴

The HIV/AIDS situation in Bangladesh is not “apparently” at an alarming stage. But the country is bordered by eastern Indian states of high HIV/AIDS prevalent zones. Further, as movement across different to different countries are continuing, at high rates, Bangladesh is at high risk in the context of high population density with low literacy rate. Resurgence of malaria and other diseases such as TB have been noted with concern. Activities for combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB are in progress and likely to continue in the context of MDG target and time frame.

However, it may be that many HIV/ AIDS positive cases may not have been reported in Bangladesh as the National AIDS /STD program (NASP) says. According to its estimate, a total of 188 cases have been reported till December 2001 of which 35 are female (19 per cent). In their third round of surveillance (2000-2001), HIV infection was found to be highest among drug users (1.7 per cent) and female sex workers (0.3-0.5 per cent) while only 1 infected person was found among several hundred patients with STDs. In 1990, only 2 HIV/AIDS positive cases were found who were male. WDI 2002 estimates indicate that about 0.01 per cent of female aged between 15 and 24 were at risk of infection. However, incidence of HIV/AIDS is likely to be much higher than the official estimate many cases may go

Box 2.17

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

Target 7: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS

18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women

19. Contraceptive prevalence rate

20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS

Target 8: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases **and Targets**

Indicators

21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria

22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures

23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

24. Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course)

Box 2.18 Progress in Goal 6

The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005

AIDS has become the leading cause of premature death in sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide.

In the European countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and parts of Asia, HIV is spreading at an alarming rate. Though new drug treatments prolong life, there is no cure for AIDS, and prevention efforts must be intensified in every region of the world if the target is to be reached. Malaria and tuberculosis together kill nearly as many people each year as AIDS, and represent a severe drain on national economies. Ninety per cent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevention and treatment efforts are being scaled up. Tuberculosis is on the rise, partly as a result of HIV/AIDS, though a new international protocol to detect and treat the disease is showing promise.

⁴ Background paper prepared by People's Health Movement Bangladesh

unreported because of ignorance, social stigma, and unwillingness to test blood, and an inadequate support system.

According to HDR 2003 (UNDP 2003) a total of 211 tuberculosis cases were found out of one hundred thousand people while 40 malaria cases were reported in 2001 for the same population. Ministry of Health estimate indicates that incidence of malaria decreased from 80 in 1980 to 51 in 1990 per one hundred thousand population .The figure slightly increased to 56 in 1999 [WDI 2002]. In 1999, 241 tuberculosis cases were found out of one hundred thousand people while 56 malaria cases were reported for the same period (GOB 2000, Ministry of health).

2.5.4.2 People's Assessment

According to the participatory assessment, average score for TB, malaria was found satisfactory with a mean value of 3.53, which refers to an improved, and better situation compared to the earlier situation. In the regional consultations and FGDs with villagers, participants identified some contributing factors particularly in the case of malaria and TB, to answer the question that why things have improved. They identified the factors as:

- Improved medical science
- Doctors are more caring than before
- Increased health awareness
- Reduced social superstition (*Jhar-fuk*)
- Availability of cheaper medicines
- Free services in treatment of TB
- NGO provisions of services

2.5.4.3 Challenges and Options

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in achieving goal 6. For further improving the situation in combating HIV/Aids and malaria and other diseases the people identified several challenges, which are not necessarily in order. These are (*HIV/AIDS focused*):

Lack of awareness

- Lack of knowledge about sexual health among youth
- Lack of consciousness/awareness about HIV/AIDS
- Lack of medical center for testing HIV
- Lack of knowledge about the causes of malaria

Lack of treatment

- Lack of STD treatment facilities.
- Inadequate health service.
- Lack of health campaign

Unsafe and wrong practices

- Unsafe blood transmission (No blood test is done)
- Unsafe sex/lack of knowledge about safe sex

- Patient don't go to doctors, clinic for treatment in fear of being identified (personal sensitivity in case of STDs including HIV/AIDS)

Inadequate management of high risk factors

- Sea port cities/towns are at higher risks
- Increased mobility of the people both internally and externally.
- High-density population and unhygienic environment.
- Increased number of injecting drug users & easy access to Drugs

Inadequate prevention mechanism

- Gaps in tobacco control
- Inadequate mosquito control management
- Poor initiatives from GO and NGOs to prevent HIV/AIDS

B. Strategic Recommendations

Several types of interventions are necessary, according to the people, to face the challenges. These are:

Increasing knowledge and awareness

- Creating awareness among the peoples through NGO, GO, Media
- Campaign for safe sex
- Advertisement and campaign about the seriousness of HIV/AIDS
- Information dissemination
- Capacity development to combat the diseases
- Providing training to the youth students, teachers, members of civil society for wider campaign
- Aware the sex workers about HIV/AIDS and help them with the supply of necessary contraceptive materials and health services
- Training for the religious leaders (Imam).

Stronger preventive mechanism

- AIDS affected/HIV positive mother may stop producing child.
- Safe blood transmission, rigorous blood taste
- Stronger family relation to be kept
- Contraceptive use (using condom)
- Each and every hospital should have counseling centers
- Establishing a desk at border posts, sea and airports to prevent HIV/AIDS

Box 2.19: National Consultation Points on HIV/ AIDS, Hepatitis B

- There are three groups who directly spread HIV/AIDS. These are 1. Male sex workers 2. Female sex workers and 3. Professional blood donors.
- Those who are HIV positive are marginalized in society.
- More and more NGOs should work in this field
- HIV, malaria and poverty are inter-related
- In a densely populated country like Bangladesh, if the infectious diseases like HIV/malaria once can spread, it will be impossible to eradicate.
- We should be concerned about hepatitis B, because it is an alarming disease in our country

- Medical check up of those who enter from another country, specially transport workers/truckers.
- Proper implementation of national drug policies

2.6 MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

2.6.1 Situation Analysis⁵

Bangladesh has a diverse wealth of natural resources. But high population pressure is threatening its rich natural heritage through the expansion and intensification of agriculture and destruction of natural habitats and ill-planned urbanization.

Forest cover and conservation

Only 10 per cent of the total area of the country is under forest cover. Other estimate claims that of the area under forest only 45 per cent are under tree cover (GOB 2002). The estimates for natural forestry, however, indicate a decreasing trend over the years although social forestry is on the rise due to both public and private interest in planting trees. A recent FAO survey estimate indicates that, Bangladesh lost forest cover at the rate of 8,000 ha per year in the 1980s, and it rose to 37,700 ha per year in the 1990s. The deforestation rate according to another estimate is 3.3 percent per year.

Box 2.20

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources

25. Proportion of land area covered by forest

26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity

27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency)

28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) [Plus two figures of global atmospheric pollution: ozone depletion and the accumulation of global warming gases]

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

29. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source

Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

30. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation

31. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure [Urban/rural disaggregation of several of the above indicators may be relevant for monitoring improvement in the lives of slum dwellers]

Box 2.21: Progress in Goal 7

The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005

Most countries have committed to the principles of sustainable development. But this has not resulted in sufficient progress to reverse the loss of the world's environmental resources. Achieving the goal will require greater attention to the plight of the poor, whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources around them, and an unprecedented level of global cooperation. Action to prevent further deterioration of the ozone layer shows that progress is possible. Access to safe drinking water has increased, but half the developing world still lack toilets or other forms of basic sanitation. Nearly 1 billion people live in urban slums because the growth of the urban population is outpacing improvements in housing and the availability of productive jobs.

Bio-diversity

Bangladesh has 14 protected natural areas including five national parks, eight wildlife sanctuaries and one game reserve. The country has two environmental "World Heritage Sites", *Sunderbans* and *Tanguar Haor*. Development program have

been undertaken to conserve these areas of international importance. As a signatory country, Bangladesh has already started developing its National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The Bio-diversity Act and Traditional Knowledge Protection Act are also being formulated.

National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries

Estimates from indicate that the protected area under national parks and wild life sanctuaries increased over the years. It was only 0.5 per cent of total land area over 1980-83 and increased to 0.8per cent in 1996 increasing further 1.5 per cent in 2000 that is about 2182.2 square kilometer (Unnayan Shamannay -UPL 2001). However, another estimate (WB 1997, 2003) showed that, the rate was 0.7 and 0.8 per cent in 1994 and 2002 respectively.

Households with Safe Drinking Water, Toilet and Sanitary Facilities

In case of provision of safe drinking water (safe meaning pathogen-free) Bangladesh has made very high achievements. However, arsenic contamination may have undermined that achievement. Recently, in Bangladesh the target has been set to increase coverage of safe water from 99 percent to 100 percent in urban areas and from 76 percent (arsenic-adjusted estimate) coverage to 96.5 percent in rural areas by 2015. Forty percent people have now access to sanitary toilet facilities Table 2.8) along with 53 per cent overall sanitary coverage far lower situation than a healthy system.

Per cent households with-	1985-87	1990	2000
Safe Drinking Water	46	89	97
Toilet Facilities	6	21 (91)	40 (99)
Sanitary Facilities		35	53

2.6.2 People’s Assessment

In the people’s assessment, although plantation situation both in government, private and household level are improving with a score of 3.16 out of 5 points, water and sanitation status is not up to the mark with a mean score of 2.64

However, when discussed about the contributing factors for increased plantation and also to some extent increased use of

sanitary facilities, the participants identified a set of issues as given below:

Box 2.22

Peoples views on environmental problems: A quick survey

■152 informed respondents of 13 points in Dhaka city
 ■17-19 may 2005.

Major Environmental Problems in Bangladesh

1. Air Pollution.
2. Deforestation.
3. Filling up of Water bodies.
4. Poor Sanitation.
5. Water Pollution.

Major Environmental Problems in Dhaka

1. Air Pollution.
2. Sound Pollution
3. Waste

Mainly Due to

- High density/over population
- Unplanned urbanization
- Lack of Awareness
- Poor environmental governance

- Seeing results when economic situation is improved by selling the matured trees.
- Reduce the risk of cyclone
- Govt. and individual initiatives for tree plantation (Local govt., Upazilla office)
- Trees supplied by NGOs at a minimum cost
- Increased awareness about environment (education, media)
- Free distribution of trees by the government
- Social Forestry
- Using tube well. User increased more than before
- Increased awareness about public health
- For preventing diseases, use of sanitary latrine
- Campaign by the GO and NGO workers (including arsenic contamination)
- Self initiatives (individuals) for use of sanitary latrine and safe water
- Free supply of sanitary materials and tube well from GO/NGO

2.6.3 Challenges and Options

A. Challenges

Participants of village study and regional and national consultations had identified a set of overall challenges in achieving goal 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability. For further improving the situation the people identified several future challenges, which are not necessarily in order. These are:

Hazardous agricultural production system

- Use of chemical fertilizer in agricultural activities.
- Excess use of ground water for irrigation.
- Arsenic contamination in water

Deforestation

- Extinction of herbs / and lack of knowledge about herbs.
- Cutting trees for economic needs/survival
- Scarcity of land for plantation

Natural disaster

- Due to natural disaster & hill cutting trees are reduced
- Water logging

Infrastructure Problem

- Drainage problem.

Industrial waste & urbanization

- Lack of industrial waste management
- Unplanned infra-structural development/construction work
- Unplanned industrialization
- Unplanned roads, drainage system, waste management and slum
- Illegal grabbing of canal, river and low lands.
- Increased gases (CO₂) in the air
- Air and sound pollution in urban areas/cities
- Unplanned brick field and use of trees
- Black/toxic smokes and fumes from factory (like-urea fertilizer) and vehicles

- The building codes are not being followed.
- Poor sewerage system in urban areas.
- Wastage, oil and chemical substances from sip breaking industry pollute sea and surrounding environment

Institutional weaknesses

- Lack of coordination among environmental development work
- Corruption in distribution of sanitary latrine and tube well

Shrimp, Salinity & Sundarban

- Unplanned shrimp culture
- Increase in salinity
- Destruction of Sundarbans' (mangrove forest) bio-diversity

A. Strategic Recommendations

Stakeholders identified several activities for changing the present situation for the better. These are the following:

Ecological agriculture

- Promoting use of IPM (Integrated Pest Management)
- Using composed fertilizer /manure instead of chemical fertilizer in agriculture.
- Introducing more environment friendly projects (like the proposed Rajshahi irrigation project)
- Conservation /harvesting rainwater in rainy season
- Increasing subsidy to eco-agriculture (organic/ecological farming)
- Invest in research and development in agriculture

Aforestation

- Massive tree plantation including the herb (medicinal herbs as well)
- Protection of embankments & tree plantation across the embankments by developing green cordon
- Protecting the *Sundarban* through community awareness and rehabilitation program along with stronger monitoring.

Pollution control

- Pollutant and age old vehicles need to be banned.

Stronger policy & institutional approaches

- Coordination among environmental development works
- Pro-environment legal reforms (industrial law, rivers, *khas* land)
- Stop leasing of canals. Re-excavation at the mouth of sluice gates.
- Development of an appropriate shrimp policy and its proper implementation by not degrading environment (stop inviting salinity).
- Hill cutting should be stopped
- International dialogues for solving problems related to common rivers (including the Ganges).

Eco-friendly technology & options

- Use of environment-friendly energy/fuel in vehicles, brickfields, mills and factories etc (like CNG, bio-gas, solar energy, including electric battery etc)

- Introduce Tidal River Management (TRM) in coastal belt
- Establishing separate industrial zones with treatment plan.

2.7 MDG 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

2.7.1 Situation Analysis⁶

ODA

Although the MDG goal of global partnership clearly points towards the need to ensure that LDCs obtain adequate market access for their products and a consistent stream of financial aid, very little in the form of mandatory policies and practices are in place to ensure this objective. For instance, it is well known that the target of 0.7 percent of gross national product is only met by a handful of countries. Large industrial powers such as the United States are still far from meeting the target.

It has been estimated that an additional \$50 billion a year, meaning a doubling of current aid levels, will be required to meet MDG goals. However, trends in overseas development assistance (ODA) are dismal. For instance, the European Union ODA average is to reach only a meager 0.39 percent by 2006. It is expected that total ODA would reach the 0.7% target by 2013, just two years prior to the point when the proportion of poverty is to be halved.⁷

Box 2.23

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development*

Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

ODA	Official	Development	Assistance
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32. Net ODA as percentage of DAC donors' GNI [targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs]

33. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

34. Proportion of ODA that is untied

35. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing states

36. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in land-locked countries

Target 13: Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries

Market	Access
--------	--------

37. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas

38. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing

39. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries

40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity Debt Sustainability

Target 14: Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through Barbados Program and 22nd General Assembly provisions) (NOT APPLICABLE for Bangladesh)

Debt Sustainability

41. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled

Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

42. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

43. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief

44. Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points

Target 16: In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds

Target 17: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

Target 18: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

47. Telephone lines per 1000 people

48. Personal computers per 1000 people

⁶ Based on background paper prepared by Action Aid Bangladesh and cross cutting sector papers prepared by D.Net on ICT and Youth Forum on MDG on Youth

⁷ HM Government, The UK's Contribution to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The GoB-UN report (Gob-UN 2005)clearly pointed out the gaps in developed countries' promises in case of Bangladesh as quoted here "ODA from countries belonging to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has been decreasing in recent years, both in real value and as a share of the GNI of donor countries. It has dropped from US\$ 1.24 billion (0.28 per cent of GNI) in 1996 to US \$ 1.02 billion (0.22 % of GNI) in 2001). ODA to LDCs has also fallen from 0.06 per cent of donors' GNI in 1996 to 0.05 per cent in 2001. This is far from the target of 0.7 and 0.15 per cent, respectively set as the MDG requirements for these indicators."

Information and Communication Technology /ICT

In Bangladesh, the teledensity including the fixed line and mobile phones was 1.85 per cent in 2003. From the base year 1990 until 2002 there has been a nearly 600 percent growth in the sector as a whole, which is contributed by the growth of mobile telephony. Government has also taken some initiative to increase the coverage of fixed line phones by issuing licenses to private companies for rolling out network out side Dhaka city.

Given the current trend of the Internet penetration, the Internet use will reach up to 0.5% by 2015. The delay due to implementation of the submarine cable project the high-speed Internet connection is delayed, which will hamper the growth of the all industries. Based on an alternative calculation more than 50% of the rural areas are under mobile

coverage and it is expected by 2010 that every village will have at least one (1) mobile phone or a fixed line phone, which will be accessible to all. So a better indicator for progress may be phone access for the entire citizen within 10 minutes of walk by 2015. If we can redefine the target and indicators, then we can better project and monitor our achievements.

Youth

In Bangladesh, 23.5 percent of the total population belongs to the age group between 15 and 24 years⁸. They experience similar types of economic and social disparities as young people face globally. In 2001, the illiteracy rate among the 15+ age group was 59.4 percent while around 40 percent were unemployed and many were involved in hazardous, unacceptable forms of labor. It is important to mention that no data is available regarding the specific situation of youth population in the country as the state has been rather indifferent to the need for having youth-specific data in the national information system.

Box 2.24: Progress in Goal 8

The UN Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005

The United Nations Millennium Declaration represents a global social compact: developing countries will do more to ensure their own development, and developed countries will support them through aid, debt relief and better opportunities for trade. Progress in each of these areas has already begun to yield results. But developed countries have fallen short of targets they have set for themselves. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, increased aid and debt relief must be accompanied by further opening of trade, accelerated transfer of technology and improved employment opportunities for the growing ranks of young people in the developing world.

⁸ BBS 2003

A significant number of non-government organizations (NGOs) have been working in Bangladesh over the last 30 years. These NGOs are trying to address issues affecting the lives of the majority of the vast number of poor people. However, very few NGOs have taken initiatives to address the issues related to young people in particular. Nor have the GoB/UNDP report with due importance.

Chapter III

Cross Cutting Issues¹

- 3.1 Human Rights
- 3.2 Governance
- 3.3 Indigenous People
- 3.4 Disability & Development
- 3.5 Youth Development
- 3.6 Information & Communication Technology

¹ The editors or publishers assume no responsibility for the views expressed by the sectoral contributors of the thematic papers published in the report.

3.1 How far MDG is a HUMAN Right Agenda? ²

A. HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH 2003³

The formal trappings of democracy have been in place in Bangladesh for over a decade now. Yet, as an accounting of the situation in 2003 reveals, practices of democracy founded on a respect for human rights are fragile at best. Over the course of the year, many political and civil rights continued to be violated with impunity by both state and non-state actors. For a majority of citizens, basic economic and social rights remained unfulfilled. Meanwhile, violence, intimidation and physical insecurity were pervasive features of everyday life.

Several longstanding features of the socio-political landscape have sustained the current state of affairs. Most obvious is the existence not simply of a weak state but one that has developed in an increasingly lop-sided manner. Although the 'state' is not a monolithic entity, it is clear that state agencies and functionaries frequently find themselves unable or unwilling to act against dominant political or economic interest when these conflict with the general public interest. If not always through explicit action, through silence, inaction and passivity state functionaries are also frequently complicit in violations of rights by non-state actors. In this regard, in certain arenas such as law and order and the administration of justice, the state appears to have abdicated many of its responsibilities.

At the same time, the neutrality of both civil society and the state apparatus has been progressively undermined by two factors. First is the asymmetric economic growth that has concentrated resources and power in fewer and fewer hands. Of the approximately 140 million people in Bangladesh, a tiny percentage effectively controls the nation's resources, power and authority. Second, and equally important is an aggressively polarized political landscape, which has promoted partnership in almost all sphere of life. In combination with increasingly blurred lines between 'civil society' and the state, concentrations of wealth and increasingly closed networks of power and resources have produced a situation in which checks and balances in power are either absent or ineffective. These circuits of power, which can only be accessed through kinship, party or other patronage ties have produced a host of problems.

Bangladesh now live in an environment in which politics has been criminalized while crime itself has become politicized. Some commentators claim that a culture of plunder and intimidation has been virtually institutionalized and that the country is caught in an economic trap of criminalisation. The ensuing culture of 'zero sum politics' has produced an especially bleak scenario. Ordinary citizens are outside such networks of complicity, against which autonomous action or resistance is often difficult to sustain. If, for instance, the owners of media outlets also invest in industries with exploitative labor practices or set up private clinic with dubious credentials, reporting, let alone acting on the matter may be risky or simply not a viable option. If, as is also increasingly prevalent, the owners of capital posses important political (and/or criminal) connection or they or their relatives are Members of Parliament, the 'democracy' system set in place to provide checks and balances may prove to be meaningless in practice.

² *Contributed by Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) and Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights-BSEHR for part A, B, & C respectively. Manusher Jonno has coordinated and compiled the paper. However, The editors or publishers assume no responsibility for the views expressed by the contributors of this thematic paper published in the report.*

³ *This part is extracted from ASK annual report on HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH 2003*

The impunity and complete lack of accountability that perpetrators of crimes, including law enforcement agencies, continued to enjoy in 2003. The overt protection of criminals, many of whom have been nurtured by political leaders to carry out their 'dirty works' and the general absence of accountability allows law enforcing agencies and others often to get away with murder, literally speaking. The process has initiated a vicious cycle of violence, for the absence of punishment encourages further abuses.

Two issues are pertinent here. First, as in early years, in many cases the identities of perpetrators were public, yet if they were part of the system of political patronage, generally no action was taken against them. Second, the forces of the state – the police, the army, intelligence gathering forces and so on – all enjoyed virtually complete protection from prosecution.

The system in place not only offers protection to those who possess the requisite political and social ties but also allows for the systematic silencing and intimidation of moderate voices and of those who refuse to submit to the partisan patronage system. Political violence documents an alarming number of assassinations of local level political leaders, for instance. And the account of press freedom shows just how dangerous an occupation investigative journalism has become for those 'simply doing their job'. Those who resisted or voiced protest run varying degrees of risk.

Predictably, those who are the most disempowered are the worst affected by political intimidation and harassment. Police personnel in turn were often unwilling to accept complaints because of intimidation or co-option by politically powerful groups. Clearly law enforcement agencies must be freed from political pressure and interference, and political patronage and protection of criminals must be halted if this vicious cycle is to be broken.

The right of life and political violence offers a sharp reminder of the extent to which violence has become a primary mode of conflict-resolution in Bangladeshi society. It would not be an exaggeration to say that violence has been reutilized in everyday social transactions as well; nowhere is this more apparent than in the precarious situation of women and young girls from different communities and classes, in public and private spheres. The modalities of violence against women appear to be symptomatic of overall social and political disorder.

Another unfortunate outcome of the general political disorder is the progressive politicization of sexual violence. In this year, women bodies once more became the sites and symbols for a variety of battles. Most explicit, rape is a weapon of terror; humiliation or retribution was used against both religious and ethnic minorities. The threat of sexual violence from the Bengali settlers, forest officials and the police constitutes part of a larger effort to terrorize and evict indigenous groups from their highly valuable ancestral property.

B. REVIEW OF BANGLADESH PROGRESS REPORT ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS (GoB-UN 2005)⁴

Although a number of national and international instruments including the Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh guarantees the basic human rights of the citizens of Bangladesh, we have to make every effort to maintain and achieve the targets predetermined by the declaration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It is vital as we wish to align the trend of our national growth and developments in accordance with the global trend.

The government in collaboration with the UN Country Team has come up with the first Bangladesh Progress Report on the achievements of the targets spelt out in the Millennium Development Goals. The report has been designed, as it appears to highlight the targets. However, it lacks any specific indications of means to achieve the said targets. Although the report in various phases has highlighted

⁴ Contribution of *Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association*

sector wise achievements mentioning the sources of information but often this does not necessarily match with the real life scenario.

Spelling out the Target-I (*Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than One dollar a day*) of the MDG-1 (*Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger*), the report mentioned that rural areas performed better than the urban areas in reducing the depth and severity of poverty but did not focus the deprivation of the rural people in terms of getting the privileges like those living in the urban areas, which does not conform the constitutional rights.

Highlighting the Target-II (*Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger*) of MDG-1 (*Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger*), it is mentioned that Bangladesh remains among the least fortunate in the world despite some progress in the area of child malnutrition. It also identified that the children of Bangladesh suffer from short-term acute shortfall in food intake as well as longer-term under-nutrition but did not spell out any means to overcome such condition.

Mentioning that a third of the children from the richest quintile also suffer from malnourishment, the report pointed out some factors like per capita household food intake; infant feeding practices; maternal schooling and hygiene practices; access to safe drinking water; sanitation and health facilities; quality of village infrastructure and protection against natural disaster but lacks specific suggestion or program outline to redress the situation. Rephrasing the challenges, the report emphasized the creation of more jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurship and mentioned that self-employment by the poor will need to be speeded up aggressively, so as to address the massive backlog of underemployment, as well as the large annual addition to the labour force on account of demographic factors. But in terms of ensuring the minimum standard of wages for those who have already been employed and area of creating further employment opportunities were not properly identified.

In terms of achieving the universal primary education, the report identified several areas such as rural areas, urban slums, coastal areas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) where the enrollment of children in primary education is very low and emphasize the ability of the system to prevent drop out and successfully deliver of education services. But like other issues the report is found reluctant in identifying the responsible authority in ensuring the said standard system. Talking about the quality of education the report identified five areas like organisational management, schools and classrooms, infrastructure development, support to equitable access, management and monitoring where the government machineries are concentrating but nothing is mentioned about the modalities and standard. The report also highlighted that the largest disparity exists at the tertiary level of education but was almost silent about the quality of higher education at the private sector, which does not fulfill the basic standard of higher education.

Discussing health, one of the fundamental human rights, the report points to the problem of maternal health and the physical insecurity of the sex workers but remain silent about the general health of the masses. The report also remains silent about the quality of health services rendered through the different government run health clinics. The important issues of prompt and non-invasive medical check up, which helps to ensure the legal justice to women and children particularly when sexually, abused, is totally absent in the report.

Identifying the issue of Acid throwing Crime of which mostly women are victims, the report mentioned some of the government initiatives including introduction of speedy trial, One-Stop Crisis Center and its services but did not mention any irregularities in the judiciary system that destructs the access of women to the formal justice system. The report also excludes some important issues related to violence against women and does not give any indication of the means to overcome those causes and related remedies. Thus the urgencies of putting in effective institutional system for ensuring human rights were mostly untouched or undressed in the whole report.

C. ANALYSIS OF DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT (AS OF JUNE 3) FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS⁵

The document⁶ was thoroughly studied and discussed and the outcome of the discussion is as follows: It should be noted here that we agree to the points from 1-8 and the rest is detailed below.

1. Values and principles

In the point # 9 it is mentioned, “We reaffirm that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women are essential to advance development, security and human rights”

It was discussed at the meeting and was shared that as the clause deals with the full freedom of women, it does not really reflect on the issue of changing the view point of men who from the very past time have a dominant role over the women population and the mentality itself is a barrier to the “full freedom” of women. We agree to the point but it does not elaborate the implementation clearly. The specified 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators do not clearly show how to establish the point.

It should be clearly mentioned and specific program activities should be chalked out for the implementation so that they feel the necessity of the freedom of the women community so that they can also be the part of the development arena to work together with the male population to contribute equally for the development of the country and the combine efforts of men and women can ensure the global development which has been initiated by the UN for the global countries in its Millennium Development Goal.

2. Financing for Development

Many earlier meetings and protocols are referred in this document, which we feel that should be shared with mass people so that they can contribute to the document. It was also shared that the Millennium Development Goal should be widely spread and discussed at various levels to get more inputs from different segments of people all over the country and in fine all over the globe. The mass population does not know the inputs and these should be widely shared and spread to the mass people so that they become fully aware of the document.

It was also suggested to publicise the relevant document like the education and health issues with the students at different schools and colleges so that the future leaders of any country can give their thought to the development goals and feel part of the country strategic plan. This was not done.

It was also shared that whatever we say about the UN taking the lead, it should actually be independent to ensure its obligations but it does not necessarily happen as the powerful countries of the globe dominate over the UN and the global organization fails to contribute as much as it has to do. The powerful nations should not poke their noses to the work of the UN and they also should not make the UN afraid of the threat of stopping the fund for the UN to do its work of development.

The developing countries should act as real partners not commanding countries and if it does not happen then the global partnership goal would only be in papers but not in reality and it will result to the failure of the Millennium Development Goal a failure at the very beginning

3. Employment

The goal of productive employment should be real one nationally and internationally so that all the countries can benefit equally. The first and foremost objective should be the

⁵ Contribution of *Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights-BSEHR*

⁶ Please visit www.un.org/summit 2005 for the draft and final outcome documents and the declarations for millennium summit 2005

cooperative attitudes from the developed and big nations so that they help the developing countries to grow economically.

4. Gender equality and empowerment of women

In the field of increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls, ensuring secure tenure of property to women all the countries have to be vigilant to ensure that the policy is being implemented. If the government declares free education for the girl child it has to be ensured that it actually is happening. Just declaration or passing the law is not enough. The declaration and the law have to be put into practice and measures to be taken to eradicate the barriers for the implementation. We have the policy but the implementation system is corrupted and for this reason the development is facing barrier as the government is not monitoring the whole process strongly. All the governments who signed in the CEDAW, Beijing 95 + (4th international conference) and along with the Nairobi declaration, Governments are not implementing them properly and for that the Millennium Development Goals will not be effective and these have not been reflected in the MDG and this is true to all the countries and all the governments of the globe.

5. Human Rights and Rule of Law

The universal declaration of human rights should be sincerely followed. It should not be used to punish other nations in the name of human rights. The stronger countries should reflect on their own role and they should not behave as god fathers to rule the world or to be the guardian of the globe. To ensure all these specific programs should be incorporated but those are not clearly mentioned in the MDG.

6. Human Rights Council

It has been stated that a human rights council should be in force to ensure global human rights. The suggestions came that the Human Rights Council is a smaller term. It can be the Commission of Human Rights. The Commission is a forum that can ensure human rights in different states and nations and we propose to make the term Commission of Human Rights in place of Human Rights Council.

Finally, though the Millennium Development Goal deals with all necessary items, it has the lack of making thing very specific and due to that some loopholes remain and those could be used by governments of some countries. So each and every point should be made specific so that none of the governments can misuse or misinterpret it.

3.2 Governance and Human Security⁷

I. Introduction

As a nation Bangladesh is very old but as a nation state it is born out of a bloody liberation war with Pakistan in 1971. In regards to the geo-political context of the subcontinent Bangladesh is gradually emerging as an influential state in the South Asia because of its large population. It suffered from military rule for nearly fifteen years and its experience and practice of democracy base much to be desired. Political parties tend to be weak and ineffectual and inner party democracy often does not exist. Corruption is rampant in all spheres of life. Lack of visionary leadership and absence of strong civil society result in the lack of good governance in Bangladesh.

Therefore, Bangladesh is still struggling to establish human rights and good governance in all spheres of civic life, which alternatively will ensure human development and will contribute to the reduction of poverty.

II. Governance: Putting Peoples' Choice First

Ensuring governance is considered as the essential pre-condition for both of social and economical development, and the concept of governance is much wide.

The generic features of governance include:

- a. Promotion of democracy and open pluralistic society with free and fair electoral process
- b. Strengthening of transparent, accountable, efficient and effective national and local government
- c. Respect for human rights
- d. Reinforcement of rule of law, including fair and affordable access to legal and judicial system
- e. Promotion of independent media and ensuring people's unhindered right to information.
- f. Integrated and effective effort to combat corruption

III. Crises of Governance in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has achieved a few tangible progress in human and economic development over a short period of time i.e. it has achieved one of the fastest birth-rate reductions without coercion, expanded life expectancy for both men and women and has achieved impressive results in expanding female education and economic opportunities for the rural poor through micro credit operation throughout the country. Bangladesh also made important contributions in peacekeeping around the world through sending troops to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

Despite such social and economic progress there still exists crucial areas for ensuring democratic governance. All major ingredients of governance much on maintaining law and order, combating corruption, bureaucratic performance, and human security have fallen short of citizens' expectations. Therefore governance problems are characterized by:

- i) Deteriorating law and order situation and increasing crime and corruption in public and private space of life.
- ii) Weak public administration and judiciary,
- iii) Ineffective national policy and inadequate resource mobilization for decentralization and for local government,
- iv) Non-democratic and non-accountable party politics and intensified centric and oligarchic politics and partisan attitude in all sphere of administration, and
- v) Lack of framework for free flow of information.

⁷ Contributed by Campaign for Good Governance (CGG/SUPRO)

IV. Way out

- **Institutionalization of Democracy in Party Politics**

One of the key areas of concern articulated by the Government of Bangladesh, donors, NGOs and members of society at large, is the institutionalization of democracy. All the related stakeholders in Bangladesh generally tend towards a more positive approach for democratic institutional change such as support for election monitoring, training to the parliamentarians, support for civil society organizations, and so on. But interestingly there is little or no democracy and transparency in the political parties who bear the national responsibility of institutionalizing democracy countrywide.

Two major parties, dominate Bangladesh's political system. After long years of military ruling and volatile democracy, both the 1996 and 2001 elections were preceded by a long opposition boycott in the Parliament. Such intolerance in party politics results in prolonged violent street agitation, stifling country's economic progress, violation of human rights and hampering the livelihoods of poor people. The main opposition party with an aim to gear up antigovernment movement enforced 41 *Hartal* in 2004 alone. There were 827 days of *Hartal* during 1991 and 2002 and 147 days during the period of 2002-2004. The estimated figure shows that the average cost of *Hartals* to the economy during 1990s was 3 to 4 percent of GDP.

The main agenda of action of both the opposition and ruling parties is to defame each other not only within the country even elsewhere in the world. Party program or ideologies seldom mobilize voters during elections. All major parties bank on populist approach of rhetoric, symbolism, and sentiments as the major instruments for mobilizing voters. Such confrontational and non-productive attitudes of political leaders make the parties organizationally weak and therefore delaying democratic transformation.

To avoid problems of governance that stem from the 'undemocratic' behavior of political parties and the people they patronize, it is urgent to *change political behavior*. A high level of election violence, violation of human rights, pre and post election confrontation exists that undermine the political rights of wider groups through intimidation. Although over the long term there has been progress in Parliamentary reforms e.g. formation of Parliamentary Committees without Ministers in the chair, the present situation of boycotting is undermining much of the progress of the past.

- **Separation of Judiciary from the Administration and affordable access of the poor.**

The very fundamental basis of the democracy is the independent functioning of legislative body, judiciary and administration. It has been mentioned and mandated in the constitution, but in the last three decades whatever the judicial courts direct the government to comply with the mandate, successive governments cautiously disobeyed and delayed the process especially the separation of judiciary.

Implementation of law in most cases is influenced by the ruling elite and its' allies while rampant corruption marks the system especially at the lower level, where the poor have to seek justice. Legislative have dual role in law making as well as influencing local development administration, which politicize the administration and result in corruption. Civil society concern is growing that the judiciary should have to be separated in a clear means which judicial services have to be easily available to all at the local level.

- **Integrated Effort to Combat Corruption and Tackling Poverty**

Corruption is a widespread problem in Bangladesh and perceived to occur in every governmental sector at both national and local levels. As per Transparency International (TI)'s Corruption Perceptions Index Bangladesh is perceived to be one of the most corrupt countries in the world and ranked in last among surveyed nations since 2001, survey shows that it eat around 2 % of GDP

annually. While questions may be raised about the methods of TI's survey, undoubtedly corruption is a major national problem and it is hindering both of investment and economic growth.

Combating corruption is a challenging task in Bangladesh where the police and the judiciary suffer from serious corruption problems themselves. Even when corrupt persons are prosecuted powerful politicians and bureaucrats remain untouched.

Corruption is believed to more adversely affect the poor than the non-poor. This is because:

- i) There may be a restriction of access to public services, officials charging for what should be a free or low priced service
- ii). There may be a reduction in available resources (due to a fall in revenue collections) and a diversion of these resources away from programs that benefit the poor , and
- iii) There may be manipulation of the political process to favor interests of dominant non-poor groups

Therefore the deep rooting of widespread corruption is aggregating poverty situation through diversion and misallocation of public funds and resources to the vested interest group. Recently the Government has constituted the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) but civil society watchdog groups are concerned about the impartiality of ACC as the ruling regime in particular the Prime Minister has a role in appointing its chairman and the commissioners. In any case, the ACC is yet to effectively begin its work.

During the last parliament election all the political parties expressed manifesto for Independent anti corruption commission and pledged for combating corruption by all means. But, after passing the law on anti corruption, the present party in power has shown very little interest to do the other set of efforts, that should be considered as part of an integrated effort. There are three major common demands i.e., bureaucrats and politicians must declare their assets, transparency in political party income's and expenditure and people's unhindered right to information. Parties in power and outside are silent in this regard, as prevailing process of corruption help the political elite. Laws, preventive mechanism, and social mobilization along with creating new values should go hand in hand and primarily be a major political agenda to have a corruption free society.

• ***Strengthening Rural Local government and increasing decentralized Governance***

The current local government system in Bangladesh may be categorized into three broad i.e. urban, rural and special areas. The rural local government has four vertical tiers; *Gram Parishad, Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Zila Parishad*. Urban local government has only one tier, City Corporation and Municipality. Local government in special areas refers to the local government system for three districts under Chittagong Hill tracts. Although rural local government comprises four vertical tiers most are not effectively functioning. *Upazilla Parishad* is totally absent; *Union Parishad* enjoys little freedom in terms of resource mobilization and decision-making while *Zila Parishads* is non-functional.

Therefore development planning and resource allocation is mostly centralized, top down and non transparent, where decisions are generally skewed in favor of those who directly or indirectly belong to the power structure. This centralized controlling approach affects poverty as it impacts adversely on service delivery at the local level.

Poverty reduction depends on improvements in the quality and accessibility to poor people of basic education, health, water and other social and infrastructure services. Policy and program intervention therefore should be made in relation to poor people's livelihoods, resources, knowledge and rights. The move towards an effective four-tier local government system is considered as a major pre-condition for ensuring local level governance and poverty alleviation. An effective and decentralized local government can bring the government closer to the people. This will:

- i) facilitate people's access to the local resources and productive assets
 - ii) raise investment in human capital will broaden skill, knowledge base and livelihood options ;
 - iii) ensure participation of the poor in decision making and help them in exercising their social and political rights
 - iv) institutionalize community participation specially of the poorer section in the *Union Parishad*
- **Unhindered access to information or people's right to information.**

Access to information is a basic right of all citizens. It is believed that free flow of and access to information can ensure greater accountability and transparency of the public sector and that can make the state more responsive to the needs of the poor. It enables the poor to raise "voice" to influence service provision. Therefore state policies and the bureaucratic administration, inherited from the British, are the major causes of information divide between poor and rich and between rural and urban areas. In Bangladesh a large number of activities remain outside public scrutiny. We are still following the 'Official Secrecy Act' of the British colonial days when colonial government's interests were not the same as public interests. The secrecy increases corruption and bribery while a peddling of secret and confidential information or documents is considered a lucrative vocation for a few officials.

3.3 Ensuring Indigenous People's rights⁸

Indigenous peoples are not visible

Bangladesh is a multi cultural and multi ethnic country although are overwhelming majority belong to a particular cultural and ethnic group. The indigenous peoples of Bangladesh are strikingly diverse in their culture, language, religion, traditions and patterns of social and economic life. But in the *Millennium Development Goals Bangladesh Progress Report* indigenous peoples are forgotten and neglected and not mentioned. The MDG Report of Bangladesh does not even make a reference to indigenous or tribal peoples.

Within Bangladesh, there are more than 45 distinct ethnic communities (apart from *Bengalis*) who have lived in the country for centuries and their number is about 3 million. They are the most disadvantaged, neglected and vulnerable people in the country. Bangladesh Government doesn't have any policy for the development of indigenous population. Although many times indigenous peoples faced eviction from their homeland in the name of development projects, building dams, eco-parks, protected areas, reserve forest and even establishing military bases on their ancestral and community land. Many indigenous peoples migrated out from the country for safety and security. Their land has been taken forcibly without their consent. Their culture is treated inferior in the country. Thus they become most marginalized and vulnerable people in the country.

Indigenous and tribal peoples are the major victims of violations of human rights in Bangladesh. Spatial relocation of population made indigenous people minority group in their homeland. Many indigenous villages have disappeared in the past few years. The right of indigenous peoples to the forest was ignored and thousands of false forest cases were filed against indigenous people. Many indigenous women are victims of sexual harassment and torture by the forest guards and police. They do not get justice from the law, as they are indigenous people.

The Chairperson of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Ms. Victoria Taulu-Corpuz said "If the MDGs are met there is no doubt that some effects will trickle down to some of the world's 350 million indigenous peoples, the majority of whom live in poverty. The question remains whether governments, the international community, civil society, indigenous people, and the private sector can achieve these goals. It could happen that indigenous peoples become the sacrificial lambs for the reduction of poverty through development projects, which will displace them from their lands and resources, culture and identity, and self-determination. At the same time, some governments and even intergovernmental organizations question the wisdom of targeting indigenous peoples as a specific beneficiary group for development."

She has also added "Mainstream development has acquired a bad name for indigenous peoples and tribals in many parts of the world. After colonization, the development enterprises played a key role in denigrating and destroying indigenous economic, cultural, political and social systems. Newly independent nation-states regarded indigenous peoples and their systems as the representations of backwardness and primitiveness. The mission, therefore, was to release them from backwardness towards modernity through the development enterprise. Their assimilation or integration into the dominant society and to mainstream development was the policy option taken by many governments. This has led to the violation of their basic rights to their ancestral lands and resources. This is why some indigenous peoples refer to mainstream development as "development aggression." Their cynical attitude with regards development, in general, and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, comes from such negative experiences.

The number one goal of the Millennium Development Goals is Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

⁸ Contributed by Bangladesh Indigenous Forum

It is now proved that indigenous peoples are among the poorest in the world.

Preliminary profiling of indigenous peoples poverty have been done by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other UN Agencies including UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have already shown that indigenous peoples are the poorest of the poor. The data provided by these bodies should be used in terms of development of indigenous peoples. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues notes that the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in connection with indigenous peoples must be viewed within the broader context of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which brings together the three basic aims of the Charter of the United Nations: peace and security, economic and social development, and human rights. Indigenous peoples have the right to benefit from the Millennium Development Goals and from other goals and aspirations contained in the Millennium Declaration to the same extent as all others. Indigenous and tribal peoples are lagging behind other parts of the population in the achievement of the goals in most, if not all, the countries in which they live, and indigenous and tribal women commonly face additional gender-based disadvantages and discrimination. The Forum therefore notes with concern that indigenous issues are often absent from Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction processes and from millennium Development Goals reports and poverty reduction strategy papers. Indigenous peoples are concerned that, unless the particular situation of indigenous peoples are adequately taken into account, some Millennium Development Goals processes may lead to accelerated loss of lands and natural resources for indigenous peoples, and thus of their means of subsistence and their displacement, as well as to accelerated assimilation and erosion of their culture.

There is a serious lack of data and information about indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. For example, in the census of 1991 Bangladesh government identifies 29 Tribal communities of population 1,205,978. In this census some indigenous communities have been mentioned twice and the other indigenous communities have not been included at all. The indigenous peoples of Bangladesh claim that there are 45 indigenous communities of population 2 million in Bangladesh. And in the census of 2001, the data on indigenous peoples or Tribal has not been included. The computerized format that was used for population census had no columns for getting information about indigenous or tribal peoples. This is the real picture of government's population census on indigenous issues.

Indigenous peoples of Bangladesh have been demanding for the constitutional recognition of their rights and identity for long. They also demand for recognizing the traditional and customary land ownership and their right to forest and natural resources. The government is not responding to them and there is no dialogue between government and indigenous peoples.

The Second goal of the Millennium Development Goals is achieving the universal primary education. Indigenous communities of Bangladesh are demanding to introduce bilingual education system at primary level so that indigenous children can learn in their own mother tongue. But nothing has been done so far. In many areas indigenous children also do not have access to government schools. They mainly live in the hills and forest regions and at least in remote areas. National Education Policy also doesn't suit for them in some cases. For example, the National Education Policy of Bangladesh requires state-subsidized schools to have at least 100 students and a minimum number of teachers and registered land title for the schoolhouse. This is not possible for *swidden* cultivators or forest-dwellers. So, the policy should be changed or flexible for indigenous peoples.

In conclusion, it is important that indigenous peoples should be visible in the Millennium Development Goals reports in countries where they live. Bangladesh government should mention indigenous peoples in the MDG report and make indications to overcome the worse situation of indigenous peoples. It is also important to include indigenous populations in the national census based on ethnicity. Bangladesh government should ensure the absolute prohibition of racial discrimination and, where appropriate, should promote multicultural policies, affirmative action and special

measures necessary for poverty reduction among indigenous communities. Government should also support the efforts of indigenous peoples to build, articulate and implement their visions of and strategies for development. Government should provide adequate funding, technical and institutional support and training to enable indigenous peoples to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and for indigenous peoples to participate effectively in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects. And human rights-based approach to development should be introduced for indigenous peoples. The draft PRSP document has included the issues of indigenous peoples in rather weak language and wishful manner. It must be obligatory for the benefit of indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples should have meaningful participation in the entire PRSP process and implementation. It is very important to have serious dialogue between indigenous peoples and government on how they can benefit from the MDGs. This includes respecting the principle of free, prior and informed consent and elaborating further on how this principle can be operationalized in a manner, which is acceptable for indigenous peoples.

3.4 Ensuring rights of the Disabled : “Nothing about us without us”.⁹

The UN declaration of MDGs is a prominent step towards an inclusive approach to global development targeting the outstanding and fundamental requirements of the poorest world citizens. Although disabled people are the poorest among the poor, yet, unfortunately, disability has not been addressed in the MDGs.

Inclusion international (IA), a federation of 200 organizations advocating for human rights published a Report¹⁰ on 3 December 2003 in London, which contained the following data on disability:

- Six hundred million people worldwide have a disability
- Over 70% of the world's disabled live in developing or transitional economies.
- Approximately 1 in 5 people living on less than \$1 per day have a disability.
- An estimated 43% of people with disabilities live in relative poverty.
- Ninety eight per cent of Children with Disabilities are not going to school.
- 98% of people with disabilities in developing countries do not have access to rehabilitation and basic services.
- Over 80% of people with disabilities are unemployed

In 2005 this picture has not changed. In Bangladesh the scenario is rather more pathetic. The number of people with disabilities in Bangladesh is high enough to merit special attention. WHO and World Bank estimates for developing countries point to a figure of about 10% as disabled. The prevalence of disabilities in children below 18 years can be estimated to be 6%; while for the age group above 18 years the figure is about 14%: corresponding to 3.4 million children with disabilities and 10.2 million adults with disabilities. In Bangladesh a good number of organizations are working on disability. These organizations want disability must be addressed and included in the MDGs to fulfill its overall goals.

The Disability Movement and Disability Legislation

In Bangladesh a vibrant disability related movement has continued to gain momentum and spawning, sweeping significant reforms in law and policy, and creating awareness in government and social practice in the country. In 1991, twenty-two non-government organizations working on disability came together and formed a unified platform for establishing the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities under the umbrella of the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD).

In 1995, responding to pressure from organizations working on disability, the Government declared the National Policy on Disability. But to-date this document has not been given a legal identity by a gazette notification. As such, the need was felt for disability legislation. It took almost five years of campaigning before the Bangladesh Disability Welfare Act was enacted in the Parliament on 4th April 2001.

However the DWA 2001 suffers from some serious structural weaknesses. Even on the strength of the existing Act, there has been to-date no financial allocation in the five consecutive annual national budgets for its implementation. The allocation that has been introduced in the national budgets for the past three years has been under safety-net programs suggesting that persons with disabilities are deserving of charity only, and are not citizens with equal rights.

⁹ Contributed by ADD Bangladesh & NFOWD

¹⁰ www.disabilityworld.org

The DWA 2001 is under process of amendment, but to-date serious debate on the proposed nature of the amendment, inviting all organizations working on disability to participate, and creating a forum for discussion, has not been initiated.

There is also a serious lack of supporting legislation. The Government needs to enact and amend existing laws and regulations that cover traffic and industrial/labor laws for promoting health and safety in the workplace, in public places, in vehicles of transport and in the home, as well as to set safety standards for equipment used in industry, domestic and for personal use, with particular attention to the needs of disabled users.

Another milestone for the disability movement was the first National Convention on Disability held on 19th June 2004 by ADD

The draft Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper which was finalized in February 2005 includes disability as a significant issue in the poverty reduction strategies; however, disability is not included as a cross-cutting issue. The World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) has included disability in its development agenda. The grassroots DPOs successfully influenced the government to increase the disability package in the national budget 2004-05 by Tk. 250 million, resulting in a total package of Tk. 650 million (approximately £5.65 million). The Prime Minister announced that a quota of 1% of disabled people must be represented in the first cadres of Bangladesh Civil Service and action is ongoing to translate this commitment into reality. The Bangladesh Economic Association has also raised concerns on disability.

The Policy Framework, National Action Plan and the PRSP

Being a signatory country to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons and to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of the People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region 1992,¹¹ Bangladesh adopted a National Policy in 1995 that outlined guidelines for the promotion of services for People with Disabilities including the creation of options for proper facilities while supporting the involvement of disabled people in development initiatives.

The government's approach in all its activities suggests that it still looks at disability from a welfare perspective.

Thus for example, the PRSP looks at disability more as a charity and welfare issue than a crosscutting development issue. The Ministry of Social Welfare is the focal point on disability, being the body that is concerned with the policy formulation for care, protection, education, training and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons (NFDDP) under the purview of the Ministry of Social Welfare acting as the implementing wings.

Despite the government's much publicized campaign of "Education for All" by 2015, disabled children's education still falls under the Ministry of Social Welfare, rather than under the Ministry of Education, and only special education is provided. Within the national health policy and budget, disability is practically neglected. The 10% employment quota is neither followed by the

¹¹ Disability in Bangladesh, a situation analysis 2004, The Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory for the World Bank Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.

government, nor is it protected by law, though suggested amendments to the Schedule of the Act mention a 6% quota for all third-class government offices. There is no mention of disabled women in the national gender policy, although disabled women constitute an estimated 4.5 million of Bangladesh's population. Grants by the National Disability Foundation go to the NGOs rather than the DPOs, although the Disability Welfare Act and Asia Pacific Disability Decade promote the formation of DPOs.

MDG and Progress in the Disability Scenario in Bangladesh

Despite disability being described as one of the most vital causes and consequences of poverty, and the World Bank itself claiming that about 20% of the poorest of the world are the people with disabilities, disability had not been specifically mentioned in the MDG. There are no goals, targets or indicators, by which any progress in any country in the area of Disability can be measured against the MDG. As such, it is difficult to pin point any progress that has happened in this field in Bangladesh against the MDG. However, keeping in mind the targets and indicators, an attempt has been made in the following sections to highlight some of the developments.

Goal#1: Eradicate Extreme poverty and hunger **Poverty situation of the disabled in Bangladesh:**

Poverty and disability are cohabitants. Poverty and disability reinforce each other contributing to increased vulnerability and exclusion. In Bangladesh most people with disabilities live in the rural areas. They and some times their families are often excluded both from their communities and from development initiatives. The most vulnerable are women and children with disabilities. Negative attitudes and practices reinforced by poverty and external causes create impairments. These factors also create barriers that result in a lack of assistance, leading impairments to disabilities followed by exclusion. A lack of assistance at this stage results in isolation, marginalization and premature death. All these feed back and reinforce negative attitudes, practices and poverty.

Disability is a predominantly crosscutting issue. The needs of PWDs are first as human beings. Their rights to be educated trained and employed are fundamental human rights and the responsibility of the nation. They deserve equal rights with other citizens. It has to be accepted that development for a nation can only occur if it includes all groups and classes of its people..

Statistical Data: It should be noted, however, that the Government, with the aid of NGOs, has acknowledged a higher estimate when including PWDs as defined by the Disability Welfare Act 2001. Estimates by Action Aid Bangladesh cite that approximately 7 million people (about 5% of the total population) require some form of immediate service due to disability related issues. In 2000, Action Aid conducted a survey of 1,339 PWDs that encompass some of its ongoing projects in Bangladesh. The survey group consisted of 59.8% male and 40.2% female, while the break-down of ages was 0-10 years old (33%), 11-17 years old (17%) and the remaining 50% which was over 18 years old. The largest type of impairment amongst the survey group was physical at 42%, followed by visual and speech and hearing impairments at 20% and 20% respectively. The causes of the impairments were primarily due to diseases at 29% and complications during pregnancy at 21%. Accidents accounted for almost 15% of the total causes of impairments. Out of the total 1,339 participants in the survey, over 95% (1,283) of them received some form of rehabilitation service. Out of the total that received rehabilitation services, 18.7% were included in the educational system.

31.4% were in governmental schools, while 39.4% were enrolled in non-formal primary educational schools. None of the participants in the survey were enrolled in university.¹²

Some important points relating to poverty alleviation:

The government has initiated a micro-credit program targeted to disabled people. National Disability Foundation was established to provide grants to DPOs. NGOs do not include disabled people in their poverty alleviation program. During the year 2004 Government has distributed 650 million taka as micro credit to disabled people. An allowance of Tk 200 per head among 100,000 disabled people is going to be distributed by the GOB.

Goal#2: Achieving universal primary education:

Bangladesh has endorsed Education for All (EFA) program (1990) by constitution and the country is a signatory to the Salamanca Statement and framework for action on special needs education (1994) and EFA Dakar framework for action (2000). There has been great progress in the enrolment of children in general (up to 97%, not considering dropout rates). Inclusive education is already included in national plan of action for Education for All. But practical experience shows that there are attitudinal barriers to include disabled children in primary schools. However, where there is strong grassroots disabled people's organization CWDs are getting chance to educate themselves because of strong voice of DPOs.

According to UNESCO, 98%-disabled children are deprived of the right to education. In Bangladesh, despite the fact that we have two different Ministries catering to mainstream education, there is no provision of education for children under any of the two ministries, though primary education is compulsory in Bangladesh. Education for disabled people is just a welfare-oriented program under the Ministry of Social Welfare.¹³

Ensuring Education for All and Disability:

The Ministry of Education, has adopted the Jomtien Declaration in 1990 which provided for policies toward "Education for All". This declaration was supposed to include all children and those with disabilities in its scope. However, the education of the disabled was the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Social Welfare which did not adequately address educational issues of disabled children. It was therefore, in pursuance of the implementation of the legislation and the national disability policy, the Government organized an inter-Ministerial meeting to facilitate disability-concerned issues in each of the concerned Ministries. As a follow-up of the inter-Ministerial meeting, a task force was formed to provide technical input into the national action plan.

Real life Case study

Parents of Khokon wanted to enroll him in a primary school. But the teacher said, "I have hundreds of students. I can't take care of him. He may even get trampled." This was the tragic story of one boy, but it is the same story all over the country. Barrier to education occurs only because of a negative attitude of the society.

There are no concrete initiatives developed for appropriate policies and legislation to change the focus of the educational system from a subject-focused to a learner-centered approach. However, the Department of Primary and Mass Education has completed a study on education of children with

¹² Current Situation of Persons with Disabilities link: www.apcdproject.org.

¹³ Current Situation of Persons with Disabilities link: www.apcdproject.org; and,

Disability in Bangladesh, a situation analysis 2004, The Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory for the World Bank; Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.

disabilities in the country. The findings of the study are expected to contribute in the development of policies and its implementation to facilitate further inclusion on children with disabilities in mainstream education. To assist in the enrollment of children with disabilities, efforts have been taken in the NGO sector to provide training to teachers of education institutes.

The Department of Primary Education (DPE) under the Primary & Mass Education Division (PMED), with the financial support of DFID and the technical support of the Cambridge University Consortium, commissioned a research in 2002 titled *Educating Children in Difficult Circumstances: Children with Disabilities* (or more popularly known as the ESTEEM-II study). The study found that, where there is an NGO presence specifically pushing the way, 18% children with disabilities had gained access into schools. In all other areas, which represents the majority of Bangladesh, only 4% of such had gained enrolment into schools. Interestingly, 70% of the remaining 96% of disabled children could have been enrolled in the regular schools. The Government has recognized that the Education for All initiative will not be successful unless education of children with disabilities is effectively addressed. The study was conducted to assist the Government in developing and/or reforming policies on the education of disabled children in Bangladesh. It has been recognized that unless the mainstream education ministries takes a proactive role in preparing children with disabilities systematically into the mainstream educational system, effective teaching of children with disabilities will not be reached.

The ESTEEM II study collected data from 360 children with disabilities. According to the survey, 28% stated that they had no problems in enrolling into mainstream schools; however, the vast majority of 72% stated that their parents faced problems enrolling them into educational institutions. Of the respondents for the survey, 56% were male while 44% were females, 66% of them lived in rural areas, 50% respondents had a physical disability, while 16% had a hearing or speech impairment.¹⁴

The main precondition for the majority of children with disabilities to attend and continue education in an ordinary primary school is a change of attitude of parents, community peers and teachers.

Non-Government Organizations:

Several NGOs are successful in advocating and training teachers and school administrations for inclusion of children with disabilities into public school classrooms – but so far in a very limited number. Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) has recently decided to adhere to a 5% quota of inclusion of disabled children in all their non-formal education programs and training of trainer courses has been held with the first batch of BRAC teachers to teach children with disabilities.

With the support of ADD alone, within 650 Self Help Groups 10,000 disabled people are organized in 23 districts who are advocating for inclusive education. And in the working area of strong DPOs children are getting chance to admit themselves in primary schools.

By 2002 NGOs ran 26 schools for the hearing impaired, 6 schools for the visually impaired, about 50 schools for intellectually disabled and 40 integrated educational programs for visually impaired children.

In addition, at least 60 development organizations, which include disability issues into mainstream development, have reported that they include learners with disabilities into their existing non-formal education programs and many have also ensured inclusion into formal schools.

¹⁴ Current Situation of Persons with Disabilities link: www.apcdproject.org.

Goal#3: Promote Gender equality and empower women

The Government does not have specific policies toward women with disabilities. As such, many NGOs provide support programs for women with disabilities. As in many developing countries, women in Bangladesh are discriminated against in favor of men, hindering their full participation in society. Women with disabilities are generally even more vulnerable since they face the doubling effect of discrimination. Studies conducted by the CSID cite that women with disabilities in 'over protective' families were usually discouraged from participating in activities where they could learn and practice social skills. CSID also indicated that women with disabilities appear to be at risk for emotional, physical and sexual abuse. The prevalence of abuses of women with disabilities was found to be high at 92%.¹⁵

Violence against Disabled Women

There are 4.5 million disabled women in our country. As a woman, a disabled person, and a representative of a poor part of society, disabled women have many problems. Oppression and social injustice against disabled women are common place. There is law to protect women and child against oppression but it is partially ineffective for disabled women. In this background, some of the challenges may be as follows:

- There is no initiative for social, economical and political empowerment of disabled women. This is why disabled women are the largest deprived group in country.
- Legal assistance has to be ensured against oppression of disabled women and miscreants should be given punishment as an instance of their misdeeds.
- Reservation of seats for disabled women has to be ensured in all level from local government to national parliament to empower them in politics.
- There should be education and training for disabled women. Information and technology should reach disabled women. Promotion of awareness program in national mass media should be taken to change negative attitude of society.
- Though it was mentioned in the disability welfare act to take quick step against oppression of disabled women but it has no implementation mechanism as a follow up. Legal assistance should be given quickly against oppression of disabled women and miscreants should be punished as an instance of their misdeeds.

The DPOs are taking a bold stand as well against injustice and violation of human rights of disabled people, specially disabled women. Several legal cases are ongoing, in spite of obstructions from some groups of social and political leaders. Federations are taking steps against any reported incidence of injustice against disabled people. National and regional disability drama festivals are promoting the theme of disabled women standing up against all kinds of violence.

Reduce child mortality: Overall situation of child mortality rate in Bangladesh:

Basic Indicators¹⁶

Bangladesh has a high child mortality rate. However, little is known about the outcome for young children who have cerebral palsy (CP). Ninety-two children with CP with a mean age of 3 years 3 months at entry into the study were followed for up to 3 years as part of an intervention study. Eight children died: two of 49 (4%) from an urban area and six of 43 (14%) from a rural area. Extrinsic

¹⁵ Current Situation of Persons with Disabilities link: www.apcdproject.org

¹⁶ At a Glance: Bangladesh. UNICEF report 2004

¹⁷ Mortality rate of Urban and rural young children with disability. Khan NZ, Ferdous S, Munir S, Huq S, McConachie H.

factors such as infections and drug reactions preceded all the deaths, but those who died were mostly severely malnourished and among the more severely disabled of the total group. Eighty-nine percent of rural children in the study were from low-income families. Intervention programs for severely disabled children in developing countries must include primary health care and feeding programs as well as rehabilitation services to address both the needs of the child and empowerment of the mother and the family. Although according to WHO statistics there are 10% people are disabled. But the real fact is that sometimes it deteriorates because of higher disabled child mortality rate in Bangladesh due to lack of early detection and proper child care.

Improve maternal health

In a society where marriage is an indicator of status, it is difficult for a disabled woman to get married. Even if she does get married she shall generally face discrimination and neglect from her husband and in-laws, who look down on her for her disability.

These negative social attitudes have a major impact on all aspects of women's security: primarily affecting such priority areas such as nutrition and health care. However, disabled mothers' health data, reproduction rate, nutrition profile, pregnancy profile, mortality rate etc., are not available because Mother and Child health care programs throughout the country do not procure and maintain such data.

Combat HIV / AIDS, Malaria and various diseases

In a world where contagious diseases such HIV / AIDS, and malaria have jeopardized the lives of millions, disabled people, being some of the most vulnerable people in society are at high-risk. Sensitivity on these high-risk areas is generally lacking: with the Government including many other organizations failing to focus on disability on the many campaigns on HIV/AIDS. However, on the NGO level some organizations including ADD have taken initiative to train persons with disability on the HIV / AIDS issue. Arsenicosis , Lathesim due to *Khesari* are also causes of physical disability which can be prevented.

Regional Cooperation

The Government has organized several workshops, seminars and conferences in Bangladesh in order to share ideas, concepts knowledge and experiences for strengthening global efforts and follow-up actions. In 1997, Bangladesh organized and hosted the Second South Asian Conference on Community based Rehabilitation in collaboration with NGOs and the government. Additionally, the Government in cooperation with other South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries set up a SAARC Voluntary Disability Fund for the promotion of persons with disabilities in the region.¹⁸ Additionally, the Government hosted the 11th Asia-Pacific Regional Leadership Training Seminar in 1993. The disability movement in Bangladesh extended its network with national and regional disability rights organizations when ADD organized a regional meeting for members of the disability rights movement from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Pakistan to share their experiences.

In Bangladesh, the disabled people live in an unfriendly and hostile environment. They encounter non-co operation, ill-treatment , negligence etc., at the family, community, society and government

¹⁸ Current Situation of Persons with Disabilities link: www.apcdproject.org

levels. They are denied not only social and political needs, but also basic human needs including psychological support.

Disability and poverty are interlinked. Poor nutrition, dangerous working and living conditions, limited access to health care, poor hygiene, bad sanitation, and inadequate information and education about disability. Sometimes war, conflict and natural disasters also create disability. In Bangladesh the disabled are found mostly poor and are subject to gross deprivation. While we applaud the UN's efforts to eradicate poverty and exclusion i.e., to their mainstreaming and social inclusion, the overall objectives of MDGs will not reach the most isolated citizens, those with disabilities. The disabled people are the least likely to benefit from traditional development programs. The MDGs set high standards for achieving essential rights and services and offer a framework to promote inclusion and human rights. But it is a matter of question, Bangladesh government, United Nations, and other donor agencies live up to these standards for all and invests in development practices that realistically and truly promote the human rights and inclusion of disabled people. We think all those will be implemented according to previously set standards of MDGs. But disabled people as well as Disabled People's Organizations must be included in this desired development process. According to their voice, **“Nothing about us without us”**.

3. 5 Youth and Millennium Development Goals in the context of Bangladesh¹⁹

Situation Analysis

In Bangladesh 23.5 percent of the total population belongs to the age group between 15 and 24 years²⁰. They experience economic and social disparities as young people face globally. In 2001, the illiteracy rate among the 15+ age group was 59.4 percent while around 40 percent were unemployed and many were involved in hazardous, unacceptable forms of labour²¹. It is important to mention that no data is available regarding the specific situation of youth population in the country as the state has been rather indifferent to the need for having youth specific data in the national information system. Moreover, the definition of youth does not correspond to the definition of the UN and the Commonwealth. According to the national youth policy, people between 18 and 35 are considered youth.

In 2003 the Bangladesh government adopted a national policy on youth. However, it has failed to mainstream the policy into areas like education, health, and employment. Moreover, the country is yet to have a specific structure for the successful implementation of such policy. As a result, issues related to young people are usually getting side-tracked.

Despite youths constituting almost fifty percent of the population, the government has been reluctant to consult young people on matters affecting their lives. For example, despite the fact that formulating the PRSP and evaluating the progress being made towards meeting the goals are often determined by the results of nationally representative consultations and surveys, these often target only a few sections of the population and consultations and surveys almost always failed to adequately assess the voices of youth population and their concerns.

A significant number of non-government organizations (NGOs) have been working in Bangladesh over the last 30 years. These NGOs are trying to address issues affecting the lives of the majority of the vast number of poor people. However, very few NGOs have taken initiatives to address the issues related to young people. True, there are a good number of youth organizations active in the country but they are not fully equipped in terms of conceptual clarification and a long-term vision for addressing youth issues effectively and efficiently. Most of these organizations operate in isolation and are working under the Ministry of Youth. As a result, they are not being considered real representatives of the youth of the country.

Recently the government of Bangladesh has prepared its first progress report in the light of the UN Millennium Development Goals. It is unfortunate that the progress report does not mention a single word with regard to young people and their current situation simply because the youth issue was not at all reflected in the country-level Millennium Development Goals. This clearly indicates that the Government of Bangladesh is yet to realize the importance of setting up specific targets and indicators for the youth. By providing this muddled status and avoiding this issue, problems of the youth population can never be solved at the government level, as it requires specific policies and strategies.

In this background, to achieve the MDGs in a country like Bangladesh, the following recommendations for the development of young men and women are very crucial.

¹⁹ Contributed by Youth Forum on MDG (Secretariat: bEARN)

²⁰ BBS 2002

²¹ BBS 2002

Recommendations

1. The government should create youth development indexes that are aligned to the MDGs and PRSP.
2. Sex-disaggregated and age based research (qualitative and quantitative) on youth poverty at national level should be initiated.
3. The government must create mechanisms that ensure young people's involvement in the development of national policies in order to ensure that youth voices are heard.
4. Efforts should be made to promote widespread participation of young people in the implementation of such development policies.
5. Development policies should prioritize the growth of rural areas in which a high percentage of unemployed youth live.
6. The government should encourage young people in schooling by introducing appropriate curriculum and teaching methodologies.
7. The government should provide incentives and funding opportunities to NGOs and youth organizations to initiate activities for young people.
8. The government should develop specific indicator(s) to measure achievement on youth development under MDGs.

Conclusion

In 2000, 63.2 percent of the total population of the least developed countries was under the age of 25 years²². It is clear that the youth populations within these nations represent a large proportion of human capital and as such require the highest level of attention and investment by the national governments, NGOs and the private sector. Investing in youth will provide the longest and most effective dividend towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals by building the social capital needed to foster pragmatic development. The full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will be elusive and long-term sustainability will be compromised without taking appropriate measures for the youth population locally and internationally.

²² UNDP 2000

3. 6 Information and Communication Technology²³

I. Focus on MDG goals

The MDG as regards ICT is on a completely wrong footing. Under the Goal 8 *Develop A Global Partnership For Development* target 18 is related to ICT. The target is expressed in the following way: *In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.* For achieving this target three indicators have been selected: indicator 46: Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population, indicator 47: Personal computers in use per 100 population, and, indicator 48: Internet users per 100 population.

First of all, the placing of ICT under Goal 8 was wrong. Because, getting benefit of the ICT in alleviating poverty is not possible through isolated technology intervention, and only with private sector participation.

In Bangladesh, the personal computers per hundred persons will not increase dramatically even in 2015. It is also a nonsensical to put an indicator like “internet users per 100 population”. From the resource allocation point of view and from affordability perspective, public access system to technology, particularly, to ICT is most suitable for the developing world. “*Copy-paste of the indicators*”, which are suitable to developed countries, is a manifestation that proper thoughts were not applied to the issue.

The target 18 is confined to the private sector. While private sector investment is important for achieving progress, it is foolish to expect that private sector will invest for the poor as the prospects of immediate profit is dim. There should be specific plan for addressing “market failure” problem. A proper regulatory framework only can compel the private sector to roll out connectivity in the “non-profitable areas” through universal service obligations. The target could include the third sector or citizens sector, which is very active across the world, particularly in the ICTs.

II. Focus on ICT: People's Perspective

The ICT related millennium target supposed to be devoted towards mainstreaming ICTs in improving access to information. A better approach for mainstreaming the ICT in meeting the MDG targets of poverty alleviation would be incorporation of ICT as an instrument in all relevant targets of the 8 goals. ICTs are extremely useful for reaching quality education to poor people, for improving health services including reduction of child mortality and neonatal death. An education system without ICT education will be outdated by 2015. Health system without use of telemedicine for poor will not be able to reach the target. Most importantly, ICTs can be used effectively for improving access to livelihood content developed in local language through public access points.

Access to Technology, particularly ICTs, for Development could be a separate *Goal* under the MDG. The target could be more specific like in *Goal 1*. The indicators, currently under implementation could be modified as follows:

Indicator 1: Tele Access (fixed line or mobile)

Part 1: availability of a public phone within 10 minute of walk by a community;

Part 2: users of telephone per 100 population (using personal phone or PCO).

Indicator 2: Computer Access

Part 1: users of owned personal computers

Part 2: users of computers at public places (computer shop, cyber café, educational institutions)

²³ Contributed by **D.Net** (Development through Access to Network Resources)

Part 3: users of information services retrieved from computer (e.g., information center)

Indicator 3: Internet Access

Part 1: users of owned Internet connection

Part 2: users of Internet at public places (Internet shop, cyber café, educational institutions)

Part 3: users of information services retrieved from Internet (e.g., information center)

As was mentioned earlier, the target related to connectivity is not at all adequate for poverty alleviation.

Connectivity will be *ruined* if it does not take cognizance of local needs. This is possible through localization and local content development, which are important for improvement of livelihood. One example can clarify, why connectivity is not adequate. BTTB launched WLL in almost all districts and Upazillas. However, very few people received telephone line in rural areas around those districts. Only a handful of rich people could afford it. The WLL connectivity could be used for dissemination of livelihood contents to the rural people, if such system could be developed with partnership of the government and the citizen sector. People could go to Knowledge or Information Centers for getting information for solving their daily livelihood problems in agricultural production, health, education, disaster management etc.

Thus, an additional target under new goal of MDG on ICT could be: ***Promoting public, private and third sector for developing and disseminating local livelihood content, which either increase income or reduce cost of livelihood for the community people.***

Indicators for the target may be as follows:

Indicator 1: Number of public information center for dissemination of livelihood contents.

Indicator 2: Number of rural people receiving livelihood information from the information center.

Based on the revised MDG agenda the national PRSP could adopt a more comprehensive plan for mainstreaming ICTs in poverty alleviation and economic growth. The ideal document for mainstreaming ICTs in poverty alleviation may be titled as “Peoples’ MDG” under PRSP, as PRSP is the instrument for implementation of the MDG in individual country. The content of the PMDG for ICT is detailed in the following section.

III. Targets and Achievements

Teledensity: The teledensity including both the fixed line and mobile phones was 1.85 per cent was in 2003 [Raihan and Mahmood, 2004]. From the base year 1990 until 2002 there has been a nearly 600 percent growth in the sector as a whole, which is contributed by the growth of mobile telephony. With the current pace of growth of the telecom penetration, it is difficult to determine a figure of teledensity in 2015, however, a 105 teledensity with mobile phone penetration seems achievable given that the government’s approach towards competitive market structure continues and will not be jeopardized with narrow revenue generation mind-set.

Considering the current growth trend in mobile sector, plan of rolling of network by the private fixed line operator, forecast on market saturation, it is expected that the teledensity will reach 10 percent. The question is whether the improvement in teledensity will benefit the poor in the remote areas or just only the better off class in those places. There are some early evidences that the penetration of mobile phone and road access benefited the middlemen of the agricultural products, not the farmers. Thus, if the government wants that the benefit of the ICTs reach the poor, there should be special efforts at the grass root level, at the same time change the achievement indicators for having clear understanding on the benefits by the poor and the vulnerable groups.

Computer Penetration: With the current rate of penetration of computers shown in the figure 2 of the main report, by 2015 we can hardly reach to 0.5%. To keep up the current growth in the computer penetration, the government should continue the fiscal support, provided to the hardware and software industry and not to threat withdrawing current facilities in every budget planning of the country.

Internet Penetration: Given the current trend of the Internet penetration, the Internet use will reach upto 0.5% by 2015. Due to corruption in the sub-marine cable project the high-speed Internet connection is delayed, which will hamper the growth of the all industries, including value-added ICT industry.

Two recent events are expected to facilitate Internet use. An Internet Exchange has been established under a UN sponsored project. A mirror F-root server has also been put in place. Furthermore, the submarine cable has finally arrived in Bangladesh although its' connectivity policy is still unknown.

IV. Strategy for Achieving Targets

Improving tele-access: The tele-density can be increased from 2 per cent to 10 per cent by 2015 with the participation of private operator, given that proper competition policy and universal service obligation are in place for the telecommunication market. As the access to telephony is to be redefined and private sector takes a portion of 'less profitable' geographical area, people from any corner of the country will be able to access the telephony and get access to livelihood information at an affordable price.

Computer Penetration: The use of computers has been increased during the last decade due to the positive fiscal and tariff policy measures. However, making computer accessible to the poor people is a far cry when even school children are suffering from lack of access to this technology even under a mandatory government program. Tapping the private sector, national and global, may solve the problem partially. Microsoft injects huge resources in school computing program along with the government allocation. In Bangladesh, several school computer program are in place. There are many Bangladeshi entrepreneurs, who may wish to support to the schools at their villages given that there are institutions which can take care of whole cycle of the computing program.

Internet Penetration: Internet use may also be increased by appropriate tariff policy and fiscal policy measures. Whole Bangladesh should be under the Internet connectivity and value added services will automatically be launched by both private and third sectors. Lack of a corruption-free process has become, unfortunately, the main obstacle towards this.

Technology+ solution: Bringing connectivity and technology alone without making them relevant to the livelihood of the poor people is wastage of resources. The core issue of linking ICT and poverty alleviation is to create unhindered access to information and knowledge by the poor for improving livelihood through the technology. This is a very complex process. Only local language livelihood content can make a difference in the information starved poor.

The delivery mechanism is also important as a poor farmer, often illiterate will, not use a computer herself/himself, and most importantly, will not be able to afford it. Despite the exponential penetration of mobile phone not all poor villagers will be able to afford a personal mobile phone in near future. In this context, one can easily understand that the indicators for achieving the MDGs on ICT and technology are insensitive to the reality of poor peoples' livelihood. ■

Chapter IV

CONCLUDING REMARKS & LESSONS LEARNT

“We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed.”

Kofi Anan, as quoted in Millennium Development Goals Global Report 2005

The MDGs are highly laudable targets. But these do not presume any particular process to achieve them. Each nation has to find its own path to these goals. But there are certain core issues, which need to be considered in every situation. Some of these are spelt out briefly by way of concluding remarks.

Bangladesh has made significant progress in the area of human development in the last two decades including stabilizing total fertility rate (TFR), quantitative expansion of girls and primary education, increased life expectancy at birth, almost full coverage in child immunization. On the other hand, the country has witnessed a democratic transition during the period, which has helped accelerate the process of growth and development. As mentioned in chapter II, during the same period (1990- onwards), income poverty has also been reduced although at a slow pace of only 1 percentage point per annum. But to achieve the millennium development goals, it is true that additional efforts are needed along with a high growth rate of 7 percent or more. The number 1 goal of poverty reduction is very much a dependant variable, and relies mostly on performance of several other socio-economic and non-economic factors which are interlinked with multidimensional faces of poverty and deprivation. On the other hand if inequality rises sharply, the gains due to growth is almost likely to be substantially nullified. An alternative development paradigm underscore the importance of addressing inequality by pro-poor distribution of resources to combat poverty Bangladesh needs to review the resource distribution pattern, dynamics and possibilities towards a more just society. Public/khas land distribution can be one of the intervention areas.

On the other hand, in order to minimize the gaps between the economic classes, tax structure and administration need to be reviewed and properly restructured to be attuned to growth. Social safety nets need to be expanded and deepened. Revenue earning will have to be increased. However, corruption and malpractices (for example tax evasion by not showing income assets, black money) need to be tackled as well to have proper results.

By tradition, as a part of colonial legacy, most present institutions are anti-poor and therefore need to be humanized, and made pro poor in their outlook. Changes /reforms in institutions and policies need to be supported by efficient corruption free governance (including stronger Local governance).

While the economic, social, administrative and legal frameworks need to be substantially improved and restructured as necessary, work has to continue in changing the situation for the better without waiting for them to happen. Because unless this is done, there are all the

likelihood of slippages and tendencies to break promises on the part of the governments both internally and globally. The earlier chapters have thrown up issues and areas these activities may be concentrated.

For example, substantive regional variation in poverty incidence has been observed. This calls for the development of a comprehensive monitoring mechanism, which will monitor district wise situation and implement programs accordingly at a decentralized way. Other areas that need consideration for such monitoring and subsequent analysis as guides towards implementable actions include rights of women, youth, disabled persons, *adivasi* minorities, other minorities and socially excluded /marginalized groups. Priority areas need for intervention, which may have immediate impact on poverty such as master plans for "Electricity for All" may be taken up for immediate implementation. This will help in information dissemination as well as raising the quality of life for all.

LESSONS LEARNT

A number of important lessons have been learned from this participatory exercise. Despite limited coverage, this people's initiative may help identify critical areas of intervention both at the local and national levels for realizing the MDGs. The major lessons which we have been able learn from this process include:

- **Collection and necessary analysis of all possible data at disaggregated level**
There is an imperative of generating and analyzing relevant information at the disaggregated level. The disaggregation should be done by region, sex, rural-urban, goals and cross cutting issues (e.g. by disability, *adivasi*, youth/age groups etc.)
- **Involvement of local level NGOs, CSOs in monitoring of MDG/PRSP.**
There has to be a local level monitoring of MDGs involving local government institution, NGOs, civil society organizations and members. The monitoring process should include input, output and outcome of relevant development interventions (e.g. education, health) in the context of MDG realization.
- **People do have the capacity to assess progress**
People's participation in policy dialogue should be at the cornerstone of MDG monitoring. People do have the capacity to identify their needs and indicate ways out of the problems which they confront everyday.

A transparent analysis of a country's needs is critical for MDG-based planning and serves a number of closely related objectives, which we summarize below:

Translate the MDGs into operational targets

Several of the MDGs, such as Target 7, "Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS," need to be translated into quantitative national targets together with interim milestones to be achieved before 2015. For example, countries need to decide the HIV/AIDS prevalence or incidence rate they want to achieve by 2015. MDG needs assessments provide a framework for developing operational targets, and linking them to intermediate objectives.

"Localize" the MDGs

Many MDG interventions can be delivered either by community-based organizations, local governments or other sub-national institutions. For this reason, MDGs need to be "localized" and translated into operational targets that, say, the city of Dar-es-Salaam or Kampala can work towards. Of course this needs to be done without lowering the level of ambition of the Goals. Sufficiently disaggregated MDG needs assessments provide the tools for carrying out these analyses.

Develop a strategy for increasing "absorptive capacity"

Absorptive capacity constraints, defined as limited human resources, managerial skills, monitoring and evaluation systems, infrastructure, and so forth, can pose binding constraints on countries' ability to scale up interventions in the short term. However, each of these constraints can be substantially relaxed over the medium-term through systematic investments in human resources, management systems, administrative capacity, and infrastructure. For example, Africa will need to train, hire, and retain large numbers of teachers, nurses, doctors, agricultural extension officers, infrastructure specialists, scientists, and so forth—experts who are in very short supply across the continent. Hence each of the intervention areas relies on a substantial scaling up of specialized human resources, as well as vocational training and short-term training courses and facilities. In most countries professionals need to receive substantially higher salaries to be able to feed their families and have an incentive to stay in the public sector and the country. This is particularly important in a globalizing world where international markets exist for doctors, nurses, engineers and other professionals. Finally, countries will also need to invest in management systems that enable national-scale implementation and monitoring of programs. Needs assessments are critical for systematically thinking through the question of how absorptive capacity can be built up.

Support the national policy dialogue and negotiations with development partners

A consistent shortcoming of PRS processes is insufficient government consultations with national stakeholders. To permit an open national dialogue about policy priorities, intervention strategies, intermediate milestones, target groups, and so forth, MDG needs assessments need to be fully transparent and should be shared with all key stakeholders. Similarly, transparent needs assessments can help focus negotiations with donors away from aggregate financing envelopes towards countries' needs and ways in which they can best be met.

Strengthen coherence between planning and budget processes

Poor coordination between strategic planning and budgeting processes presents a major problem in most low-income countries. Often the two are carried out in parallel under the responsibility of different ministries. Unsurprisingly, the resulting plans and budgets are often not combined in a single strategy framework and may be misaligned. For example, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) rarely contain detailed expenditure frameworks. This makes outcome-oriented budgeting very difficult. Since a detailed needs assessment using transparent investment models combines the core elements of strategic planning with a detailed financial analysis, it provides an integrated framework for improving the coherence between planning and budget processes.

Provide a monitoring and accountability framework

Finally, detailed investment models derived from an MDG needs assessment provide input and output targets that can form the basis for a monitoring and accountability framework to track the country's progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Source : UN Millennium project

- **People's perception matter**

The progress report on MDGs prepared by the government could have been far more relevant and focused had it been based on perception of the local stakeholders including civil society, NGO activists, experts, teachers, students, parents, health providers etc.

- **GO-NGO/CSO collaboration is a pre-requisite** for effective monitoring and implementation of PRS and MDGs.

- **Localizing MDGs is very crucial.**

The MDGs need to be locally contextualized with a special focus on the rights of the women, children, physically disabled, adivasi, ecologically or otherwise marginalized and socially excluded.

- **The linkage between MDGs-PRS-Budget need to be maintained**

There is a need for developing appropriate linkage mechanism between MDG-PRS-Budget strategies.

- **The MDGs can not be fully realized in the absence of transparency and accountability at all levels.**

The right to information act is a pre-requisite for such an open regime. People do have the right to know what has been budgeted for them and how much public resources have actually been spent for them. People, therefore should be encouraged to participate in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the projects and programs meant for their development.

- **Greater emphasis should be given for democratizing governance** both at the local and national level. Here, political will is the most crucial variable.

One final comment relates to taking up the initiatives on one's own hands. Unless we in Bangladesh are able to do so, know our potentials and engage ourselves in realizing them fully within the limitations that we may have for the time being, but not hopefully for all the time to come, we shall fail to be a respected member in the comity of nations. That was the dream before us when we fought for our Liberation.

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Annex A

Goal Specific Background Papers

- A-1 Poverty (Goal 1)
- A-2 Primary Education (Goal 2)
- A-3 Gender Equity (Goal 3)
- A-4 Health (Goal 4,5,6)
- A-5 Environment (Goal 7)
- A-6 Global Partnership (Goal 8)

A-1 Poverty¹

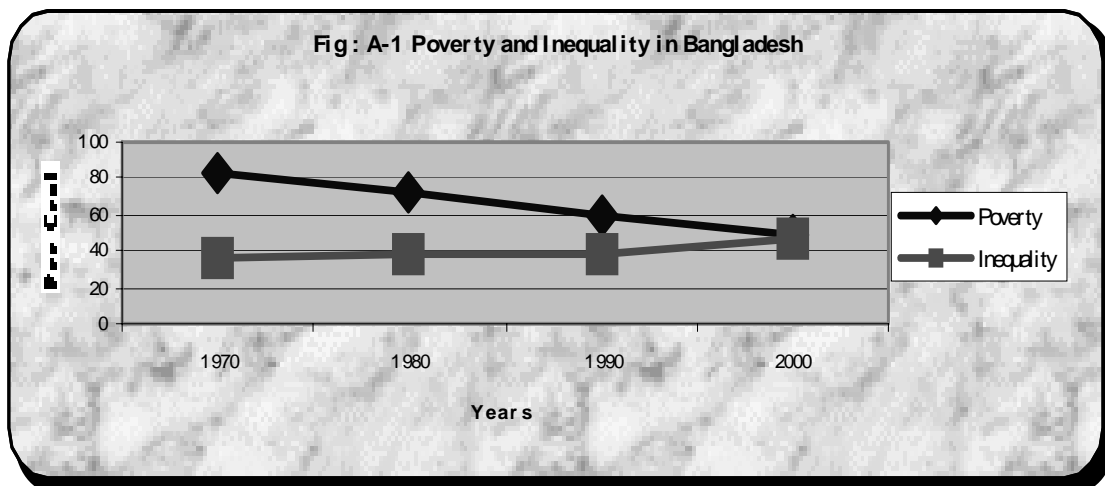
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Introduction: An Overview

The face of poverty has been changing pretty fast in Bangladesh. Indeed, the social progress over the last decade or so has been significant. In particular the human development has been substantial. Success stories in the arena of poverty reduction abound in Bangladesh. Social mobilization at the grass root level across the country through the catalytic effort made by thousands of local, national and international development organizations followed by many government initiatives including various innovative social and safety net programs have mainly contributed to this achievement. The fight against poverty could as well be much stronger had there been coordinated governance efforts both nationally and regionally. However, the positive achievements particularly in the areas of social development can hardly be overlooked. Bangladesh achieved an impressive growth performance during the nineties with a visible progress in eradicating income-poverty. (Table A-1)

Growth performance

The economy of Bangladesh experienced a good growth performance in GDP averaging about 5 percent per year during the nineties (GOB 2002). In terms of real GNP growth the country has been continually fight for a just global economic system



¹ Contributed by Social Watch Bangladesh

growing at about 4.8 per cent over the last decade (WB 2000). A recent estimate indicates that the rate would be 6.0 per cent for the current financial year (2005-06). Per capita income increased from 359 US dollar in 1997-98 to 440 US dollar in 2004-2005(GOB 2003b).

Below table A-1 gives a picture of growth, income poverty and Human development in the last three decades.

Table A-1: Growth, Income Poverty and Human Development

Item	1970	1980	1990	2000
Growth				
GDP growth per cent ¹	-	2.4	3.6	5.3
Per capita GDP growth % ²	0.88	2.12	1.5	3.5
Head Count Index of Income Poverty ³	82	73	58.8	49.8
Total Fertility Rate (TFR) ⁴	7.08	4.99	4.33	2.8
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	131	101.5	94	57
Child Mortality Rate (CMR) ⁵	250	205	144	77
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) ⁶	-	600	480	318
Adult Literacy ⁷	24	29.2	35.3	47.5
Primary Enrolment ⁸	58	58	89	97
Life Expectancy at birth ⁹	46.2	56.9	56	61
Crude Death Rate (CDR) ¹⁰	19.4	10.2	11.3	4.9
Crude Birth Rate (CBR) ¹¹	42	33.4	32.8	19
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) ¹²	7.7	19.1	39.2	53.8

Sources: As in SAARC Regional Poverty Profile : Bangladesh (by Atiur Rahman et al.)

Row 1, GDP growth data from WB 1990, GoB 1991 and GoB 2002 respectively. Row 2: Per capita GDP growth data are taken from BBS 1993, Gob 1991, and WB 2003d .Row 3: HCI of income poverty from HES 1983/84 (BBS 1988b)and HIES 2000(BBS 2003); TFR data from BBS 1977 ,SYB 2001(BBS 2003c) and Health Bulletin 1998-99(GOB 2001b), Dept. of Health; IMR data are from ICDDR/ BHDR 2000(BIDS-UNDP 2001) and SYB 2001(BBS 2003c); for CMR BBS 1999c,WB 2003b and GoB 2003a;MMR data from UNDP 1990,BBS 2003c; Adult Literacy data are from UNDP 1990 and Population Census 2001)(BBS 2003e), Primary Enrolment data are from BBS 1975 and DPE; Life expectancy : BHDR 2000(BIDS-UNDP 2001),BBS 2003c and gob 2003a. CDR and CBR data are from SYB 2001, (BBS 2003c) and GoB 2003b; CPR data are from BDHS 1999-2000(NIPORT 2001) and BBS 2003c.

¹ GDP growth rate data : 80=65-80

² GDP per capita growth rate : 70=72/73,80=82/83

³ Income poverty (HCI) data , 1970=73/74,80=81/82 and 1990 refer to 1991/92 (70& data : DCI method, 90& 2000 : CBN method)

⁴ TFR : 70=74

⁵ CMR , 70=74 2000 data refer to 2001

⁶ MMR, 1980 data refer to 1980-87,2000=1998

⁷ Adult literacy data refer to the next years, 1981,1991 and 2001

⁸ Enrolment data : 70=72/73

⁹ Life expectancy , 70=74,1990 data refer to 1991

¹⁰ CDR data 2000 refer to 1998

¹¹ CBR data 2000 refer to 1998

¹² CPR data: 70=75,1983 for 1980, 1991 for 1990 and 1999-00 for 2000.

2.0 Situation Analysis by MDG Indicators

Indicator 1: Reduction of Income Poverty

The headcount poverty rate declined from 58.8 per cent in 1991/92 to 49.8 percent in 2000 in Bangladesh. For 2005/6, if the current rate of growth continues (4 to 5 per cent) the projected rate of poverty has been estimated as about 42-44 per cent (GoB 2003a).

Indicator 2 : Poverty gap index

Both depth and severity of poverty decreased over the decade both in the national and rural-urban levels in terms of poverty gap index and squared poverty gap index. National data shows in aggregate term 25 per cent decrease in poverty gap index, lowered from 17.2 per cent in 1991/92 to 12.9 per cent in 2000. Poverty gap index for rural areas in 1991/92 was 18.1 per cent which was decreased from 23.6 in 1983.84 and further decreased to 13.8 per cent in 2000 (Table A.1):

Table A-1: Trends, depth and severity of poverty in Bangladesh: Head Count Index

	Poverty Head Count Index Per Cent		Poverty Gap Index Per Cent		Squared Poverty Gap Per Cent	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
National	58.8	49.8	17.2	12.9	6.8	4.5
Rural	61.2	53.0	18.1	13.8	7.2	4.8
Urban	44.9	36.6	12	9.5	4.4	3.4

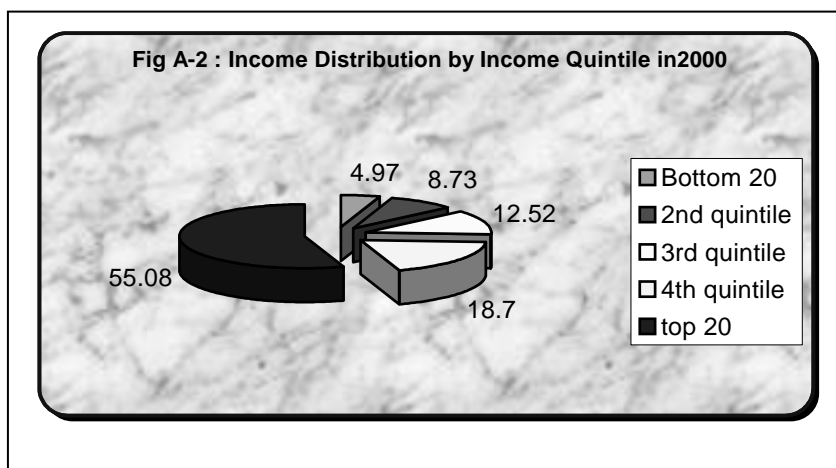
Source: HIES 2000(BBS 2003), 1990 = 1991-92.

Indicator 3: Consumption Share /Income Distribution

Reduction in poverty could have been more had there been no increase in income inequality. But income inequality increased significantly over the decade. Recent BBS estimates (HIES 2000: BBS 2003a) indicate that the upper income quintile (the top 20 per cent) mainly benefited from the growth. Their share in total income increased from 44.9 per cent in 1992 to 55.07 per cent in 2000. All other quintile groups at the national level have lost their share over the decade (Table A-2). Inequality also increased across region. Inequality grew in both the urban and rural areas as well. However, the bottom 20 per cent in rural areas did even better than the bottom quintile of urban areas.

The estimated gini coefficient for Bangladesh was about 0.472 in 2000 (HIES 2000: BBS 2003). BBS estimate also indicates that inequality is much higher in the urban areas

than in rural areas. The estimated Gini-co efficient for urban and rural areas were 0.497 and 0.430 respectively in 2000. Although Gini coefficient for rural areas indicates that there has been moderate rise in income inequality over the decade, the changes in the urban areas have been higher. It



increased from 0.398 in 1991/92 to 0.497 in 2000. Gini co-efficient estimate thus suggests a high degree of inequality in Bangladesh over the decade with an increasing trend.

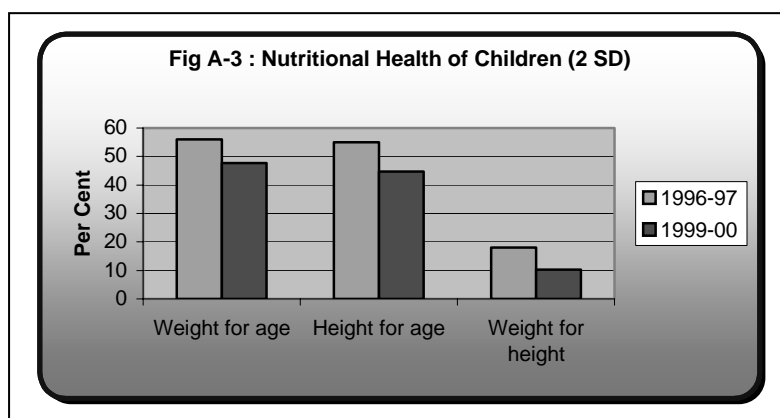
Table A.3: Income distribution by residence

Years		Bottom 20per cent	Top 20per cent	Gini Co-efficient
1991-92	Total	6.5	44.9	0.388
	Urban	6.7	46.1	0.398
	Rural	6.7	43.8	0.364
2000	Total	4.97	55.07	0.472
	Urban	4.51	57.66	0.497
	Rural	5.63	51.12	0.430

Source: HIES 2000, BBS 2003a

Indicator 4 : Nutritional Health of Children

The BDHS 1999-2000 (NIPORT 2001) estimate indicate that about 45 per cent children under five were considered short for their age or stunted (height for age) signifying a decrease from 55 per cent in 1990. In 1999-2000, 18 per cent were severely stunted. It is also evident that more than 10 per cent of the children under 60 months of age were under nutrition (weight for height), or wasted and 1 per cent were severely wasted. Nearly half of the children (47.7 per cent) were considered under weight (weight for age) and about 135 of them were severely under weight.¹³ The BDHS report 1999-2000 also indicates that although these figures are lower than those in the 1996-97 BDHS



survey, they are still high and suggest chronic food insecurity and/or repeated illnesses (Fig A-3).

A significant variation has been observed across region. Like most other social indicators, percentage of children under 5 who are considered undernourished in each criteria are higher in rural areas than those in the urban. However, sex disaggregated data did not show much difference in this nutritional indicator although the rate is still alarming.

¹³ For better terminological understanding see BHDR 2000, BDHS 1999-2000 and CNS 2000 (BIDS 2001, NIPORT 2001 and BBS 2002c)

3.2 Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education¹⁴

1. Present Situation

In the primary education sub-sector (including mainstream schools, ebte dayee madrassas, NGOs NFE-centers and KG-schools) the country aims to attain net enrollment rate of 100% by the year 2015. The present net enrollment rate is 82.7%; it is slightly higher for the girls. The universal primary education completers' (UPC) rate of those enrolled is around 67% by the GoB-UNDP report (February, 2005). Thus, by this report the current (2004) UPC rate for eligible children (of age 6-10) is around 56%. Therefore, a "business as usual approach" unlikely to take the country to achieve the goal of 100 per cent universal completion by 2015.

How Far Achievable

The main constraints to increasing net enrollment and sustaining this (by reducing dropout and repetition-rates) in the school are related to poor performance of mainstream schools (which enroll about 85% of the total primary school students), mainly GPS (Government Primary School) and to some extent RNGPS (Registered Non-government Primary School). These schools are characterized by low contact hours, high student-teacher ratio, low student attendance rate (around 58%), unattractive learning environment (reflected in general absence of a caring atmosphere and teachers are not being accountable to the community/parents). About 17-18 % of the eligible children who are un-enrolled and 33% of those children who dropout after enrolling broadly belong to the poor families of rural landless/agricultural labor households, marginal farmers, artisans (fishermen, blacksmiths and so on) and urban wage (unskilled) labor households.

The historical trend of primary enrollment –growth of 1985-2000 for Bangladesh, may not be an adequate guide for future projections leading to 2015. While the planners and practitioners are trying to enroll and keep at school the children of hard-core poor of the society, the families need to know/appreciate that there is a value in what is being offered by the State (i.e. worth at least the opportunity costs incurred). The required rate of growth of girls' enrollment (1.25% per annum) and that of boy's enrollment (1.50% per annum) as estimated in GoB-UNDP report will be difficult given the difficult socio-economic condition of the target households. On the supply-side, the mechanical and uncaring delivery system in the mainstream school is the main bottleneck.

Resource mobilization target including foreign assistance of about 669 million \$ in 2015 is pretty unrealistic based on previous trends of resource flow. Only an accountable and effective delivery of quality education system through participatory approach can ensure continuous flow of resources.

On adult literacy rate, the country report does not make any projection. It is a prudent decision. However, the estimates by some independent research and civil society groups challenge estimates presented by the State-agencies such as PMED/MoPME and BBS. The general view of independent researchers are that official statistics are highly optimistic.

Literacy movement is important for a country like Bangladesh. It is difficult to imagine how real and sustainable development can take place in a country with 130 million people where about 50 % of the adults are illiterate. The lessons learnt from TLM (Total Literacy Movement) of what should be avoided (e.g. low/inadequate community mobilization, mere rhetoric from the politicians, mechanical top-down bureaucratic way of organizing adult literacy programs) needs to be utilized in planning/organizing future literacy campaigns/programs.

¹⁴ Contributed by Education Watch/CAMPE

Goal # 3 on Gender Equity in Education

Gender equity in primary and secondary (school) education levels have been achieved in Bangladesh. At the same time, it has to be remembered that when about half of the children are not completing primary education, achievement of equity still leaves a very large number of girls and boys deprived of their right to education. At the higher secondary level (grade 11-12) the ratio (male-female) is 65:35. It is not conceivable that under the given socio-economic (Business As-Usual) scenario the gender ratio at the higher secondary level and beyond (undergraduate and graduate levels) the situation is going to change significantly for the better.

3.3 Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women¹⁵

Gender discrimination is prevalent in all societies be it rich or poor. However, it is now proven without any doubt that women empowerment is one of the key factors for socio-economic and political development at national and global level. Findings of several studies have revealed that gender equality not only encourage sustainable development, GDP growth and good governance but also reduces the population growth rate.

Women still constitute the major section among the poorest of Bangladesh. Discriminatory practices start at birth for a girl child in this country and continue throughout her life at home, at work and at public sphere. She remains the most vulnerable to poverty as well as to violence. Her equal rights are recognized in the constitution of the country but in reality she doesn't have equal access to economic opportunities, education, health services and an insignificant role in decision-making due to widespread prevalence of regressive traditional cultural and social values. All these perpetuate women's subordination to men.

The Government of Bangladesh has taken steps in enhancing the position of women in society. Recently, the government of Bangladesh has completed the formulation of Poverty Reduction strategy Paper (PRSP). Gender has been identified as one of the core development issues in PRSP. There is a need to strengthen and emphasize the gender issues to implement the MDG goals.

Situation analysis and challenges

In Bangladesh women lag behind men in education. In recent time primary school enrollment has significantly increased for both girls and boys. The gender gap in primary education is reducing at an impressive pace with enrolment rate of 98% for girls and 97% for boys (Engendering PRSP: LCG-WAGE 2003). Dropout rates have also decreased considerably. World Bank Report 2004 has revealed that 80% of the girls of 6-10 years of age are enrolled in primary schools. At secondary level in recent years various incentives have been introduced for increasing the number of girls. At present female enrollment (11-15 Years) in secondary schools is 73% and gender parity extends from primary to lower secondary level (World Bank Report 2004).

The government of Bangladesh has taken several steps to enhance the literacy rate with a special focus on girl child. The National Policy on Education (2000) declared free and compulsory primary education for all children. The policy puts top priority on female education. National Plan of Action II (2000 -2015) emphasized expansion and completion of education as well as attainment of full equality in basic education with the vision of achieving Universal Primary Education by 2015 and reducing gender disparity in adult literacy. Stipends for female students of class VI-X in 640 Upazilas have been granted and tuition fees of female students up to class XII have been exempted for expansion of

¹⁵ Contributed by Steps Towards Development

women education at the higher secondary level. Different ministries are imparting various skill development and vocational technical skill development, training on livestock, fisheries and other agro-based activities to women. Training on cooperative management, social awareness raising, formal and non-formal education, adult literacy etc. are also available for women.

Challenges

Challenges remain despite certain bright spots in attaining full gender equality. They include:

- High drop out rate of girl students
- Discrimination against girl child in family resulting from son- preference, as manifested in unequal allocation of resources and opportunities for personal development including education and health , particularly in rural areas
- Gender stereotyping in socialization
- Lack of safety and security and inadequate transport
- Pressure for poor girls to engage in wage work
- Inadequate number of schools and facilities in under-served areas

Health

The ICPD (1994) and the Fourth UN World Conference of Women (1995) and Beijing Platform For Action (BPFA) advocated integrated approach towards health services, family planning and reproductive health problems of women. PFA places utmost importance on women's health in general including physical, mental, maternal and reproductive health of women and it links these with empowerment of women and the attainment of gender equality. In the social context gender dimensions are by and large neglected. Generally the current health concerns of women of Bangladesh relate only to her reproductive role. The overt inequality and blatant gender discrimination takes a toll on women's health and wellbeing leading to high maternal, infant mortality. In 2003, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP reported that more than half a million pregnant mothers had died in 2000 and 95% of them were from the Asian and African countries. Among them Bangladesh has high maternal mortality rate of 3.2 per thousand live birth. More than half of the pregnant women do not have access to necessary health care, and 20% of e total deaths of women aged 15 to 49 are caused by complications related to child delivery. Low nutrition and ill health are common amongst most women in Bangladesh. About 70% of mothers suffer from nutrition deficiency and anemia, less than 40% of the population have access to basic health care, and 50% of the pregnant women do not receive antenatal care from trained medical service providers (Bangladesh Maternal Medical Survey 2001).

The Government of Bangladesh declared a National Health Policy in 2000 with special focus on women, children and the poor. The National Food and Nutrition Policy 1997 emphasized the food security at household level particularly for poor households and put emphasis on raising awareness about food value and gender bias in food distribution at family level. In order to reduce maternal mortality during childbirth, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare took special measures to provide trained midwives' services. In case of family planning, government has recognized the need for urgent national priority in the population policy, which aims to elevate the overall living standards of the people by improving the reproductive health status and reducing growth rate.

Challenges

Despite different interventions, 70% of the mothers do not have access to safe reproductive health services. Nutritional deficiency and anemia, lack of access to antenatal care and basic health service make 70% of women vulnerable to maternal mortality and health complications. Although contraceptive prevalence rate has increased to some extent (53.6%), the rate of use of male

contraception is extremely low. In most cases, women get lower share of food distribution in the households, but in terms of distribution of labor they bear the major share of household activities including economic, family and reproductive responsibilities. Women often neglect their own health for lack of awareness, burden of unending family responsibilities, and socialization pattern. Women are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS/STD as they are not aware about the transmission of the disease and are often victim of forced prostitution.

Violence against Women

Violence Against Woman (VAW) was identified as a global challenge and concern to achieve equality, development and peace. In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across income, class and culture. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of violence against women. Bangladesh is not an exception. VAW is a major social concern in Bangladesh. It is a commonly observed abuse of women across the country that exists in the family, society and state levels. VAW originates in violation of right to freedom and women's human rights to right to life. Women, irrespective of religion and culture, social and economic status, become the victim of violence.

Patriarchy, discriminatory laws, religious and cultural practices admit VAW in Bangladesh society. The incidence of violence against women is on the rise due to regressive socio-cultural values, influencing activities within the family, weakness in the legal framework, lack of gender sensitivity of administration, and overall poor law and order situation. Lack of political commitment in materializing the adopted policy to combat VAW, influence of administration over judiciary, influence of political pressure over law enforcing agencies, lack of good governance, lack of democratic practice and minimum accountability and transparency at all levels are the major hindrances to the end of VAW.

Recently, women and girl children are becoming target of sexual violence by opponent political groups as a weapon of humiliation in the society. Women irrespective of age and social status become victims of sexual violence (rape, gang rape) in a massive scale. Violence in the street, work place, educational institution, in the form of sexual harassment and rape followed by murder, acid attack, acid throwing are also increasing in number. A significant number of young girls commit suicide due to eve teasing, attempt to kidnap and sexual assault.

The Government of Bangladesh has taken several measures to reduce violence against women. Several laws have been enacted in the recent years to combat all kinds of violence against women. The Prevention of Violence against Women and Children (Amendment) Act, 2003; the Acid Control Act and the Acid Crimes Control Act, 2002 have been promulgated to combat violence against women. The Speedy Trial Tribunal Act, 2002 has been in operation to expedite the trial on violence against women. One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) has been established to provide legal, medical and other required assistance to oppressed women. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is also raising public awareness with regard to combat violence against women. SARRC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Prostitution has been signed by the Heads of the Governments.

Challenges

In achieving the goal on gender equality and women empowerment, there is a set of challenging factors in combating VAW, these include:

- GOB has not yet withdrawn its reservation on Article 2 and Article 16.1(c) of CEDAW.

- Women in the “safe custody” are at risk due to weak design and implementation of Women and Children Prevention Act.
- Women of all ages are insecure in public places starting from school to university and workplace.
- Legal process to combat gender violence is complicated. There is a lack of gender balance and gender sensitivity in the state apparatuses, especially among law enforcing agencies and judicial bodies.
- Violation of sexual and reproductive health rights are not properly conceptualized and recognized, therefore, they are not adequately addressed.
- Government and society still do not recognize and address domestic violence. Marital rape is not recognized as a form of violence.

Economic Disparity

Poverty is the outcome of interacting factors rooted in the structural processes of the society, which reflect various aspects of deprivation. Women in Bangladesh contribute to development by undertaking roles and responsibilities in two distinct spheres- the household and the non-household. Women are more than 70% of the workers in the garment industry, which is the most important foreign exchange earner due to goods export of the country. Women also work in the construction sector and are emerging as small traders and entrepreneurs. According to Labor Force Survey 1999/2000, women’s participation in the labor market indicates that only 23.9 percent of the women participate in labor force while male participation rate is 84 percent - using the usual definition. Gendered nature of poverty is also manifested by the number of female-headed households, which was singled out as a represented category. Findings of a number of researches showed that women are more likely to be victim of poverty, deprivation and powerlessness in the female-headed households compared to the male-headed households.

Bangladesh has introduced several projects for women’s economic self- reliance through skill training, micro financing and organizing them as small entrepreneur groups. NGOs working in Bangladesh have also undertaken a number of programs in addition to GOB’s program to alleviate women’s poverty in Bangladesh.

Challenges

In achieving the goal on gender equality and women empowerment, there is a set of challenging factors in reducing economic disparity, these include:

- Women’s contribution to the national economy is not reflected and allocation for women in national budget is very little.
- Women’s productive role is still by and large unrecognized and unaccounted.
- Support services such as childcare, housing and medical facilities etc. are still lacking for employed females.
- Women’s roles are not recognized in preparing development programs.
- Equal rights in inheritance laws and uniform family code should be introduced immediately.
- Need to distribute ‘Khas’ land to female heads of households.
- Micro-credit programs need to be analyzed in the context of its source, mechanism and nature.

Disparity in the Political Field

Political participation of women is important as it enhances their position at the policy decision making level. Women’s token presence in the political field is mainly due to cultural prejudices, socio-economic and political factors. Women’s greater participation in the political arena largely depends on the overall environment. Integration of women’s issues in the development process has to be a political agenda. Increasing parliamentary reserve seats through direct election for greater number of nominations for women candidates for general elections and creating an enabling

environment for ensuring women's participation in decision-making process should be considered and acted upon seriously.

The Constitution of Bangladesh provides reserved seats for women through indirect election. The affirmative action of the women's quota in the Parliament was originally set at 15 for 10 years, which was later increased to 30 for an extended period of 15 years. This was in addition to the 300 general seats. The provision for reserved seats for 30 women in the Parliament lapsed in 2001. There are only 3 women ministries (including the Prime Minister) in the 50 + member Cabinet, and 7 directly elected women in the Parliament. Majority of women's groups supported by several political parties, civil society organizations and the media demand an increase in the reserved seats for women in the national parliament, but that they should be elected directly in their respective constituencies instead of being selected by the members of the parliament. In 2004, the government passed a bill through the 14th Amendment of the Constitution introducing 45 reserved seats that will be selected by the representing political parties proportionately. However, the demand for direct election in the reserved seats has been neglected and the question of women's stronger participation in the parliament has remained elusive and unresolved.

At the local level the government took several measures for empowering women politically. The most important among those was the reservation of three seats out of the total seats in each Union Parishad for women. In the other areas of decision-making such as the bureaucracy and high level jobs, which entail visibility and exercise of authority, women's presence is negligible. For example, according to recent statistics available for the year August 2004, there are no women among 22 secretaries, 13 women among 301 joint secretaries and only 48 women among 734 deputy secretaries (Ministry of Establishment, August 2004).

Challenges

Challenges to ensure increased participation and reduce disparity of women in the political field are as follows :

- Political parties are governed by patriarchal rules and they mostly prefer to nominate men candidates. Women have no organizational base in the party hierarchies.
- Political power lies in the hands of general seat members (directly elected) and reserve seat members have minimum power.
- Criminalization of politics and influence of black money is becoming widespread.
- Women lack money due to lack of resources.
- Political parties have lack of political will and action to backup women. However, government bodies show a positive political will and sometimes take relevant actions, which have to be further strengthened.
- There remains extremely adverse socio-economic stigma against political participation of women.

A few important strategic objectives identified for overcoming obstacles and challenges which include :

In an attempt to attain the gender goal, the available consultations and analyses of the recommendations in various reports suggest that the following seven strategic objectives have to be achieved:

- Ensuring women's full participation in mainstream market-oriented economic activities
- Improving women's efficiency (reduce time use) to perform their household and reproductive roles and responsibilities and ensure that infrastructure services reach women

- Building women's capacity in health and education towards improving productive capacity and fulfilling personal achievements
- Ensuring for women social protection against vulnerability and risk
- Enhancing women's political empowerment and participation at the decision making level
- Raising women's concerns in international forum
- Strengthening institutions and capacity building in monitoring and evaluation

3.4 Goal 4,5,6 : Reducing IMR,MMR and combating HIV/AIDS,TB, Malaria¹⁶

MDG and Health perspectives

Health occupies high prominence in the MDG s; three of the eight development goals, nine of the 18 targets spread over 6 of the goals, and 18 of the 48 indicators are directly related to health. Besides, indirectly, health is an important contributor in achieving other goals. According to Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO): *“Improvements in health are essential if progress is to be made with the other Millennium Development Goals’*.

Overall, the MDGs provide a set of outcomes that necessitates re-framing health policy framework, poverty reduction strategies and for tracking health services and systems. The United National has also outlined 4 action strategies for measuring the achievements of the MDG’s.

Although MDG’s do not cover the whole span of activities in the public domain, a broad interpretation of the goals provides space to address cross cutting issues and constraints to health. The lapses in and bottlenecks of national health policy need to be properly assessed through a set of standardized core health indicators. Special tools and mechanisms are to be developed to capture other important health problems (non-communicable diseases, human resources etc), which are not captured by MDG’s.

Goal: 4: Reduce Child Mortality Rate

Over the last few decades, improvements in child mortality rate are commendable. Along with government initiatives, NGO’s in health sectors contributed enormously in reducing child mortality through their intensive door-to-door services. At non-governmental level, Ganosasthaya Kendra (GK) is one of the leading health service providers in the country addressing basic, low cost and affordable medical services in terms of preventive and curative measures with success at rural and urban settings. Despite many bottlenecks, the progress in reducing child mortality rate is on track with target and time as delineated in MDG’s.

A set of challenges and opportunities are identified for the better which are presented below:

Challenges

1. Lack of transparency and accountability of health service providers including government agencies,
2. Commercialization of health services and random privatization of healthcare services whereas certain health services can and should be provided as public good.

Opportunities

Campaign and promotion of Primary Health care and health education as basic tools

1. Improvement of poverty level, sanitation and ensure pure drinking water
2. Improve nutritional status

Goal: 5: Improve Maternal Health

Maternal health interface with many socio-economic and cultural conditions. More than 15,000 women die every year due to pregnancy complications and lack of basic health services in Bangladesh. As estimated, 45 % mothers are undernourished. Malnutrition, food, sanitation and poverty among women take a serious toll of mothers specially in the rural areas. Maternal health is high on the agenda of both the government and civil society. As a result, maternal healthcare slightly improved and the death toll reduced (from 7 to 5 persons per 1000 birth case), and the achievement is

¹⁶ Contributed by People’s Health Movement (PHM) Bangladesh

more or less on track with the MDG goals. But the situation could be improved more with the extension of health service facilities along with training of traditional birth attendants at rural level.

Governments' health institutions in the rural settings are inadequate both in terms of manpower and logistics supports, lack of restrictions for private practice by government health professionals vis-a-vis, privatization and profit motives, lack of accountability of health service providers constrain effective provision of maternal health services for the poor at rural level.

Challenges

Although decreasing, a number of challenges need to be addressed, these are :

1. Lack of restriction for private practice by government doctors/health professionals
2. Inappropriate monitoring of government health institutions
3. Inadequate maternal health care facilities at rural level
4. Lack of training for traditional birth attendants
5. Gender discrimination, women poverty and others

Goal: 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Though situation in Bangladesh is not in a stage of alarming stage in HIV/AIDS, but are bordered by eastern Indian states of HIV/AIDS prevalent zones. Further, as a labor sending country, migration to different countries continuously increasing. Resurgence of Malaria and other diseases are in place. Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria is in progress and within target in the context of MDG target and time frame.

The People's Goals for health

In the field of health, there are already millennium goals for more than 25 years. In 1978, at the Alma Ata Conference, ministers from 134 countries in association with WHO and UNICEF called for 'Health for All' by the Year 2000.' The Alma Ata Declaration reaffirmed the WHO's holistic definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Moreover, it went on to signal that the existing gross inequality in health was unacceptable, that people have a right to participate in the organization and implementation of health care, and that primary care should be universally available. Finally, signaling the responsibility of governments for health, the declaration launched the ambitious goal of health for all by the year 2000.

At the turn of the century it became clear that the world was farther from this goal than ever and that governments and world leaders had not delivered on their promises. For them it was a reason to rehash them and integrate them into the Millennium Development Goals. Apparently they wanted to forget Alma Ata as soon as possible and bury the promises in the general MDGs. For the people's movement, however, the year 2000 was an occasion to come up with the "***People's Charter for Health***" that reaffirms the principles of the Alma Ata declaration , which could also be called the ***people's millennium goals for health***.

Conclusion:

Of course, the promises of the Millennium Declaration are welcome but they are also too little too late. Moreover, the MDGs should not make us forget that the people are not contented with health for half when 'Health for All' is possible. The Alma Ata Declaration and the People's Charter for Health are leading the way.

3.5 Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability¹⁷

Introduction:

Bangladesh has a wealth of natural resources with ecological and biological diversity. But high population pressure is threatening its rich heritage through the expansion and intensification of agriculture and destruction of natural habitats and unplanned urbanization. Resource depletion and environmental degradation due to high population pressure is a matter of great concern to the policy makers and experts alike. Population in Bangladesh will double or nearly double between 2000 and 2050 (E-W Center, 2000). Thus the country will be least capable of coping with additional stress on natural resources that in turn will lead to environmental degradation. Besides population pressure, unplanned industrialization, and non-sustainable industrial and agricultural practices are also important factors for environmental degradation. Consequently, Bangladesh has already been ranked high in terms of environmental stress.

One of the most complex and important tasks for the future of the planet is to protect and sustain the natural environment. Although rapid industrial development has brought many benefits, it has also put the environment under increasing strain. Deforestation and pollution from industry, agriculture, domestic wood burning and human waste are creating increasingly hazardous living conditions. The brown haze that periodically hovers over many Asian cities and even countries is only the most dramatic example of the environmental threat to current and future generations. The natural disasters like floods, cyclones and lately Tsunami are to be reckoned as major threats to Asian environment. And, more the density of population the more is the environmental hazard for the people. Bangladesh is perhaps more vulnerable from this context as well. Although much of the pollution originates from industrial enterprises, there is also considerable pressure from population growth that forces poor people to overexploit the resources they rely on for survival.

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Bangladesh has been implementing a Sustainable Environment Management Program (SEMP), which cuts across many sectors and is implemented by both government and non-government agencies. Besides innovating many creative options for reversing the loss of environmental resources by nearly two dozens of sub-implementing agencies, there has been an attempt at synergizing many of the lessons of pro-environment initiatives and mainstreaming them at the policy level. This program has heightened the level of public consciousness about sustainable development. The media has been fully sensitized and the need for looking at development through ecological eyes is now fully appreciated in Bangladesh. Both PRSP and MDGs have taken note of these gains.

Indicators 25: Proportion of land area covered by forests:

According to United Nations, Millennium Indicators Database (FAO, UNEP-IUCN, IEA, UNSD, World Bank) proportion of land area covered by forest in Bangladesh was 9.0 percent in 1990 and 10.2 percent in 2000. A recent FAO survey estimate, Bangladesh lost forest cover at the rate of 8,000 ha per year in the 1980s, and it rose to 37,700 ha per year in the 1990s (Huda and Roy, 1999). The deforestation rate for Bangladesh, estimated by a multilateral development bank, currently stands at 3.3 percent per year (ibid). Bangladesh has the third highest rate of destruction of forest in the world, after Haiti and Jamaica (Khan, 2000). Deforestation and desertification have been identified as the major environmental concerns by the government (GoB, 1998), the people (GoB, 1995), and the global community (Pagiola, 1993). Some of these concerns are, of course, rooted in the overall governance crises in Bangladesh. With increasing awareness of the

¹⁷ Contributed by Unnayan Shamannay

interdependence between environmental degradation and poverty, the national development strategy is increasingly being focused on environmental regeneration, especially on forestry. In addition, the overwhelming dependence of the rural households on biomass as the single most important source of energy for cooking has brought the issue to the fore, calling for immediate action to ward off impending energy crisis in the rural areas of the country.

The challenge for the government and the people is therefore to find out a suitable way to immediately halt the deforestation process and to create conditions for ecological regeneration and greening of the landscape across the country.

The worsening trend in deforestation and desertification, one of the major environmental concerns of the country, can be checked and reversed provided appropriate and timely actions are undertaken in earnest. Great hope can be pinned on social forestry for its vast potential in the field of forestry and poverty reduction. Social awareness about homestead afforestation seems to have been raised among the rural people in general and the poor in particular, thanks to an array of actors in the field including the Govt, NGOs, CBOs, Development partners and the people. There is vast scope for both expanding and strengthening of the afforestation programs already undertaken, especially by the NGOs. Of all types of social forestry program, homestead afforestation brings its owners direct benefit. Any organization with sustainable poverty reduction strategy cannot but undertake this program, especially for the well being of the poor and destitute women in the rural areas. There is strong reason to believe that a successful homestead afforestation program can offer Bangladesh an ecologically regenerative countryside with a much higher level of income and a lower level of human poverty.

Indicators 26: Biological Diversity: Bangladesh Perspective

Bangladesh has signed and ratified the convention and the protocol. As a signatory country, Bangladesh needs to undertake a series of measures for their implementation. Prior to adoption of these instruments, a number of projects were implemented in the forestry sector in Bangladesh to conserve biological diversity. With Asian Development Bank-assistance, the forest department has already completed the Coastal Greenbelt Project, Forestry Resources Management Project (FRMP), the Thana afforestation Project covering the whole of the country and the Bio-diversity Conservation projects in the Sunderbans.

Bangladesh has already developed its national conservation strategy (NCS) and national Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP). A number of bio-diversity conservation projects are being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forest as a follow-up of NEMAP with UNDP assistance under the Sustainable Environment Management Program (SEMP). Presently with GEF assistance, a “Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management” project at Cox’s Bazar and Hakaluki Haor is in progress. A study on the Country’s flora and fauna has also been commissioned. Other notable projects are: Fourth Fisheries Project, Bay of Bengal Program, and Coastal Fisheries Empowerment Project etc.

At the policy level, the National Forestry Policy 1994 and the 20-year Forestry Sector Master Plan 1993-2013 are in force. The policy aims at bringing 20% of the country’s landmass under afforestation program by 2015. To achieve this target, the Government has initiated participatory forestry program by involving the local community in the conservation of forests. On the legal plane, a number of rules and regulations are in force although their enforcement mechanism is rather poor. Under the Environment Conservation act, 1995, seven wetlands were declared as “Ecologically Critical Areas” to ensure their effective conservation. They are Cox’s Bazar-Teknaf Sea beach, Sonadia Island, St Martin’s Island, Hakaluki Haor, Tanguar Haor, Marjat Haor and Gulshan-Baridhara Lake.

Bangladesh has 14 protected natural areas including five national parks, eight Wildlife Sanctuaries and one game reserve. The country has two environmental “World Heritage Sites”, Sunderbans and Tanguar Haor. Development program have been undertaken to conserve these areas of international importance. As a signatory country, Bangladesh has already started developing its National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The Bio-diversity Act and Traditional Knowledge Protection Act are also being formulated.

There remains much to be achieved in terms of implementing various provisions of the convention and its protocol. Along with the government initiatives, the civil society, professional groups and NGOs have been active in the conservation of bio-diversity. The NGOs with help from local people have embarked on a massive tree plantation program all over the country. Furthermore, different environmental groups today are more active about protecting the country’s bio-diversity.

At the international level, Bangladesh has been actively participating in meetings of the parties to the CBD. Bangladesh was elected as the Vice President of the 11 members CBD Bureau from the Asia-Pacific region in 2002 for a two years term. As a member of the Bureau, Bangladesh played its role effectively in raising issues and concerns of the region. Bangladesh is committed to pursuing an active role in the global discourse.

Globally, signatory countries to the CBD have a long way to go in achieving the three objectives of the convention; namely, the conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of its components; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of the genetic resources. The first two objectives are partially achieved through a number of projects, legislation and policy undertaking in the developed and developing countries. The third objective may be difficult to achieve since the developed countries are reluctant to look into access and benefit sharing issues. Stormy debates are taking place on the prospect of developing a legally binding international regime on access to biological resources and sharing of benefits arising out of it. The bio-diversity rich and economically poor Asia-Pacific and African countries are at loggerheads with the developed countries on the questions of a legal regime in this regard.

Target 10: Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation.

In the case of Bangladesh the target is to increase coverage of safe water from 99 percent to 100 percent in urban areas and from 76 percent (arsenic-adjusted estimate) coverage to 96.5 percent in rural areas by 2015.

In addition, access to improved sanitation must be increased from 75 percent to 85.5 percent in urban areas, and from 39 percent to 55.5 percent in rural areas by 2015.

Both Bangladesh Government and Civil Society Organizations have been working hard for providing water and sanitation services to all people by 2010. The awareness drive to meet this goal has been quite intense.

Target 11: Significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

According to the latest national census, held in January 2001, the total population of the country increases to 129 million and the level of urbanization to 23.29 percent. By now (mid-2003), the total urban population was estimated at 30 million, and the level of urbanization at 25 percent. Even at a steadily decline rate of growth, urban population is likely to attain the 50 percent level by the year 2040.

Urban Poverty and the Urban Poor

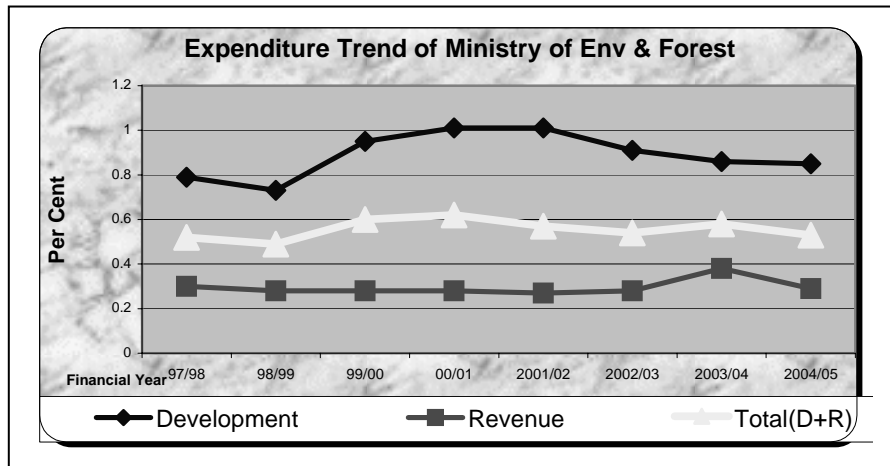
The urbanization process in Bangladesh is also characterized by massive poverty. The proportion of the urban poor (i.e., incidence of urban poverty) has varied over the years, recording some improvement during 1981-82 and 1994-95. In 1981-82 the incidence of

urban poverty was 66 percent. It went down to 43 percent in 1994-95. But it remained almost constant during the next five years till 1999.

Most of the urban poor people have migrated to towns/cities due to economic reasons such as riverbank erosion and other environmental hazards. The places of origin to the migrant urban poor are generally the economically depressed districts or environmentally vulnerable regions of the country. These include, among others, greater districts such as Barisal, Faridpur, Mymensingh and Comilla.

In terms of employment, the urban poor largely depend on their own initiative and manage some short of livelihood in the informal sector. Major occupational concentrations for urban poor are in rickshaw pulling and others transports, hawkers job and petty trading, construction labor, security guards and others menial jobs. Women work as domestic maids etc. Many young women, however, have found employment in the garment industries. But neither the informal sector men/women nor the formal sector women garment workers can manage good accommodation with their low-income. Most of them end up living in slums and squatter settlements. The poor suffer from inadequate access to urban services like electricity, gas supply, water supply, sewerage, sanitation, drainage, and garbage disposal. They also lack access to playground or open space for recreation. The settlements of the poor hardly have good access roads. Even internal lens and pathways are either non-existent or very narrow.

It is felt that the national policy makers, city level authorities and formal private sector should formulate policy and plans to accommodate the urban poor in the urban economy. NGO and other civil society organizations also have a major role to play in supporting the poor. Providing secure tenure to housing and work place, access to credit, access to health and educational services and access to recreation and recognition of their democratic rights, would not only strengthen the poor but also the urban economy and the urban society at large. If given adequate motivation, the poor may also play an instrumental role in improving the quality of the environment in urban areas.



To confirm a sustainable environment, access to safe drinking water and improved sewerage or sanitation is the most important indicators. The issue of safe drinking water will not come in front if

arsenic contamination in water is not found. Within 64 districts, the problems of getting arsenic in water spread over 61 districts.

21st number declaration in the United Nations Millennium Declaration is “We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs”. On this context we should make our environment pro people and should include their voices in our national environmental policies.

3.6 Goal 8 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP¹⁸

Introduction

The Millennium Development goals have called forth nations, both industrialized and the least developed, to aspire to achieve their potentials, or atleast half of it. This is precisely the reason why the first MDG goal calls only for halving the proportion of poor people by 2015. And the mechanism to unlock the potential is what is stated in the eight-millennium development goal, which calls for a global partnership for development.

This global partnership for development includes the development of an open, rules based trading system with special focus on the LDCs and land-locked countries, a set of national and international measures to address debt relief, strategies for employment for youth, access to affordable essential medicines in poor countries, and adequate technology transfer.

Although the merit and need for such measures go undoubted, their home within the United Nations has lead to emasculation in the implementation of such measures. Notwithstanding the significant role of agencies such as UNCTAD, for instance, which has played a remarkable role in heightening the role of South South trade and refocusing on the least developed countries, the suggestive, as opposed to authoritative nature of such bodies has done very little in moulding the policies of G8 countries.

Retreat of the Progressive Agenda

In fact, UNCTAD has come a long way since its first Secretary General Raul Prebisch, one of the leading dependency theorists who fundamentally believed that development is characterized by a center and periphery in which the center, that is, industrialized countries, feeds off of the periphery of underdeveloped nations. It was Prebisch who pioneered the idea of a generalized system of trade preferences by developed countries to their lesser-developed counterparts. The origins of the mandate which calls for developed countries to spend 0.7 percent of their national income on overseas development assistance (ODA) also finds its roots within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

However, the progressive and development focused nature of UNCTAD has reached a standstill, especially now with the recent announcement of Supachai Panitchpadi, the former head of the World Trade Organisation, as possibly the next Secretary General of this UN agency. Indeed, as Walden Bello reminds us of the United States contribution of nearly one-fourth of the UN's budget, the ideas of UN agencies as part of the new international economic order have been silenced. Bello writes, "UNCTAD continues to survive but it has been rendered impotent by the WTO..."¹⁹ Moreover, this shuffling of persons at the helm of powerful financial and multilateral institutions in order to preserve the interests of the ruling countries and their ideologies can only mean a disenfranchisement of progressive ideas and visions.

Such is the case of the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs, couched in the framework of the dominant international financial institutions, has in turn, served only to humanize and market a bit further, a logic and practice rejected and refuted worldwide. The pronouncement of the MDGs came about only a year after the introduction of the Comprehensive Development Framework and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of the World Bank in 1999. In fact, it was during this same period that the IMF's extended structural adjustment facility (ESAF) was renamed the PRGF, the poverty reduction growth

¹⁸ Contributed by Action Aid, Bangladesh

¹⁹ Bello, Walden. The Iron Cage: The WTO and the South. Social Development Review, December 1999, Vol.3, No.4

facility. Thus, the set of strategies have remained the same although they have been merely renamed to placate a growing sea of resistance.

The ramifications

The legacy of such a framework in developing and least developed countries is appalling. For instance, a study suggests that a World Bank study, which gives a figure of 200 million fewer persons in poverty, is actually underestimated and that the figure should actually be twice this number. However, the gravity of the matter is that the number of people living on less than \$2 a day has increased.²⁰ Thus, it is important not to be misleading by figures, which show remarkable reductions in poverty when the extremity of such poverty has only been slightly assuaged and hardly eliminated.

A similar case for Bangladesh which only experienced a mere 1 percent reduction in poverty from the decade of the 1990s, when structural adjustment was at its prime. From the 1980s onwards, Bangladesh's trade policy focused on rationalization of the import regime including rationalizing structure of tariffs and reduction of customs duties in key sectors such as textiles, steel, engineering, chemicals and electronics. The maximum tariff rate was brought down from 350 percent during 1990-1991 to 37.5 percent during FY2000. Moreover, the economic openness index, which measures the ratio of the sum of exports and imports to GDP, rose from 19 percent in FY 1991 to approximately 35 percent in FY1999.²¹ In fact, in comparison to the South Asian region, Bangladesh has liberalized at a faster pace. This is reflected in the ratio of post-reform average tariff to pre-reform tariff, which was brought down to 0.26 in comparison to 0.40 for South Asia as a whole. Some of the trade and financial reforms are summarized below²².

Industrial and trade policy

- Simplification of investment regulations
- Elimination of quantitative restrictions on imports except for reasons related to religion, health, security and other considerations
- Rationalisation of tariff structure and reduction of maximum tariff levels
- Removal of export subsidies

Financial sector reform

- Implementation of reforms aimed at market-oriented system of monetary management
- Interest rate liberalization

External sector policy

- Competitiveness of exchange rate
- Export diversification
- More efficient import substitution

Notwithstanding such stringent reforms, the number of unemployed persons during this time, particularly from 1989 to 1996 has increased at a faster rate than overall employment. The number of unemployed persons has increased from 0.6 million persons to 1.4 million persons while employment has increased from 50.1 million to 54.6 million persons. Although rationalization was supposed to enhance the manufacturing base by way of

²⁰ Chen and Ravallion, How Have the World's Poor Fared Since the Early 1980s?, World Bank Research Observer, vol.19, no.2

²¹ Bhattacharya, Debapriya. Bangladesh's Experience with Policy Reforms: An Assessment of the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative (SAPRI), Discourse, Volume 5, N.2 and Volume 6, N. 1, winter 2001 and summer 2002

²² Ibid.

cheaper imports, manufacturing actually contracted during this period. Additionally, the average changes in wage rates have experienced a slow-down. A 4.7 percent change in wage rate between FY1980 and FY1986 has gone down to 3.0 percent between FY1986 and FY 1997.²³

Where to next?

Amidst such a poor track record, poor countries will require massive reorganization and structural transformation to simply catch up with their developed country counterparts. Although recent decisions by the G8 countries, for instance, to provide debt relief provide a ray of hope, there is much more required not only in terms of changes in trade and finance policies but also in the processes that maintain the ideological hegemony of failed policies.

The MDGs do make the attempt to influence changes in the former, which includes ensuring trade, and financial policies benefit the poor countries. These MDG targets are examined below.

Rules based trading and financial system that is non-discriminatory

The fundamental problematic that occurs with a non-discriminatory trading system is that developed and developing countries are placed on an equal footing, although they may be miles apart in terms of development and national incomes. The principle of less than full reciprocity which was accepted as a governing principle of the Doha Development Agenda implies that poor countries do not necessarily have to reciprocate fully to their developed country counterparts and will be allowed to open their economies at a pace which suits their national development. This notion of less than full reciprocity, however, is not inclusive within a non-discriminatory trading system.

Moreover, the notion of non-discriminatory, rules based trade holds no merit when it is a handful of industrialized countries such as the United States, European Union, Japan and Australia, for instance, that determine the rules of the game. Within such a system of global governance, it is only logical that the rules will discriminate in favor of the decision-makers. Hence, the goal of a non-discriminatory trading and financial system and even more, a system that actually discriminates in favor of poor countries is practically not achievable.

Addressing the needs of the least developed

Although the MD goal of global partnership clearly points towards the need to ensure that LDCs obtain adequate market access for their products and a consistent stream of financial aid, very little in the form of mandatory policies and practices are in place to ensure this objective. For instance, it is well known that the target of 0.7 percent of gross national product is only met by a handful of countries. Large industrial powers such as the United States are still far from meeting the target.

It has been estimated that an additional \$50 billion a year, meaning a doubling of current aid levels, will be required to meet MDG . However, trends in overseas development assistance (ODA) are dismal. For instance, the European Union ODA average is to reach only a meager 0.39 percent by 2006. It is expected that total ODA would reach the 0.7% target by 2013, just two years prior to the point when the proportion of poverty is to be halved.²⁴

This, when compared to the post war reconstruction Marshall Plan during which time the United States contributed nearly 4 percent of its national income to Europe signifies the

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ HM Government, The UK's Contribution to Achieving the Millenium Development Goals

“bloodless but inexorable exploitation” which Prebisch referred to when speaking of dealings between the countries of the North with the South.

Tied aid also poses a major constraint for developing and least developed countries. Aid conditionalities which involve the utilization of foreign technical assistants and the purchase of costlier goods from donor country pose a heavy burden on the already limited funds of poor countries. In fact, untying aid could lower the cost of goods and services by 15 to 30 percent. The Danish tied aid case in Bangladesh is one such example. In April 2002, Denmark cancelled a US \$45 million contract to repair ferries. The bidding prices were four times higher than if sourced and implemented in Bangladesh. Later the contract was cancelled by Denmark upon request from a Bangladesh minister to increase local supplies.²⁵

In the area of market access, although initiatives such as the Everything But Arms (EBA) of the European Union have been forged keeping in mind the industrial development of the least developed, the WTO still does not make it mandatory to ensure such initiatives for LDCs. The July Framework states the following:

The General Council reaffirms the commitments made at Doha concerning least developed countries and renews its determination to fulfill these commitments. Members will continue to take due account of the concerns of least developed countries in the negotiations.

As such, although the principle of ensuring balanced development for LDCs is intact within the WTO owing to the Doha Development Agenda, nothing in the July Framework calls for a mandatory fulfillment of these objectives. Taking *due account* does not amount to any concrete measures. Hence, the United States continues not to provide duty free access to Bangladeshi garments after the phaseout of the MultiFibre Arrangement in January 2005. Similarly, the Marrakesh Agreement which was also signed by WTO members to assist food insecure countries during time of import surges or other emergencies has also not been concretized.

Other agreements such as the Agreement on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access do provide complete exemptions to LDCs on overall tariff reductions and levels of domestic support. However, here emerges a twofold problem. The first problem arises as a result of lack of coherence. In Bangladesh, although it can provide up to 10 percent subsidies in its agriculture sector as an LDC, it is providing a mere 1.7 percent due to the structural adjustment policies of World Bank. Secondly, arises the concern of preference erosion. In the area of industrial products, for instance, LDCs are completely exempt from tariff reduction. However, their developing and developed country counterparts are compelled to reduce their industrial tariffs which implies a loss of preference for the industrial exports of a country like Bangladesh.

Another area of contention is in the area of bilateral and regional investment and trading agreements. Such agreements often go well beyond the demands of the WTO. For instance, the trade investment framework agreement (TIFA) which sets out the parameters of investment and trade between the United States and Bangladesh already spells out the need for a strong intellectual property regime although as an LDC, Bangladesh can enjoy more exemptions in patent protection up to 2016. Moreover, the process of treaty formation, be it at the bilateral or the regional level, takes place in an undemocratic manner in which only selected officials are involved.

Technology Transfer and Access to Essential Medicines

Due to enormous pressure from the developing world, the Doha Declaration of 2001 reaffirmed the right of countries to use compulsory licensing to manufacture drugs to address public health concerns. Paragraph 4 of the Doha Declaration clearly states that the TRIPs agreement “ can and should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of WTO

²⁵ Shahidur Rahman, ActionAid Bangladesh.

members right to protect public health and in particular to promote access to medicines for all.” Least developed countries were waived from having to grant patents for pharmaceutical products until 2016. The Doha Declaration also gave flexibilities to developing countries to use compulsory licensing. Moreover, the ability to utilize international exhaustion meant that countries in need of imports of generic drugs could initiate and continue a process of parallel imports of patented drugs.

However, the restriction of ‘for domestic market only, as interpreted from Article 31 (f) of the TRIPs agreement, meant that a significant number of poor countries with little manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceuticals sector would be deprived of affordable drugs to tackle diseases such as HIV AIDS. A consensus was finally reached prior to Cancun in the August 30 decision of 2003 which sought to make a temporary waiver to this restriction to allow for import of generic drugs, albeit in a time consuming and complicated manner.

Although the August 30 decision’s purported goal was an increase in the affordability of essential drugs by way of compulsory licensing and parallel imports, the reality is quite different. Due to the complicated provisions within the waiver, a significant number of bureaucratic and procedural hurdles must be gone through for both the importing and the exporting country like Bangladesh. Even more, the companies which market the generic drugs, in the absence of clear and effective competition policy, have sought to gain market share and engage in monopolistic pricing, thus making the goal of affordable drugs as elusive as ever.²⁶

The World Trade Organisation has not only made it difficult for countries to import essential drugs, it has also limited the scope of diseases for which drugs can be imported through compulsory licensing. In essence neglecting the World Health Organisation’s essential drugs list, the WTO has specified only a limited number of diseases such as HIV AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Another one of the foremost concerns for LDCs is the need for an effective implementation of Article 66.2 of the TRIPs agreement on technology transfer.²⁷ This remains one of the outstanding implementation issues within the TRIPs agreement. Other articles within the TRIPs agreement including Articles 7, 8 and 40 are also linked to technology transfer. Technology transfer has direct bearing on public health concerns as there is a clear and pressing need to develop the domestic pharmaceutical industries of poor countries in order for essential drugs to be readily accessible and affordable.

Overall industrial development also hinges on adequate technology transfer. For instance, in the developed countries, access to cheap technologies played a significant role in the industrial “take-off” of countries such as the United States, Germany and Japan. The United States, for instance, relied heavily on British manufacturing innovations but without the burden of a string of royalty payments. Similarly, with Japan which relied on US technological innovations.²⁸ Thus, the advent of a global intellectual property regime during the time when the least developed countries are preparing for their take-offs blatantly ignores the historical circumstances under which the industrialized countries developed.

Conclusion

In summary, the Millennium Development Goals do seek to address the serious concerns of trade justice and enhanced aid and technologies for poor countries, but they do so within the confined space of the status quo. When largely undemocratic practices have been tightly

²⁶ Wole Olaleye, TRIPs: Where to After Cancun, 17-18 March 2005, ActionAid International.

²⁷ Workshop on Strengthening the Capacity of Multilateral Trade Negotiations with Focus on Doha Round, Dhaka March 15-16 2004. TRIPs: Related Issues and Concerns, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute

²⁸ Bello, Walden. The Iron Cage.

ingrained into the global governing architecture, it will take much more than a pronouncement of goals to be reached by 2015 to mobilize the bursaries and change the thinking of rich countries. The United Nations, amidst powerful global financial and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and the WTO, is virtually powerless in spearheading the alternative, populist agenda.

Nevertheless, amidst a burgeoning resistance, the resistance which made the Cancun ministerial talks fail, there is a trajectory of hope springing from a growing awareness about the power which the global superpowers wield and the consequences of such power on poor countries. There is also the birth of counterbalancing powers in the form of the G20, G33 and G77 that seek to preserve the interests of poor countries in the trade negotiations. The challenge will ultimately rest on these Southern leaders to reject the pressures made by financial institutions and the rich countries that support them, and continually fight for a just global economic system.

Annex B

FINDINGS FROM FGD & LOCAL CONSULTATIONS

I. Summary Findings from Focus Group Discussions: By Location by Gender

A total of 24 FGDs were carried out in 12 villages, one each with male and female groups separately on MDG related issues. The summary points of their discussions on various MDG related issues are presented below to provide a snap shot of regional variation and gender perspectives of the socio-economic development issues in Bangladesh. Significant differences were observed by gender. In most cases participants pointed that both infant and child health situation has improved although immunization coverage (child and pregnant women) has not reached to the char, remote areas. People also agreed that women's empowerment has improved over time and appreciated NGO services. However, the micro credit though has been playing significant role in social development is not really cost effective. The rate of interest charged from the poor is much higher than the market rate of interest normally observed in the commercial banks. Despite some gains in enrollment and gender parity, there is still lack of adequate number of qualified teachers, teaching aids and classrooms. Similarly, there have been significant gains in health and sanitation indicators. Yet, there is serious shortfall in supply of medicine, doctors and relevant equipments. The health service providers are not also pro-poor in their attitude. The social safety net though impacts positively in terms of reducing the hard-core poor; corruption is still a matter of concerns among the people. While males are concerned about economic well-being indicators, the females are more concerned about empowerment and social well-being issues.

FGD in Chittagong
(Sonaichori - Rangamati, Jaldha –Potia/Chittagong)

Female Comments

- Micro credit's rate of interest need to be reduced and repayment schedule need to be extended, particularly for the first installment.
- Govt. health centers are unable to provide better services. People have to depend on rural doctors and limited scale health services provided by NGOs, which is a bit costly.
- Number of primary schools need to be increased. We want our children to be educated for their better future.
- Maternal and child mortality rate have been reduced drastically due to increased awareness and improved medical science.
- Though female participation in education increased, they do not get better job.

Male Comments

- Lower wage, lower income. But due to hike in commodity price expenditure exceeds income.
- Poor people get treatment from the local KOBIRAJ (herbal physician having no formal degree).
- Although safe water supply has improved, sanitation facilities are very poor.
- Poor parents are unable to pay dowry for their daughters' marriage due to financial insolvency which leave many girls being unmarried.



FGD in Sylhet (Mollargram, Golapganj & Salla, Sunamganj)

Female Comments

- We do not get government assistances properly. NGOs micro credit helps us to change our economic condition.
- Women participation in primary education increased but there is shortage of teachers.
- Most of the delivery cases held in the villages by unskilled birth attendant because the health complex is far away from the village.
- Though tube well and sanitary latrine is costly most of the villagers arrange those on their own expenses as a result of their increased awareness.

Male Comments

- Large numbers of family members (big family size) is one of the major causes of poverty.
- Employment opportunities are very limited.
- Micro credit helps create self-employment.
- Lack of schools and teachers
- Poor sanitation system
- Women are more empowered than the past.

FGD in Barisal (Barisal Sadar, Bauphal - Patuakhali)

Female Comments

- Lack of employment opportunity
- Due to poverty, school drop out rate has been increased
- Maternal and child mortality rate reduced
- Water pollution in the river causes skin diseases.
- Discrimination against women exists in the society. They have little power in family level decision-making process.

Male Comments

- Cultivable land area is being squeezed due to riverbank erosion, which ultimately increases the number of landless people.
- Doctors are not committed to their duty. Medicines are not available.
- Children and pregnant mothers are not covered by immunization program

FGD in Khulna (Shamnagar - Shatkhira, Daulatpur - Kushtia)

Female Comments

- Price of raw materials for cottage products are costly, but the output price is quite low.
- Many girl students cannot complete their study for being married at their childhood.
- Mothers are now more aware about their own health and also of their children's.
- No scope for the disabled children in education.
- Scarcity of safe drinking water.

Male Comments

- Lack of employment causes poverty.
- Everybody does not get access to micro credit.
- Student's enrolment in primary school increased for govt. stipend program.
- We do not get quality treatment from the government health centers.
- Poverty fuels deforestation process by the land and resource poor



FGD in Rajshahi (Chilmary – Kurigram, Sonatola - Bogra)

Female Comments

- Girl students can not complete their study for child marriage
- MMR, IMR & CMR decreased
- Most of the delivery cases held in the village by unskilled birth attendant since the health complex is far away from village.
- Though female participation in education increased, they do not get better job.

Male Comments

- Women participation in primary education increased for the stipend program
- Security system improved
- Women participation in decision making process increased
- Torture on women decreased
- Large credits are not available and rate of interest is very high
- Most of the marriage have not done without dowry

FGD in Dhaka (Lokkhirchar- Jamalpur sadar, Chinishpur- Narshingdi dadar)

Female Comments

- Lack of employment opportunity
- Women participation in primary education increased due to stipend program and GO-NGO collaboration/campaign.
- However, there are epotism in stipend distribution by the members of managing committee
- MMR, CMR & IMR decreased drastically
- Now women can divorce men if she does not feel secured.

Male Comments

- Student teacher ratio is very high
- The amount of stipend need to be increased
- Gender based discrimination is low in primary education
- The environment of the public health centers are very dirty
- Without money we cant go to the policemen

II. Upazilla Consultation

Summary points of the Upazilla consultations on wide range of MDG related issues with local perspectives are documented below based on the key points derived from community level participatory assessment. These are in two levels, one with government official and the other with the civil society.

A. Discussion with Upazilla Administration

The Upazilla consultations mainly with the Upazilla Administrative/Executive Officer (UNO) and other staffs, forwarded some specific remarks on the goal areas which are noted below by studied locations:

Chilmary, Kurigram

- Poverty has not reduced at the pace number of projects are increased.
- NGOs are working for people by giving training and advise
- Literacy rate, enrolment rate is improved.
- However, there is lack of teachers, class room & stipend
- Social forestation rate is 5-6 percent
- Although improved, health service could not able to reach to the remote char lands

Sonatola, Bogra

- In primary school, enrolment is 100 percent, completion rate 78 percent
- Drop out rate decreased to 25% from 36%
- Health service improved
- Maternal mortality rate decreased
- Law and order condition improved
- Poverty situation has been improved
- Rate of deforestation is very high and no care for the newly planted trees.

Jamalpur Sadar

- Number of people under poverty is very high in the Upazila
- Lack of employment opportunity
- Natural disasters are quite often.
- No improvement in the remote areas.
- Govt. assistances increased
- Quality of education increased
- Primary school drop out rate decreased
- Lack of health centers, doctors and medicine
- Corruption

Narshingdi Sadar

- Poor transportation system, lack of roads
- Poor enrolment and literacy rate
- Lack of awareness among the people about family planning
- Many govt. officials are corrupt including local govt. bodies
- Lack of accountability

Daulatpur, Kushtia

- Draught
- Lack of employment
- Micro credit should be utilized in proper way
- Special program should be taken for the *char* people
- Enrollment in primary education increased
- School stipend is a good initiative
- Infant and maternal mortality decreased. However, in some cases, women are reluctant to go health centers for formal treatment during pregnancy and delivery due to ill belief and lack of awareness.
- Immunization program increased

Shyamnagar, Satkhira

- Lack of employment opportunity
- Lack of skilled teacher
- Lack of safe water in school
- Lack of doctors and medicine
- Improved primary education
- Infant mortality rate decreased
- Proper immunization
- Women participation in job market increased
- Improved sanitation system

Barisal Sadar

- Improper utilization / distribution of micro credit
- High interest rate of credit
- Agril officers are concerned with the farmers in the field
- Literacy rate increased
- Women's participation in job market
- Infant and maternal mortality decreased
- Free treatment of TB has very positive impact

Bauphal, Patuakhali

- Poor wage for the laborers
- Scarcity of school and health facilities in *char* lands
- Literacy rate increased
- Infant mortality rate decreased
- Immunization increased
- 60% people use sanitary latrine in the mainland

Sunamganj Sadar

- Chronic poverty (vicious cycle)
- Economic problem and natural disaster go alongside
- People are not aware about education

- Lack of skilled manpower
- Corruption /system loss in public distribution/social services
- Local govt. are inefficient and less educated
- Micro credit improves peoples' condition
- NGOs have played a vital role
- Lack of manpower
- Lack of medicine supply
- People are not aware
- Improvement is more noticeable in primary education
- 60% area have been covered in sanitation
- Agril extension has been quite good
- Although improvement is observed in most areas, the pace is very slow.

Chittagong

- Overall condition has improved
- Children are going to school
- Already 300 tube wells have been distributed
- Allowance and pensions scheme is being implemented properly

B. Discussion with Civil Society

Chilmary, Kurigram

- Lack of employment
- Riverbank erosion
- Illiteracy
- Corruption
- Should bring administration under accountability
- Teachers should be committed to their job
- 40% sanitation in this Upazilla, it should be increased
- Lack of doctor & medicine

Sonatola, Bogra

- Lack of employment
- Lack of social awareness
- High population density
- Education rate should be increased
- More employment need to be generated
- Sanitation improved (present status 70%)
- Should bring administration under accountability
- Lack of doctors & medicine

Jamalpur

- High illiteracy rate
- Unskilled worker

- Lack of employment
- Corruption increased at Govt. level
- Primary school drop out rate decreased to 10%
- Lack of school infrastructure
- Lack of teacher and teaching material
- Lack of awareness about health issues
- Lack of health complex, doctors, medicines and equipments (ambulance, X-ray machine)
- Female participation in primary education increased but poor in secondary
- Forestation and tree plantation improved

Norshingdi

- Lack of employment
- Lack of cooperation
- Illiteracy
- Lack of doctor, medicine
- Doctors refer patient to private clinics
- Teachers absenteeism
- Teachers do not want to go to the schools in the char areas
- Doctors are not caring to the poor
- Strengthening GO-NGO coordination
- Subsidy on agriculture need to be increased
- Delegation of more financial authority to the local govt.

Kushita

- NGO's micro credit reaches to the women
- Wage level increased
- Primary school enrollment increased
- Lack of teachers, schools
- Natural disaster
- High price of agril inputs vs low price of agril products
- Women empowerment improved
- Infant and maternal mortality decreased

Satkhira

- Lack of employment opportunity due to shrimp culture (*Chingri Gher*)
- Unplanned road development reduces cultivable land
- Low wage for local indigenous labor
- Infant mortality due to lack of awareness about reproductive health and child nutrition
- Patient do not get proper treatment
- Lack of doctors and medicine
- Child marriage
- No awareness program about HIV / AIDS
- More than 80% people do not have access to safe water

- River siltation
- Deforestation of Sunderban and destruction of other natural resources
- Due to stipend students are encouraged to come to school
- NGOs are working for women empowerment
- Immunization program increased

Barisal

- Due to corruption Govt. programs are not being implemented properly
- Child labor increased
- Lack of employment opportunity
- Due to pharmaceuticals industry, environmental problem increased (toxic waste)
- Lack of skilled teacher
- Little idea how to address arsenic problem
- Primary education improved
- Infant and maternal mortality reduced
- Immunization program increased
- Women participation in job market increased

Patuakhali

- Unemployment rate increased among the lower middle class
- No communication system with char land
- Lack of school in char land
- Hospitals' health service is poor
- Around 16 char lands peoples are deprived from health service
- Primary education improved in mainlands
- Economic conditions improved through NGOs micro credit
- Govt. assistance increased

Sunamgonj

- high commodity price
- Corruption exists everywhere
- Local Govt. is not aware about sanitation
- Nepotism in public programs/ social safety nets
- Agril officer never perform his duty
- Drop out rate is high
- Communication problem
- So many vacant posts in government positions
- Lack of hospitals
- Women participation in education increased

Sylhet

- Infrastructural problem in primary education
- Shortage of equipment in Health Center
- Lack of medicine
- Corruption
- Primary enrolment is high
- Water and sanitation situation improved
- Peoples awareness increased
- Security system improved
- Gender in education is quite satisfactory

Chittagong

- Income is stagnant
- Govt. assistance is not properly distributed among people
- Health services are not good, lack of doctors, medicine.
- Low salary of the school teachers
- Sanitation problems

III. Divisional Consultation

6 Regional/Divisional Consultations were carried out during 21-30 July in Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Mymensingh in association with local NGOs working in the regions.

In Summary, the key points of the regional discussions are as follows:

Rajshahi

- The report on MDG, which was published by GoB-UN, and its focus on Bangladesh's achievement was quite unknown to the civil society.
- Quite impossible to fulfill the targets within 2015
- Targets are Highly ambitious (Dream)
- In order to achieve MDG, emphasis on priority development works in Kurigram, Nilphamary, Gibandha is needed.

- Necessary steps for the development of North Bengal :agro-based industry
- Poor maternal health condition of the people of Char.

Sylhet

- Millennium development goals are not the goals of only government, these could be achieved through people's effort. But, government could not mobilize common people to take part to meet the challenges.
- Increased rate of Natural degradation in Sylhet region. (Massive destruction of hilly lands, semi-hilly lands, forests, grabbing the rivers)
- Most of the pregnant women cannot reach to health care center in time due to communication problems. As a result the maternal and child mortality rate is high in rural and wetland-dominated area in this region. Infant mortality rate is high in the household of slum dwellers, tea garden labors and manual labors.
- Haor, Tea Workers, Adivasi

Khulna

- "I think today's meeting will not have any remarkable change in the PRS of the Government. Because the current situation cannot be changed without higher level political commitment and intervention."
- How the poverty can be reduced if employment avenues are closed? How can we talk about production when we are closing the mills and factories?
- During the period from 1947 to 1971, 76 jute mills and 30 sugar mills were set up in the grater Khulna region. Now these are lying as graveyards. World Bank and IMF are lending organizations. We have failed to formulate development strategies for our country .PRSP has not been discussed in the Parliament .
- Environment is being degraded due to shrimp culture.
- CS/NGOs alone can do anything without ensuring accountability of the Government and the politicians.

Barisal

- If we can talk to the government on these issues, that would be more effective.
- The government had the responsibility to inform us on the goals ,targets.
- To what extent our problems will be reduced through such civil society initiatives/reporting?
- Why UN give much importance to GO reports than others?
- Inclusion of NGOs in field level data collection and monitoring.
- Barisal is almost free from Malaria.
- Salinity needs to be tackled.
- Char: landless, infant and maternal health
- We need time to achieve the goals. We need more information for this.

Chittagong

- The main problem to achieve the MDGs in the developing countries is rising inequalities in the society.
- We have to decentralize the development activities. We have to utilize our resources in a proper way
- Create opportunity for employment and restart the closed industry and factory.
- Chittagong is in high risk for natural disasters like-cyclone, earthquake, etc.
- People are destroying the environment for their personal benefit.
- Government is not taking any step to develop the port city. Government can develop the port, which would bring lots of benefit for country.
- Chittagong can be a good tourist spot. We all should work to develop city as an attractive tourist spot.
- The wastages oil and chemical from ship-breaking industry and illegal cutting of hills are threats to environment.

Mymensingh

- Lack of Go_NGO coordination
- Differences in survey methods, monitoring data
- Comprehensive survey and monitoring system is needed
- How we can meet the target of afforestation to cover 20% of our land by 2015?
- Will the government give importance to the peoples' initiatives??
- No large /heavy industry in the region. Unemployment is massive.
- Incidence of child labor is very high, particularly in hazardous jobs.
- Adivasi's are deprived.

ANNEX C

SOME IMPORTANT READINGS

- The Millennium Declaration 2000
- The UN World Summit Outcome 2005 (summary)
- The Development Agenda after the 2005 Millennium+5 Summit : A checklist of uncompleted tasks

The Millennium Declaration 2000

General Assembly Distr.: General
18 September 2000

Fifty-Fifth session
Agenda item 60 (b)
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]
55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration
The General Assembly
Adopts the following Declaration:

United Nations Millennium Declaration

I. Values and principles

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.
5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great

opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.

6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:

- Freedom. Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
- Equality. No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
- Solidarity. Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
- Tolerance. Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
- Respect for nature. Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
- Shared responsibility. Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.

7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
- To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.
- To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
- To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
- To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
- To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.

10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.

13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, inter alia, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.

15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:

- To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
- To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
- To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.

16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.

18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.

19. We resolve further:

- To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
- To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
- By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
- To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
- To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.

20. We also resolve: • To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.

- To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
- To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
- To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.
- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.

IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.

22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:

- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and

Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

- To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.
- To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
- To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

V. Human rights, democracy and good governance

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

25. We resolve therefore:

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.
- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy.

28. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

29. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

30. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.
- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.

- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.
- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.
- To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
- To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.

31. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.

32. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

8th plenary meeting
8 September 2000

2005 WORLD SUMMIT

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING | 14–16 SEPTEMBER 2005 UNITED NATIONS

2005 WORLD SUMMIT OUTCOME

The world's leaders, meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September, agreed to take action on a range of global challenges:

DEVELOPMENT

- Strong and unambiguous commitment by all governments, in donor and developing nations alike, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
 - Additional \$50 billion a year by 2010 for fighting poverty.
 - Commitment by all developing countries to adopt national plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2006.
 - Agreement to provide immediate support for quick impact initiatives to support anti-malaria efforts, education, and healthcare.
 - Commitment to innovative sources of financing for development, including efforts by groups of countries to implement an International Finance Facility and other initiatives to finance development projects, in particular in the health sector.
 - Agreement to consider additional measures to ensure long-term debt sustainability through increased grant based financing, cancellation of 100 per cent of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC). Where appropriate, to consider significant debt relief or restructuring for low and middle-income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens that are not part of the HIPC initiative.
 - Commitment to trade liberalization and expeditious work towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work program.
-

TERRORISM

- Clear and unqualified condemnation—by all governments, for the first time—of terrorism “in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.”
 - Strong political push for a comprehensive convention against terrorism within a year. Support for early entry into force of the Nuclear Terrorism Convention. All states are encouraged to join and implement it as well as the 12 other antiterrorism conventions.
 - Agreement to fashion a strategy to fight terrorism in a way that makes the international community stronger and terrorists weaker.
-

PEACEBUILDING, PEACEKEEPING, AND PEACEMAKING

- Decision to create a Peace building Commission to help countries transition from war to peace, backed by a support office and a standing fund.
- New standing police capacity for UN peacekeeping operations.
- Agreement to strengthen the Secretary-General's capacity for mediation and good offices.

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

- Clear and unambiguous acceptance by all governments of the collective international responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Willingness to take timely and decisive collective action for this purpose, through the Security Council, when peaceful means prove inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to do it.
-

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW

- Decisive steps to strengthen the UN human rights machinery, backing the action plan and doubling the budget of the High Commissioner.
 - Agreement to establish a UN Human Rights Council during the coming year.
 - Reaffirmation of democracy as a universal value, and welcome for new Democracy Fund which has already received pledges of \$32 million from 13 countries.
 - Commitment to eliminate pervasive gender discrimination, such as inequalities in education and ownership of property, violence against women and girls and to end impunity for such violence.
 - Ratification action taken during the Summit triggered the entry into force of the Convention Against Corruption
-

MANAGEMENT REFORM

- Broad strengthening of the UN's oversight capacity, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services, expanding oversight services to additional agencies, calling for developing an independent oversight advisory committee, and further developing a new ethics office.
 - Update the UN by reviewing all mandates older than five years, so that obsolete ones can be dropped to make room for new priorities.
 - Commitment to overhauling rules and policies on budget, finance and human resources so the Organization can better respond to current needs; and a one-time staff buy-out to ensure that the UN has the appropriate staff for today's challenges.
-

ENVIRONMENT

- Recognition of the serious challenge posed by climate change and a commitment to take action through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Assistance will be provided to those most vulnerable, like small island developing states.
- Agreement to create a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

- A scaling up of responses to HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, through prevention, care, treatment and support, and the mobilization of additional resources from national, bilateral, multilateral and private sources.
 - Commitment to fight infectious diseases, including a commitment to ensure full implementation of the new International Health Regulations, and support for the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization.
-

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Improved Central Emergency Revolving Fund to ensure that relief arrives reliably and immediately when disasters happen.
 - Recognition of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons.
-

UPDATING THE UN CHARTER

- A decision to revise and update the Charter by:
 - Winding up the Trusteeship Council, marking completion of UN's historic decolonisation role;
 - Deleting anachronistic references to "enemy states" in the Charter.

The full text of the document is available on the Summit website: www.un.org/summit2005

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The Development Agenda after the 2005 Millennium+5 Summit A checklist of uncompleted tasks

by Jens Martens, *Global Policy Forum Europe*
October 2005

It was supposed to be a historic summit meeting, and in terms of the sheer numbers of politicians who attended, it really was. 154 heads of state and government and over 900 ministers came together from the 14th to the 16th of September 2005 at the United Nations in New York, to take stock of progress so far on the implementation of the 2000 Millennium Declaration, and to decide on concrete steps towards the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the reform of the UN.

At the summit's close, they passed a 40-page outcome document (2005 World Summit Outcome) which reflects the minimum consensus within reach at the time between the 191 UN member-states in the areas of development, peace and security, human rights and UN reform. But this minimum consensus falls far short of overcoming the global co-operation deficit documented in numerous reports in the run-up to the summit. Accordingly, the immediate reactions to the summit outcomes were of disappointment. In rare unanimity, NGOs and the media but also many heads of government and ministers from North and South criticised the weak outcomes of month-long negotiations. Even the Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, expressed his disappointment to the assembled heads of state and government at the summit, saying:

"[...] let us be frank with each other, and with the peoples of the United Nations. We have not yet achieved the sweeping and fundamental reform that I and many others believe is required. Sharp differences, some of them substantive and legitimate, have played their part in preventing that."¹

Five days later, though, he had regained his duty-optimism and high-lighted the progress made in the summit in a piece for the Wall Street Journal, concluding that the glass was "at least half full".²

Now that the dust the largest summit meeting of all time stirred up has settled, it is time to evaluate more precisely where we stand. In the following paper I hope to do so with a particular focus on the world summit's outcomes for development politics. What decisions were made despite all disagreements, and must now be translated into reality? Which issues remained unresolved right up to the summit and must now be negotiated in the coming months? And in which areas do serious disagreements remain between governments despite the pressure to negotiate? The answers to these questions should indicate which topics will define the development agenda in the coming years and where public pressure and critical monitoring by civil society is particularly necessary.

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¹ UN Secretary-General: Address to the 2005 World Summit. New York, 14 September 2005.

² Kofi A. Annan: A Glass At Least Half Full. In: Wall Street Journal, 19 September 2005.

I. Development co-operation and the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Project report under Jeffrey Sachs, Kofi Annan's report "In Larger Freedom" and the numerous analyses and studies produced by NGOs in the context of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) demanded that governments take radical steps to realise the MDGs by 2015. The UN summit did not fulfil these expectations. Governments made hardly any new decisions, but for the most part simply "reaffirmed" old ones and "welcomed" or "took note with interest of" new initiatives which individual groups of countries launched in the run-up to or on the fringe of the summit. One can of course presume that some of these new initiatives would not have come about without the summit there to create pressure to negotiate.

There was some progress made around the summit especially in development and debt relief. However the influence that capital markets and international finance and monetary politics wielded over development was not even up for discussion by the governments in New York. The outcome document also contains only a few meaningless platitudes on world trade policy, showing once again that as far as governments are concerned, the United Nations has long ceased to be the place where disputes on trade politics are resolved – that whole side of things now happens at the WTO.

1. National MDG strategies up until 2006

In order to reach the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), governments commit themselves in the New York summit outcome document to adopt and implement comprehensive National Development Strategies.³ They do not go into any further detail, leaving it unclear whether these development strategies are to be carried out in addition to the Poverty Reduction Strategies already in place in many countries, how they will relate to other development strategies such as the national strategies for sustainable development formulated in the Rio follow-up process, and how parliaments and civil society will be involved in developing the strategies. It is also unclear whether industrialised countries are also committed by this decision to adopt strategies to realise the MDGs. If so, these countries would have to concentrate in particular on MDG 8. The initiative to adopt national development strategies originates from the Millennium Project Report, which demands amongst other things that each developing country should come up with a detailed 3-5-year plan listing concrete political measures necessary for achieving the MDGs by 2015 (MDG-based poverty reduction strategies).⁴ These strategies would also include a budget plan showing to what extent national resources could be mobilised and how high the deficit is to be filled by external financing in the form of development aid.

2. Timetable for increasing ODA

In the area of financing for development, governments simply repeated at the summit what individual countries and groups of countries had already announced in the run-up to it. The EU decision on a timetable to increase ODA is particularly worth highlighting.

With the consensus decision of the European Council in June 2005, the 25 member-states' ODA is to rise to an EU average of 0.56% of GDP by 2010 and to 0.7% of GDP

³ Outcome Document, para. 22 a)

⁴ See UN Millennium Project, 2005: Investing in Development. A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals. New York: UNDP

by 2015. According to the European Council's calculations, this means a doubling of European ODA from around 33 billion Euros in 2003 to around 67 billion Euros by 2010, with a further increase to 92 billion Euros by 2015. German ODA would have to double from 6.005 billion Euros in 2003 to 12.655 billion Euros in 2010, and almost triple to reach 17.661 billion Euros by 2015. This in practice means an annual increase of at least a billion Euros of German ODA. Other countries have set themselves even more ambitious goals, France aiming for the 0.7% goal in 2012 and Great Britain in 2013.

A central question is, of course, whether or not ODA will be increased with "fresh money". If this is the case, it should be possible to see increases in ODA in national budgets for 2006. It is unfortunately likely, however, that governments aim to reach their goals by other means, for example by counting debt relief as aid. Donor countries agreed in the OECD that under certain conditions, debt relief could be counted as ODA. This book-keeping trick means ODA figures rise without the South getting a single extra Euro.

It is to be expected that additional debt cancellation, especially to Iraq, will significantly dress up ODA statistics. Creditor countries in the Paris Club pledged a debt cancellation to Iraq in November 2004 of \$31 billion in total, to be realised over the next four years.

Debt relief for heavily indebted countries is without doubt urgently necessary and sensible for development. But it must not become a replacement for the supply of "fresh money" necessary to fund the MDGs.

3. Cancelling Multilateral Debt

The newest debt relief initiative from the recent G8 is also greeted in the New York outcome document. The heads of state and government at the G8 suggested at the July summit in Gleneagles that the IDA (daughter-fund of the World Bank), the IMF and the ADB should cancel the multilateral debts of 18 of the most heavily indebted poor countries.⁵ These debt cancellations, which were formally confirmed at the annual IMF and World Bank meeting in September 2005, have a nominal value of \$40 billion and cover a period of 40 years.⁶ The 18 countries will thus effectively save \$1 billion per year in debt payments. This is still not a 100% cancellation for these countries, as they will continue to pay debts back to other multilateral creditors.

Other heavily indebted countries got no debt cancellations at all.⁷ ActionAid, Christian Aid and the British Jubilee Debt Campaign had calculated in the run-up to the summit that a total of 62 countries need a 100% debt cancellation in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.⁸ In addition, the IDA and the ADB will be reducing future gross aid payments by the amount of debt cancelled, and the relieved funds are to be distributed to all IDA or ADB countries according to the relevant

⁵ See G8, 2005: The Gleneagles Communiqué. Gleneagles. (http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/PostG8_Gleneagles_Communique.pdf)

⁶ The more economically relevant Net Present Value of the debts is, however, only \$17 billion.

⁷ In principle, the G8 has also agreed to cancel the debts of a further 20 HIPC's, as soon as these countries have reached the so-called completion point in the context of the HIPC initiative. If and when this will happen is, however, entirely uncertain. See ActionAid/Jubilee Debt Campaign/Christian Aid, 2005: In the Balance. Why Debts must be Cancelled Now to Meet the Millennium Development Goals. London

⁸ See ActionAid/Jubilee Debt Campaign/Christian Aid, 2005: In the Balance. Why Debts must be Cancelled Now to Meet the Millennium Development Goals. London

distribution code. This does of course mean that the 18 countries in question will benefit much less from the debt relief.

In order that the IDA's and the ADB's financing capacities are not limited by the gap that reduced debt payments will leave, donor governments have agreed to make up the balance by contributing extra funds themselves. It remains to be seen and closely monitored whether governments will honour this agreement in the next replenishment rounds.

Neither the G8 nor the New York summits gave rise to an agreement on any steps that might reach further, for example the long-demanded redefinition of debt sustainability or the introduction of an insolvency procedure.

4. Solidarity Contributions on Air Tickets and the Pilot IFF Programme

Concrete decisions on the introduction of innovative finance instruments at the New York summit were not to be expected, with the resistance of the USA, Japan and other rich countries to any form of international taxation remaining too great. In the summit's outcome document, governments simply "recognise the value of developing innovative sources of funding" and "take note with interest" of the international efforts to do so.

In this context, the "Action against Hunger and Poverty", initiated in 2004 by Brazilian President Lula da Silva, is explicitly mentioned. On the fringe of the New York summit, the 'Lula Group' which grew out of the initiative (Brazil, France, Chile, Spain, Germany and Algeria) presented a common statement which amongst other things argues for the introduction of a solidarity contribution on air tickets.⁹ France and Chile have already announced the introduction of such a levy in 2006. In other countries, including Germany, a definitive government decision on this is still pending.

The proceeds from the air ticket contribution are, amongst other things, to go towards refinancing the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) which was brought into being at the initiative of the British on the 9th of September 2005, a few days before the UN summit, together with Spain, Italy, Sweden, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The IFFIm should help to raise \$4 billion on international capital markets over the next ten years to support the work of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). According to the British government's vision, the IFFIm should serve as a pilot scheme to demonstrate that it would also be possible to realise a "big" IFF, with a finance volume of around \$50 billion per year. The principle of 'frontloading' ODA through capital markets – development aid on credit, so to speak – is, however, perceived increasingly critically by governments and NGOs, and so far has found little support.¹⁰

The Lula Group's New York declaration does fall far behind the group's own expectations, but it can be seen as a first step towards internationally co-ordinated taxes. French President Jaques Chirac has issued an invitation to a conference in Paris in February 2006 to discuss the next steps towards a co-ordinated introduction of the air ticket contribution. Whether or not the Lula Group will continue its work with the same configuration of countries remains to be seen, given the current political crisis in Brazil and the recent change of government in Germany.

⁹ Declaration on innovative sources of financing for development. New York, 14 September 2005. (<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/glotax/aviation/2005/0914airlula.pdf>).

¹⁰ see: Jens Martens, 2005: The International Finance Facility: Development on Credit? New York: GPF (<http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/develop/oda/2005/0721martens.htm>)

5. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Besides the quantitative aspects of aid, governments at the UN summit also addressed the quality of aid. In doing so they referred mainly to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness adopted by 90 industrialised and developing countries in March 2005.¹¹ The declaration contains concrete obligations to structure and co-ordinate aid more closely around the strategies of recipient countries, to reduce transaction and processing costs, to untie aid and to strengthen the accountability of donor and recipient countries to citizens and parliaments.

In order to measure progress on the realisation of these obligations, the Paris Declaration includes a list of 12 targets (including the indicators that go with them) which are to be realised by 2010. To improve the transparency of financial flows and to ensure integration of aid into respective national development strategies, for example, at least 85% of ODA flows to the government sector are to be reported on the national budget of the recipient country by 2010. At least 75% of ODA is to be given in the context of one-year or multi-year plans in order to increase the predictability of aid flows for recipient countries. The proportion of ODA not tied to goods and services from companies in donor countries is to be increased steadily between now and 2010. And within five years' time, donors should be putting 25% of ODA towards programme-based approaches (as opposed to small-scale support for individual projects). So far, only a small circle of development experts have really taken note of the Paris Declaration. At first glance it appears technocratic, but it could have tangible effects on development praxis.

II. Reforming the Economic and Social Area of the United Nations

The debate about UN reform dominated the negotiations in the run-up to the summit and even overshadowed discussions on development aid. Security Council reform was at the centre of attention, and was pursued with great diplomatic pressure by the G4 (Germany, India, Japan and Brazil). Although the reform was already put on hold during the run-up to the summit because of the un-resolvable differences of interest between governments, governments did make some decisions for the economic and social area which should result in concrete institutional reforms. However, they also left many questions unanswered, which must now be negotiated after the summit. This is the case, for example, for the planned Human Rights Council and the new Peace building Commission.

1. Economic and Social Council

In the outcome document, governments confirm the role of the ECOSOC as the principal UN body for questions of economic and social development. The Council is to meet annually on a ministerial level. Its task is now primarily monitor follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the internationally agreed development goals. It will hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to "review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations".

The upgrading of the currently politically insignificant ECOSOC to a sort of 'MDG Council' might be a step forwards. At the same time though, this would restrict its area of competence more closely to development issues. Its competence in the human rights area would be transferred to the new Human Rights Council (see below). Questions of

¹¹ See Outcome Document, para. 23 c)

economy, monetary and trade policy are in any case decided on outside the UN, as the United Nations continues to leave these issues to the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. Consequently the governments in New York did not take up the demands either for substantial reform of these organisations or for a high-level decision-making body for economic issues to be situated within the UN, as a sort of 'Economic Security Council'. Instead, they limited themselves to a few half-hearted steps towards repositioning the ECOSOC.

Whether or not this leads at least to a gradual strengthening of the ECOSOC will depend in particular on whether governments accept its new role, and actually send their respective ministers to the annual meetings in New York or Geneva. If they do not, the postulated renewal of the Council will only have happened on paper. The ECOSOC meeting in July 2006 will deliver the first indication either way.

2. Peace building Commission

The summit decided to found a Peace building Commission as an international advisory body to support countries in the transition process from violent conflict to lasting peace. The Commission is to support countries in rebuilding after conflict, mobilise financial resources and formulate recommendations improving the co-ordination between all key parties. Its mandate is thus considerably vaguer than as formulated in the original suggestions made by Kofi Annan and the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

Governments could reach no agreement on where the Commission should be based within the UN. The G77 would like it to be affiliated to the General Assembly, while some industrialised countries would rather have it under the Security Council and others between the Security Council and the ECOSOC. The Commission is to decide on all issues by consensus. This in other words effectively gives every member the veto. The membership of the Commission is to vary according to the conflict. Its core will consist of a Standing Organisational Committee in turn made up of Security Council members including the P5, members of ECOSOC, and the largest UN contributors of finances and troops respectively. The outcome document does not say anything about the precise number of members. Neither do the governments mention the role of civil society in the Commission's work. They do, by contrast, explicitly provide for the involvement of the World Bank, the IMF and other institutional donors.

The Commission is to be supported by a Peace building Fund fed by voluntary contributions, and by a "small office" within the UN secretariat. The Commission is to start work at the latest by the 31st of December 2005 – one of the few clear deadlines given in the document. By then these as yet undecided issues of membership, mandate and positioning of the Commission within the UN must be resolved.

3. Human Rights Council

In principle, governments agreed to establish a new UN Human Rights Council. But they were not able to agree on all further details and mandated the President of the General Assembly to co-ordinate negotiations on the mandate, function, size, configuration and working practice of the planned Council, to be resolved by the end of the 60th session, i.e., by the 11th of September 2006. The outcome document does not even specify whether and when the new Human Rights Council will replace the existing Human Rights Commission. It is also entirely unclear to what extent the future Council will adopt the positive aspects of the Human Rights Commission, such as the close involvement of NGOs, the Special Rapporteurs etc. As the governments currently making decisions on

the reforms are the very same governments who have been responsible for the political deficits and deficiencies of the Human Rights Commission up to now, there is a danger that some of these positive elements will be lost in the course of negotiations, leaving the UN's human rights work in fact more weakened than strengthened through these 'reforms'.

Nonetheless, it is a positive signal that the summit decided to double the Office of the UN Human Rights Commission's budget over the next five years. It is, however, unclear whether this will mean extra funds, or whether the UN budget will simply be re-jigged at the cost of other areas.

III. Conclusion

The Millennium+5 Summit undoubtedly did not give rise to the decisions necessary for improving international development and strengthening the United Nations institutionally. Yet it would be wrong to suggest that nothing at all came out of the summit. In the outcome document and in the various declarations made in the context of the summit, governments did make some concrete pledges to which they can be held account. It would be hasty to evaluate these pledges as successes at this stage, though. For the most part, they are simply political declarations of intent, which governments must implement after the summit (for example the EU ODA timetable). Some of the decisions seem so vaguely formulated that it is not even clear yet whether the final results of negotiations can be evaluated as positive or not. This is the case, for example, with the creation of the Human Rights Council.

It will be the task of civil society organisations to scrutinize and evaluate whether and how governments realise the resolutions and commitments recorded in the UN outcome document. The following check-list summarises some of the decisions particularly relevant to development which demand critical monitoring in 2006 and beyond.

- ❑ **National MDG Strategies:** Will governments adopt National Development Strategies in 2006 to realise the MDGs, and how will civil society and parliaments be involved in formulating these strategies?
- ❑ **ODA Timetable:** Do the aid budgets of the 25 EU member-states reflect the incremental increases in ODA necessary to realise the binding EU ODA timetable?
- ❑ **Cancellation of Multilateral Debt:** Will the IMF and the ADB fully implement the debt cancellation pledged for 18 of the most heavily indebted poor countries by 2006? Will donor countries provide the promised additional funds to the IDA and the ADB and which countries will benefit? Will further debt cancellations for the 20 other HIPC's and other heavily indebted non-HIPC's follow?
- ❑ **Solidarity contributions on air tickets:** Which countries will introduce the air ticket levy? How much income will be generated and for what exact development purposes will it be put to use?
- ❑ **IFF for Immunization:** To what extent will the IFFIm mobilise extra funds on capital markets in 2006? How high are the interest and transaction costs of front loading? For what purposes will the funds be put to use?
- ❑ **Further innovative sources of financing:** What progress will be made on realising other suggestions for innovative sources of financing, as discussed for example by the Lula Group? This question is especially interesting regarding the introduction of a currency transaction tax.

- ❑ **Paris Declaration:** Will we soon see the first interim results of the implementation of the 12 targets formulated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness?
- ❑ **ECOSOC reform:** Will the ECOSOC meet at ministerial level in 2006? How will it go about fulfilling its task of monitoring the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs? How will the ECOSOC's structure and working practice reflect its thematic re-orientation?
- ❑ **Peacebuilding Commission:** How will the Standard Organisational Committee of the Commission be configured? Will northern rich countries dominate as feared? To which main UN organ will the Commission be subordinated? Which countries will it deal with in 2006? How will the Commission support these countries effectively in making a transition to lasting and peaceful development?
- ❑ **Human Rights Council:** Will the new Human Rights Council succeed in taking over the positive aspects of the Human Rights Commission's work to date? Will NGOs have the same consultative and participatory rights in the Human Rights Council as in the Human Rights Commission? What will happen to the Sub-commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights? How will the transition from Human Rights Commission to Human Rights Council be organised?

These are some of the questions which will define the development agenda and debate on reforms in the economic and social field of the United Nations in the aftermath of the UN summit, in 2006. Only when these questions have been answered will it be possible to evaluate whether the Millennium+5 Summit will go down in the history of the United Nations as the summit that failed, or rather as an important interim step in the global effort to strengthen multilateral co-operation.

(Jens Martens is head of the European Office of Global Policy Forum, in Bonn)

Sources:

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Website:

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