

## CHAPTER 45 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### **45.1 Historical Background & the Genesis of the Millennium Development Goals :**

45.1.1 The period from 1950 to 1980 witnessed economic growth at a respectable pace across the developing world, which was a radical departure from the stagnation in the colonial era, but this growth did not translate into well-being for ordinary people. Further, the era of markets and globalization (1980 to 2000), belied the expectations and promises of the ideologues. Economic growth across the developing world, except for China and India, was much slower and more volatile than the preceding three decades. What is more, there was a discernible increase in economic inequalities between countries and people, while poverty and deprivation persisted in large parts of the developing world.

45.1.2 During 1980's the 'Washington Consensus', resting squarely on neoliberal economic theory, had dominated the international debate (Gsänger 1996a; Eberlei 2000). It found expression above all in the stabilisation and structural adjustment programs (SAPs) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank that provided for consolidation of the current accounts and budgets of indebted developing countries, continuous and non-interventionist monetary and fiscal policies and structural market reforms (market opening, deregulation and privatisation). Poverty reduction was largely equated with higher economic growth, the assumption being that such growth would, sooner or later, benefit the poor through trickle-down effects.

45.1.3 In the early 1990s, however, it gradually became apparent that this assumption was, at least in its then current form, not tenable. Indeed, in many developing countries – above all in Africa, but also in Latin America – poverty had even worsened under the SAPs (Decker 2003, 488; Betz 2003, 456). The first Human Development Report (HDR) released by UNDP in 1990 acted as counter piece to World Bank's World Development Report (El Masry 2003, 472) as it argued that economic growth by no means automatically ensured social development. The Report also critically brought out the one dimensional, purely economic understanding of poverty that had been in vogue in the development debate so far.

45.1.4 The disappointing balance of development in the 1980s also led to the calling, in the early 1990s, of a number of international conferences in the UN framework that dealt with various aspects of social and ecological development leading to 'the decade of world conferences'. One conference of particular importance for what was to come was the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development. Among other things, the conference adopted a 10-point Declaration on Social Development that later formed the basis of the MDGs. At the end of the decade, there was a large measure of consensus on numerous development related issues and it was this that paved the way for the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. In particular, the conferences served to

establish a broad consensus on a common goal system as well as on strategic approaches for translating it into practice.

45.1.5 In September 2000, the Millennium Declaration was adopted at the Millennium Summit, held in the framework of the 55th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN). The summit was attended by the heads of state or government of nearly all UN member states. In the wake of the Millennium Summit, a joint working group was constituted with representatives from the UN, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other international organisations. It extracted a number of measurable targets from two of the eight chapters of the Millennium Declaration – Chapter 3 “Development and poverty eradication”) and Chapter 4 (“Protecting our common environment”) and specified these goals by 18 targets and 48 indicators. Most of the goals are set to be implemented by 2015. In September 2001, the MDGs were approved by the 56th UN General Assembly. The international community was thus in possession of a common goal system that has been agreed upon by all relevant actors and that was both measurable and set to be implemented by a fixed date.

45.1.6 The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets come from the Millennium Declaration, signed by 189 countries, including 147 heads of State and Government, in September 2000. The eight (8) Goals are as under:

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development .

45.1.7 Eighteen (18) targets were set as quantitative benchmarks for attaining the goals. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in its 2<sup>nd</sup> Guidance note (endorsed in 2003) on 'Country Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals' provided a framework of 53 indicators (48 basic + 5 alternative) which are categorized according to targets, for measuring the progress towards individual targets.

45.1.8 Subsequently the targets and indicators under the 8 goals have been increased to 21 and 60 respectively. The objectives are specified in many different ways. Some objectives are set out in proportional terms: reducing the proportion of people who live in poverty or hunger by one-half; reducing child mortality rates by two-thirds; reducing maternal mortality rates by three-fourths; or reducing the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities by one-half. Other objectives are set out in terms of completion: universal primary education; gender equality in school education; productive employment with decent work for all; or universal access to reproductive health. Yet other objectives are set out as statements of intentions: reduce loss in bio-diversity or improve the lives of slum-dwellers.

## **45.2 The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013:**

45.2.1 The Report highlights several milestones. Several MDG targets have already been met or are within close reach. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been halved at the global level even though 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty. Over 2 billion people gained access to improved sources of drinking water and remarkable gains were made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. There have been visible improvements in all health areas as well as primary education. The proportion of slum dwellers in the cities and metropolises of the developing world is declining. A low debt burden and an improved climate for trade are levelling the playing field for developing countries and the hunger reduction target is within reach

45.2.2 The 2015 target date for achieving the MDGs is fast approaching. The report looks at the areas where action is needed most. Accelerated progress and bolder action are needed in many areas. Environmental sustainability is under severe threat, demanding a new level of global cooperation. Our resource base is in serious decline, with continuing losses of forests, species and fish stocks, in a world already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Big gains have been made in child survival, but more must be done to meet our obligations to the youngest generation. Too many women die in childbirth when we have the means to save them. Access to antiretroviral therapy and knowledge about HIV prevention needs to be expanded. Too many children are still denied their right to primary education. Gains in sanitation are impressive—but not good enough as more than 2.5 billion people lack improved sanitation facilities, of which one billion continue to practice open defecation, a major health and environmental hazard. There is less aid money overall, with the poorest countries most adversely affected

45.2.3 The report shows that the achievement of the MDGs has been uneven among and within countries. Rural-urban gaps persist—access to reproductive health services and to clean drinking water are only two examples. Children from poor and rural households are much more likely to be out of school than their rich and urban counterparts. Wide gaps remain in basic knowledge about HIV and its prevention among young men and women in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been hardest hit by the epidemic. Gender-based inequalities in decision-making power also persist.

## **45.3 Towards achieving Millennium Development Goals – India 2013 -**

45.3.1 India's MDG framework recognizes all the 48 indicators that were included in UNDG's 2003 framework for monitoring of the 8 MDGs. However, India has found 35 of the indicators as relevant to India. India's MDG-framework has been contextualized through a concordance with the existing official indicators of corresponding dimensions in the national statistical system. Some of the goal wise achievements indicated in 'Towards achieving Millennium Development Goals –India 2013' are given below.

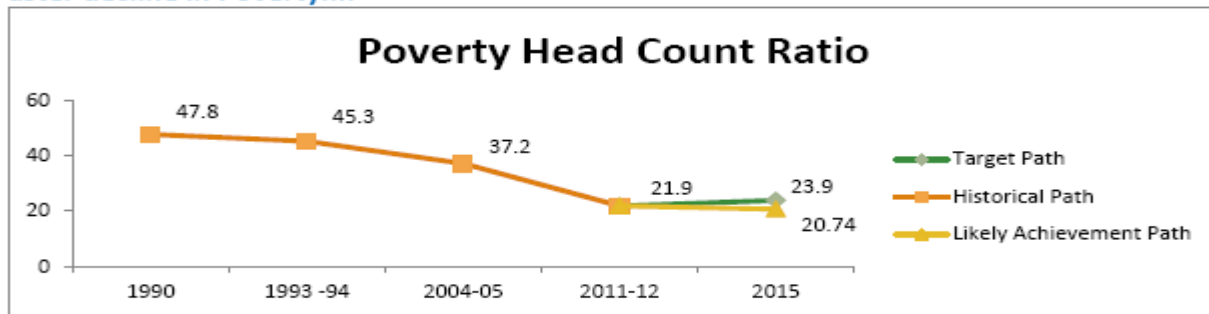
## MDGs & Targets – Overview of progress achieved by India

<b>MDG 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</b>	
<i>TARGET 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day (Percentage of Population below the National Poverty Line is considered for India for statistical tracking)</i>	On-track
<i>TARGET 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</i>	Slow or almost off-track
<b>MDG 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</b>	
<i>TARGET 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</i>	On-track
<b>MDG 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</b>	
<i>TARGET 4 : Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015</i>	On-track for Primary and Secondary education and slow for higher education
<b>MDG 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</b>	
<i>TARGET 5 : Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the Under- Five Morality Rate</i>	Moderately on -track
<b>MDG5 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</b>	
<i>TARGET 6 : Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio</i>	Slow or off-track
<b>MDG 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</b>	
<i>TARGET 7 : Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</i>	On-track
<i>TARGET 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</i>	Moderately on-track
<b>MDG 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>	
<i>TARGET 9: Integrate the principal of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.</i>	Moderately on-track
<i>TARGET 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</i>	On-track or fast by one main indicator (for drinking water) but slow by another main indicator (Sanitation)
<i>TARGET 11 : By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers</i>	The pattern not statistically discernible
<b>MDG 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<i>TARGET 18 : In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</i>	On-track or fast

## Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target 1 : Halve, between 1990 & 2015 , the percentage of population below the National Poverty Line

### Faster decline in Poverty....



Source: Planning Commission

As per the poverty estimates of 2011-12, the Poverty Head Count Ratio (PHCR) is 21.9% thus India has already achieved the target against the target of 23.9%. With the historical rate of decline in Poverty HCR, the Country is likely to achieve Poverty HCR level of 20.74% by 2015. Poverty Gap Ratio which reflects the degree to which mean consumption of the poor falls short of the established poverty line, indicating the depth of poverty was 5.05 for Rural and 2.70 for Urban India in 2011-12. Share of Poorest Quintile in National Consumption (MRP-Mixed Recall Period) is 9.75 in Rural India and 7.11 in Urban India in 2009-10.

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

Malnutrition continues to be a major hurdle. All-India trend of the proportion of underweight (severe and moderate) children below 3 years of age shows India is going slow in eliminating the effect of malnourishment. According to the NFHS estimates, the proportion of underweight children has declined by 3 percentage points during 1998-99 to 2005-06, from about 43% to about 40%. At the historical rate of decline, it is expected to come down to about 33% only by 2015 vis –a vis the target value of 26%.

## Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 3: Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education .

Universal primary education has already been achieved. A trend based on DISE (District Information System on education) data shows that the country is now well set to achieve cent percent primary education for children in the primary schooling age of 6-10 years ahead of 2015. DISE 2010-11 reports Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at Primary level as 99.89.

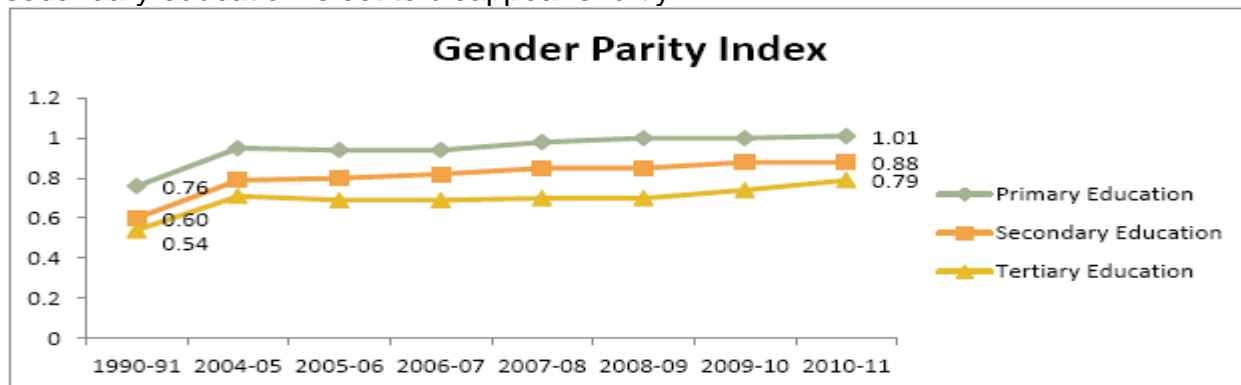
**Apparent Survival Rate:** Grade V (Ratio of enrolment in grade V to grade 1) is the proportion of pupils starting Grade I who reach the last grade of primary. The DISE

shows apparent survival rate at Primary level of 82 for 2010-11. According to the trend exhibited during 1991- 2001 (1991: 61.9% and 2001: 76.4 %), India is likely to attain 100% Youth literacy (Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds) by 2015.

### 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.

Gender parity has already been achieved in primary education and the disparity in secondary education is set to disappear shortly.



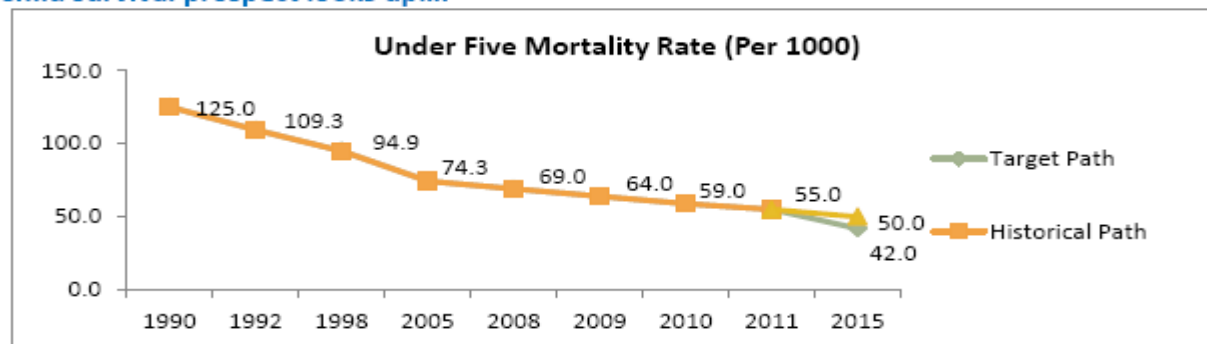
Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development

The gender parity in primary education reached the target value of 1 in 2008-09 itself . The female: male literacy rate in the age group 15-24 years tends to reach 1 by 2015, implying attainment of gender parity by 2015. The percentage share of females in wage employment in the non- agricultural sector , stood at 18.6% in 2009-10 (NSS) and the same in case of Rural and Urban areas was 19.6% and 17.6% respectively. It is projected that with the historical rate of progression, the share of women in wage employment can at best reach a level of about 23.1% by 2015 which is much below target of 50%. The Proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament (%) is 11.21% in 2013 vis –a-vis the target of 50 % in 2015.

### Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

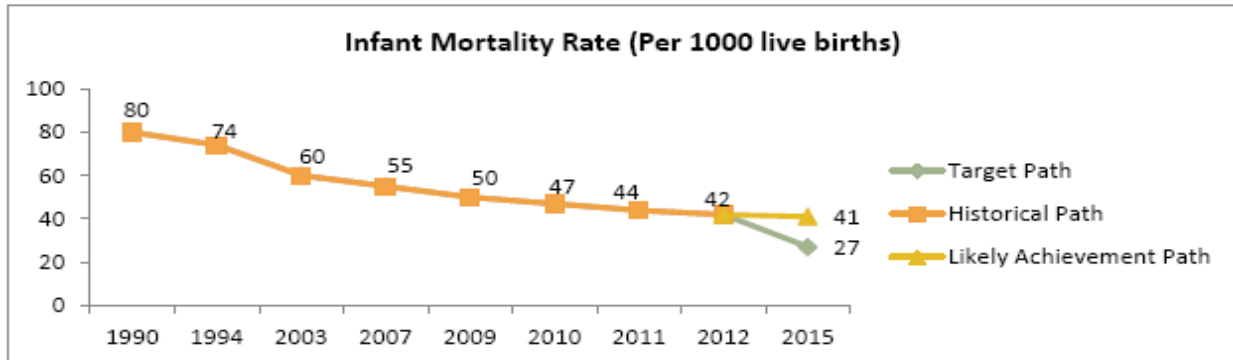
Target 5 : Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the Under-Five Mortality Ratio

Child survival prospect looks up....



Source: NFHS (M/o Health and Family Welfare). SRS (Office of Registrar General of India)

Against the U5MR target of 42 per thousand live births by 2015, India is likely to reach 50 by 2015 as per the historical trend, missing the target by 8 percentage points. However, considering the sharper decline in the recent years, the target is likely to be met.



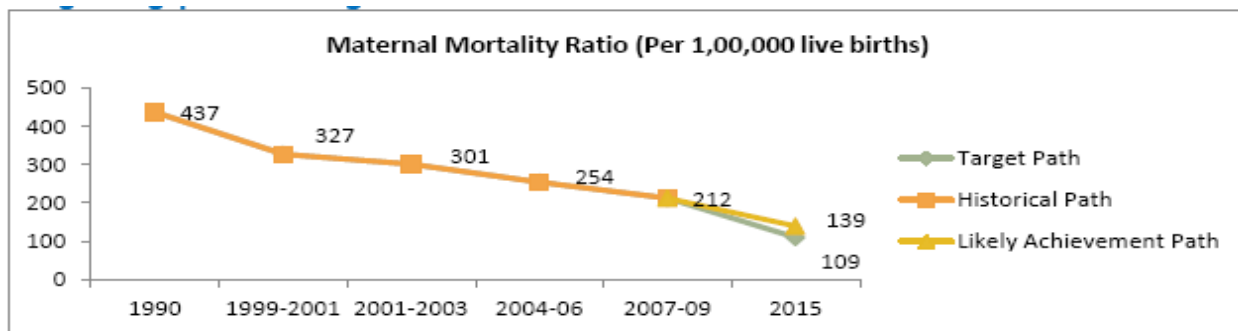
Source: Office of Registrar General of India

As per the historical trend, IMR is likely to miss the 2015 target, however, the faster decline in recent years indicates to narrowing the gap between the target and the likely achievement in 2015.

The proportion of one-year old (12-23 months) children immunised against measles is at 74.1% in 2009 (UNICEF & GOI- Coverage Evaluation Survey 2009) and as per the historical trend, India is expected cover about 89% children in the age group 12-23 months for immunisation against measles by 2015 and thus likely to fall short of universal immunisation by about 11 percentage points.

### Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Target 6 : Reduce by three quarters , between 1990 & 2015 , the Maternal Mortality Ratio



Source: Office of Registrar General of India

At the historical pace of decrease, India is likely to reach MMR of 139 per 100,000 live births by 2015, against the target of 109. However, the bright line in the trend is the sharper decline ie. 17% during 2006-09 and 16% during 2003-06 compared to 8% decline during 2001-2003.



Source: NFHS, DLHS, M/o Health and Family Welfare

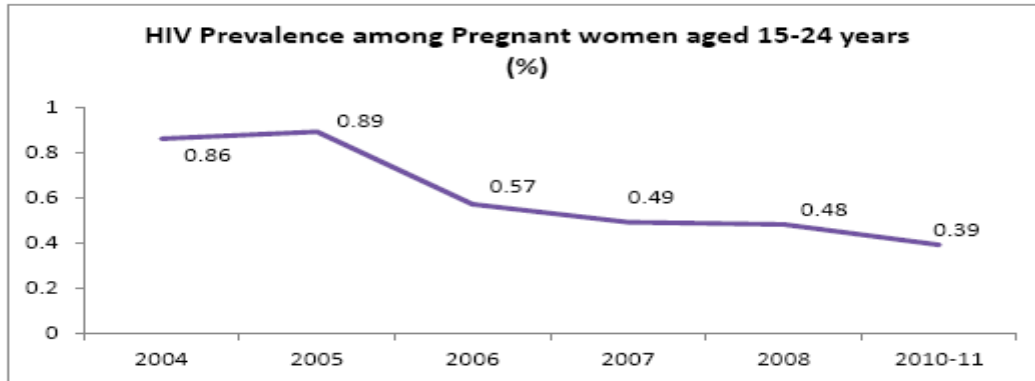
With the existing rate of increase in deliveries by skilled personnel, the achievement for 2015 is likely to be 62% only, which is far short of the targeted universal coverage.

### Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB

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

Indicator	Latest Status
Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate (Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women, 15-49 yrs, percent)	5.2 (NFHS -2005-06)
Condom use at last high risk sex (Condom use rate among non-regular sex partners 15-24 yrs) (%) – Condom Promotion impact Survey, NACO	74 (2010)
Percentage of Population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	32.9 (NACO -2006)

**Trend reversal in prevalence of HIV/AIDS continues...**

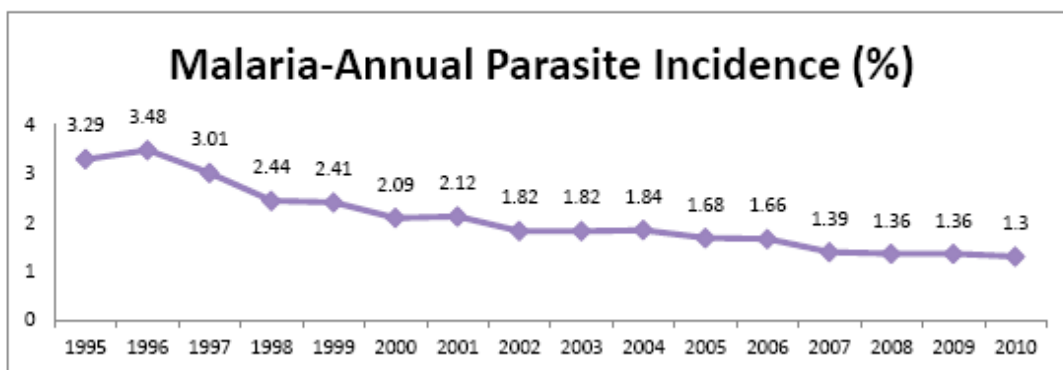


Source: HIV Sentinel Surveillance

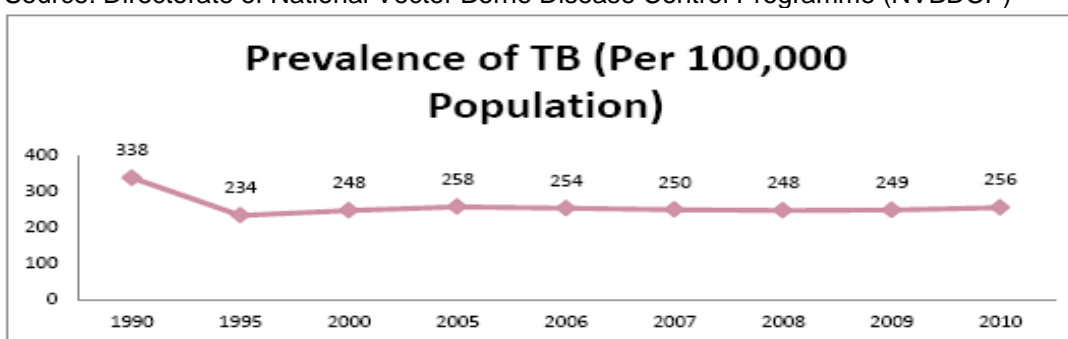
Target 8 : Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of Malaria and other major diseases.



Sustaining the reversing trends in Prevalence of Malaria and TB is needed...



Source: Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)



Source: WHO Report 2011/Global Tuberculosis Control

Indicator	Latest status
Death rates associated with Malaria	0.06 (2010) NVBDCP
Deaths due to TB per 100,000 population	26 (2010) WHO Report 2011
Proportion of Tuberculosis Cases Detected and Cured under DOTS (Success Rate among new S+ve cases (%))	87 (2010) Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme -RNTCP

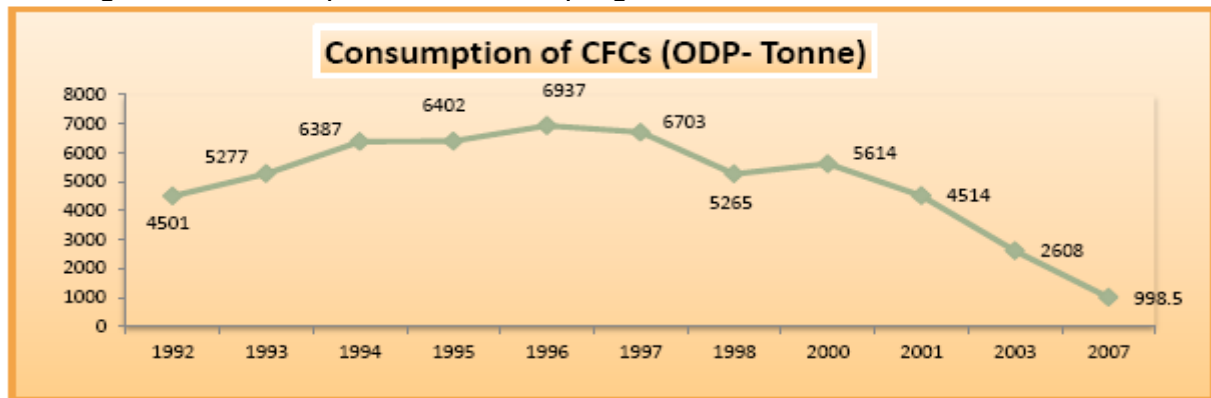
### Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

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

There is an increase in forest cover by about 1128 sq. km between 2007 and 2011. The network of protected areas in India, presently covers about 5.02 percent of the country's total land area.

Per Capita CO <sub>2</sub> emission (MT)							
1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2012
0.69	0.83	0.96	1.06	1.21	1.26	1.37	1.39
Energy Intensity (Amount of energy consumed for producing one unit of GDP) (KWH) per rupee							
1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2011-12
0.1594	0.1593	0.1553	0.1374	0.1355	0.1501	0.1355	0.1453

Phasing out of consumption of CFCs in progress...



Source: Ozone Cell, M/o Environment and Forests

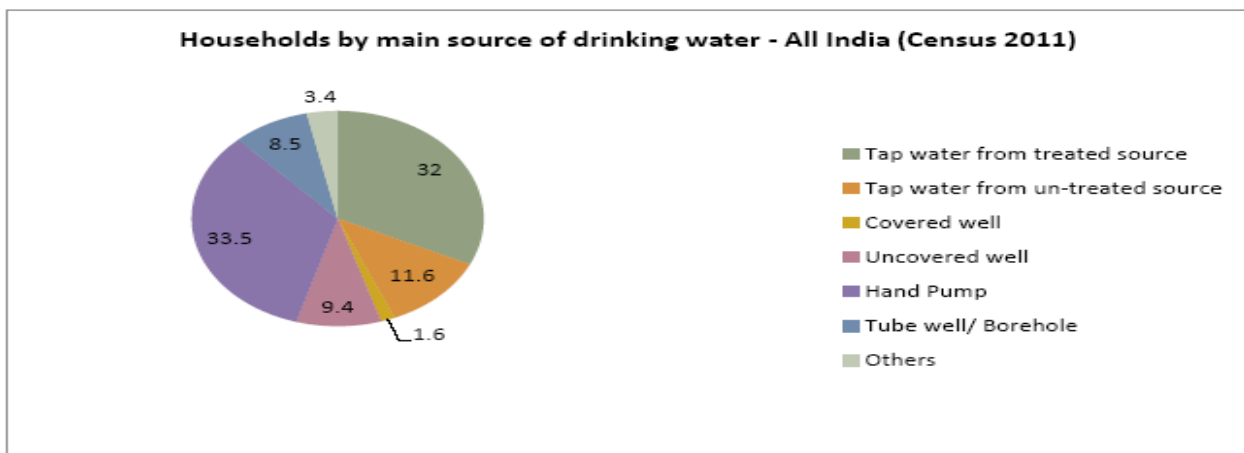
As per Census 2011, 67.4 % households are using solid fuels for cooking.

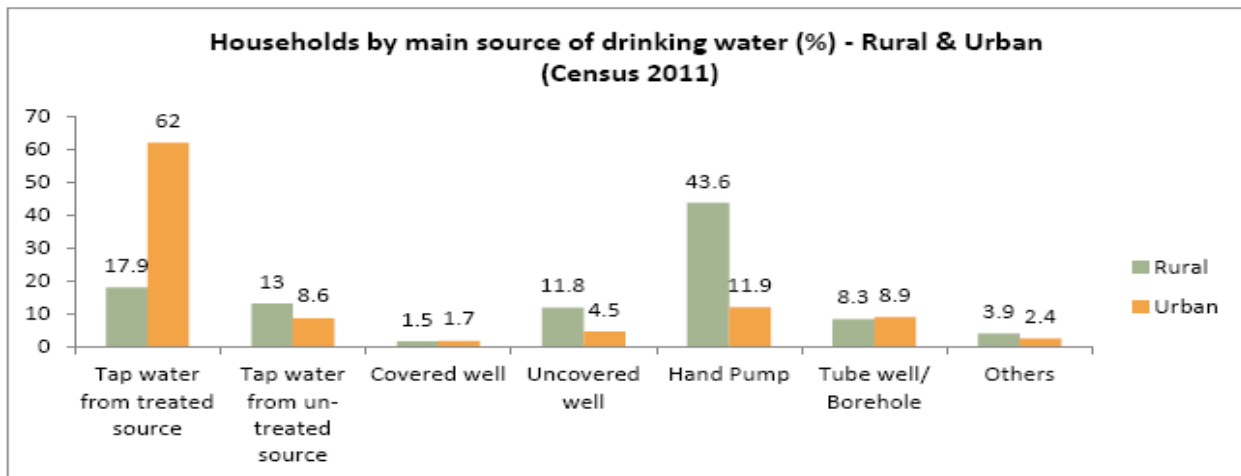
Target 10 : Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

As per Census 2011, at all India level, tap water is the source of drinking water for 43.5% households. In urban areas, 62% households have tap water from treated source as the source of drinking water, whereas in rural areas, majority of the households (43.6%) depend on hand pumps for drinking water.

#### Earlier achievement of safe drinking water to all ...

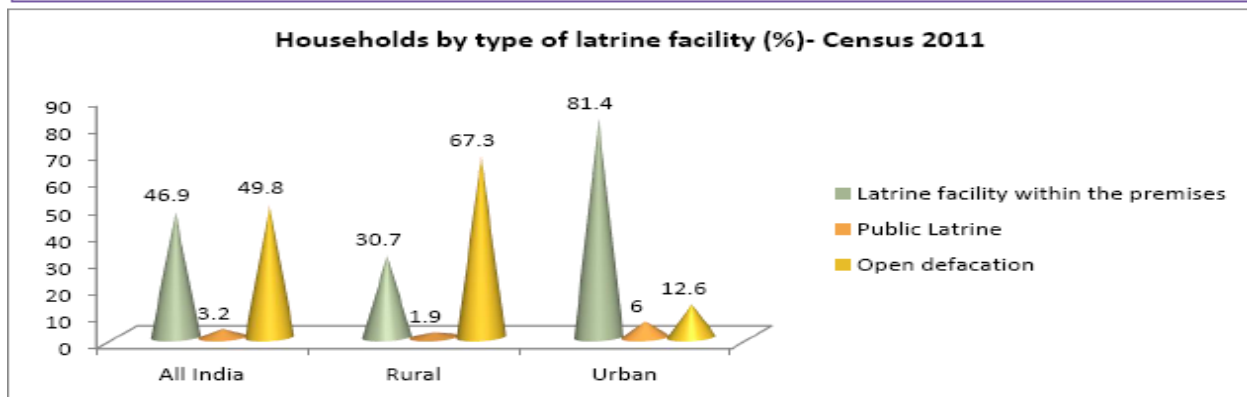
The target of halving the proportion of households without access to safe drinking water sources from its 1990 level of about 34% to the order of 17%, to be reached by 2015, has already been attained by 2007-08, much before the target timeline. The prevailing trend over time suggests attainability of almost cent percent coverage of safe drinking water by 2015, including both rural and urban sectors.





**Improved Sanitation facility still eludes half the households...**

Given the 1990 level for households without any sanitation facility at 76%, India is required **to reduce the proportion of households having no access to improved sanitation to 38% by 2015**. The NSS 2008-09 reports that, 49.2% households are not having sanitation facility. It is expected that at the historical rate of decline, **India may achieve to reduce the proportion of households without any sanitation to about 43% by 2015 missing the target by about 5 percentage points**.



As per Census 2011, 46.9 % households have latrine facility within the premises. However urban rural differential is large with 81.4 per cent urban households having latrine facility in contrast to 30.7 percent rural households.

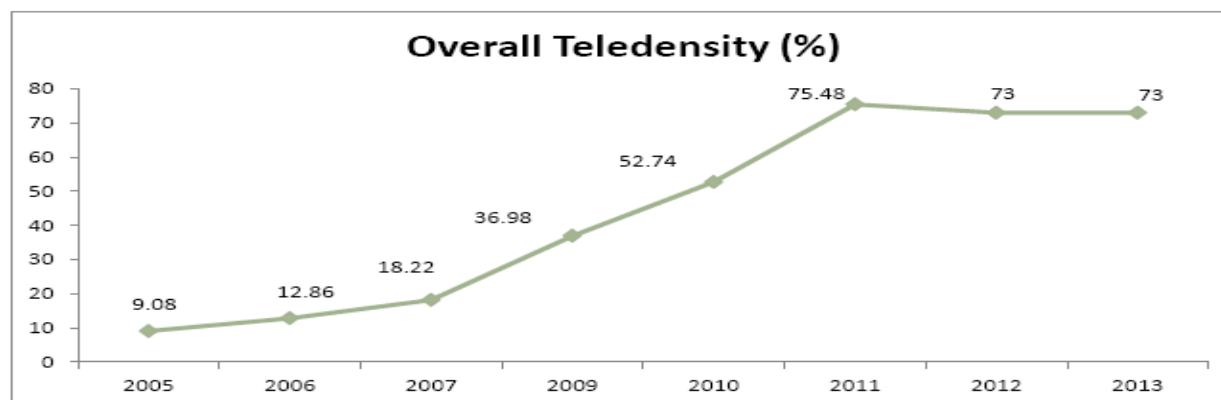
**Target 11:** By 2020 , to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

As per Census 2001, 640 towns spread over 26 States/ UTs reported existence of Slums, with 42.6 million people consisting of 8.2 million households resided in slums of these towns. The share of slum population as percentage of urban population in respect of towns/ cities reporting slums stands at 23.1% in 2001.

## Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development

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

Overall Teledensity (Number of Telephones per 100 population) shows a slight dip recently, after the substantial progress made in the past...



Source: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), latest data is as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

Important 12 <sup>th</sup> Plan Programmes addressing MDGs			
<b>Department of Agriculture and Cooperation</b>		<b>Department of Health and Family Welfare</b>	
National Food Security Mission	MDG 1	National Health Mission including NRHM	MDG 4, MDG 5
Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	MDG 1	<b>Ministry of Women and Child Development</b>	
<b>Department of Rural Development</b>		Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS)	MDG 4, MDG 5
National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGA)	MDG 1	National Mission for Empowerment of Women including Indira Gandhi Matritav Sahyog Yojana	MDG 3, MDG 5
Indira Awas Yojana	MDG 1	<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>	
National Rural Livelihood Mission	MDG 1	National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme	MDG 6
<b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation</b>		Revised National TB Control Programme	MDG 6
National Urban Livelihood Mission	MDG 1	<b>Department of AIDS Control</b>	
Rajiv Awas Yojana	MDG 1	National AIDS & STD Control Programme	MDG 6
<b>Department of School Education and Literacy</b>		<b>Ministry of Environment and Forests</b>	
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	MDG 2, MDG 3	National Afforestation Programme (National Mission for Green India)	MDG 7
National Programme Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal)	MDG 2, MDG 3	<b>Ministry of Drinking Water supply &amp; Sanitation</b>	
Rashtriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhiyan	MDG 3	National Rural Drinking Water Programme	MDG 7
<b>Department of Higher Education</b>		Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan	MDG 7
Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyan	MDG 3	<b>Ministry of Urban Development</b>	
		Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	MDG 7
		<b>Ministry of Information Technology/ Ministry of Finance</b>	
		National E Governance and Action Plan	MDG 8

### 45.4 MDG Acceleration Framework(MAF) :

45.4.1 The framework provides a systematic way for countries to develop their own action plan based on existing plans and processes to pursue their MDG priorities. It also helps governments to focus on disparities and inequalities, two of the major causes of uneven progress, by particularly responding to the needs of the vulnerable.

45.4.2 There is now a great deal of evidence about both the obstacles to MDG progress and how to overcome them. This evidence reveals that there is a range of tried and tested policies which, adapted to national contexts, will ensure MDG progress, where

there is the leadership, capacity, and funding to implement them. To accelerate MDG progress, as called for by the MDG Summit Outcome Document, this evidence must be put into practice in a concerted effort that takes us to 2015.

45.4.3 In response to this call, the UNDG has endorsed the UNDP's field-tested MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) which offers a systematic way to identifying bottlenecks to those MDGs that are lagging behind in specific countries, as well as prioritized solutions to these bottlenecks. The MAF is expected to build upon existing country knowledge and experiences, as well as policy and planning processes, and to help the development of country-level partnerships, with mutual accountability of all partners, towards the efforts needed to reach the MDGs by 2015.

45.4.4 The MAF is characterized by 4 factors:

- Responding to national/local political determination to tackle identified off-track MDGs
- Drawing upon country experiences and ongoing processes to identify and prioritize bottlenecks interfering with the implementation of key MDG interventions
- Using lessons learned to determine objective and feasible solutions for accelerating MDG progress
- Creating a partnership with identified roles for all relevant stakeholders to jointly achieve MDG progress

45.4.5 Once an MDG target making slow progress is identified by a country, the MAF suggests four systematic steps:

- (1) identification of the necessary interventions to achieve the MDG target;
- (2) identification of bottlenecks that impede the effectiveness of key interventions on the ground;
- (3) identification of high-impact and feasible solutions to prioritized bottlenecks;
- And (4) formulation of an action plan, with identified roles for all development partners, that will help realize the solutions.

45.4.6 MAF seeks to help countries in attaining their targets under MDGs .Following the demand from countries, UNDP, in collaboration with the UN System organizations, has been supporting the development of MDG accelerated Action Plans in about 37 countries covering the 2010 – 2012 period. These include countries (listed below) where MAF action plans are currently under development, as well as those where completed action plans are under implementation:

- Latin America and Caribbean: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Perú.
- Asia and Pacific: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Nepal, Lao PDR PNG, Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Africa: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, CAR, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia
- Europe and CIS: Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

- Arab States: Jordan

#### **45.5 Global Goals after 2015:**

45.5.1 With the expiration of the MDGs in 2015, the promises of the Millennium Declaration remain unrealized. Further the extent of global poverty and the slow pace of progress remains unacceptable in today's world of prosperity. The benefits of global economic integration have been as unevenly distributed since 2000 as in the previous decade — the gaps between the rich and poor within and between countries remain considerable.

45.5.2 It may be argued that global goals would not be worth setting after 2015, because the MDGs did not have adequate impact on shifting policy. Nonetheless, the MDGs have demonstrated the power of global goals and the value of comprehensive development goals in raising awareness, maintaining political support for development, and in coordinating policy debates. Without the MDGs, it is likely that the Millennium Declaration would have been shelved soon after its adoption along with numerous other decisions by the General Assembly. For these reasons, new global goals should be set to advance the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, but they need to be pursued with the institutional weight of the UN Secretary- General and with the UN investing in efforts to promote and mobilize support for them. The UN has set many global goals since the 1960s, but none has had the reach – or the investment – of the MDGs.

45.5.3 What should be in the new goals? The expiry of the MDGs in 2015 presents an opportunity to correct the deficiencies of the current list and emphasize new priorities, which are becoming clearer as the 21st century advances. It is also an opportunity to build goals consistent with their function as normative instruments to promote inclusive and equitable development, rooted in the ethical commitments of the Millennium Declaration.

45.5.4 The UN is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 development agenda as the targets under MDGs were to be achieved by 2015.

45.5.5 Following the outcome of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team in September 2011 to support UN system-wide preparations for the post-2015 UN development agenda, in consultation with all stakeholders. The Task Team is led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme and brings together senior experts from over 50 UN entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, including analytical input, expertise and outreach. The post-2015 agenda will reflect new development challenges and is linked to the outcome of “Rio+20” -- the UN Conference on Sustainable Development -- that took place in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## **45.6 MDGs - Achievements & Issues :**

45.6.1 MDGs have occupied the centre stage of world debate for over a decade & have generated unprecedented awareness and support on various issues . Amongst the **significant achievements** of MDGs are:

- The MDGs being simple, catchy and acceptable have caught the imagination of all- international community, national governments and civil society
- New Development Consensus : MDGs have been successful in evolution of 'Post Washington Consensus' bringing about rapprochement between Bretton Woods Institutions(World Bank & IMF)and United Nations.
- Building on the concept of Human Development, MDGs have helped in introducing multidimensionality of progress instead of one sided focus on economic growth.
- Outcome orientation of MDGs, focused on measuring the impacts rather than inputs inherently favors result yielding interventions .
- MDGs have been able to muster Global partnership for development with donor countries assisting in implementation of Plans set out by developing/underdeveloped countries. The extent of commitment shown by international community and individual countries has been unprecedented.

### **45.6.2 Issues related to MDGs:**

- Minimum Development Goals : some argue that MDGs were not aimed at accelerating the pace of development and have termed it as minimum development goals adding that lowering it any further would not have been acceptable. Also it had little for countries placed favourably and many countries achieved the goals in span of 10-15 years.
- Too narrow concept of development : Despite shifting the focus away from one dimensional economic growth to that incorporating social and environmental dimensions as well, MDGs still left many areas un traversed. Indicators for political deprivation (lack of human and civil rights, means of participation, rule of law, or administrative transparency), social deprivation (marginalisation of social groups, insufficient cohesion and unifying forces in society), or vulnerability (lack of social protection) were not included and issues like distributional equality , employment generation, human rights, etc were also not adequately reflected.
- They have been a fundamental framework for global development and their progress shows the power of global goals and a shared purpose. A clear agenda, with measurable goals and targets, and a common vision has been crucial for this success.
- Goals without a theory : Multiple & diverse goals identified under MDGs were articulated differently (proportional targets like reduction by half, absolute targets like universal attainment and expressions of intent like in case of global partnership ) and were apparently linked by concept of human development but they lacked any sound framework /theoretical underpinning. For this reason, the MDGs were vulnerable to focus mostly on those specific concerns that were raised by aid agencies. (Explicit grounding in development theory was



consciously avoided to eliminate any opposition on the grounds of differences with the theory ).

- Neglect of process dimension : MDGs specify an outcome but do not set out the process which would make it possible to realize the objectives. In other words, the MDGs specify a destination but do not chart the journey. Consequently MDGs may be regarded , by countries, in isolation, with measures designed to implement them being taken only in the most obvious sectors neglecting the multi causalities which may in turn affect the outcome. But , since 'one size fits all' policy prescriptions would be equally ineffective a set of linkages , based on diverse experiences, could have been included at best. Further, merely counting countries that have achieved/missed may not reveal the reasons as to why the countries could/could not achieve the targets. However, presently, MAF may be a step ahead in this direction.
- MDGs were stipulated without any reference to initial conditions, but where a country gets to, in any given time horizon, depends at least, in part, on where it starts out from. Goals aiming to reduce incidences in proportion like reducing proportion of people living in poverty by one-half, much depend on initial level (i.e. whether it was 60 per cent or 20 per cent.) Consequently, targets may be set too high for some and too low for others. The levels set under MDGs are unrealistic for many countries (Clemens and others 2007) and biased against countries with low starting points (Clemens and others 2007; Easterly 2009; Fukuda-Parr forthcoming).
- The MDGs are set out in terms of aggregates or averages which often conceal as much as they reveal because there is no reference to distributional outcomes. It is essential to disaggregate outcomes so as to reveal rather than conceal distributional realities
- Quantity at the Expense of Quality: while the countries try to meet the quantified targets, there is risk of compromising /neglecting the dimension of quality e.g. more enrolment may be achieved without adequate attention to the quality of education.
- Optimizing inputs at the expense of efficiency: International debate on MDGs has been focused on inputs ( e.g how much will to ODA have to be increased if the target is to be met etc) whereas efficient use of funds, absorptive capacity of the country, administrative and organizational capacities of their institutions etc might be equally important.
- Short term planning & distortion of national priorities : Too much focus on 2015 , based on ODA, might not be sustainable on its own in the long run. Donorcentric view of development with disproportionate emphasis on the importance of external financing in the pursuit of MDGs, has also tended to shift the focus of attention away from national governments to the international community. But success or failure in the pursuit of MDGs depends largely upon what happens within countries, where governments are both responsible and accountable for outcomes. While the outcome-focused approach of the MDGs helped to avoid some of the pitfalls of a descriptive development theory, their success with the donor community did lead to a neglect of issues that were not explicitly mentioned in the MDGs. As a result 'perverse' game ensued where all



development efforts by donors had to be mapped onto one or more of the goals. Further, Progress in achieving the MDGs is not a guarantee for broad-based social development. At the beginning of 2011, various Arab regimes were toppled by populations that not only asked for more democracy, but perhaps even more importantly, for good jobs and the prospect of advancement in life for their youth. Yet this turmoil took place in countries that scored very high on progress indices of the Millennium Development Goals.

- Insufficient underpinning of the ideas of sustainability : The issue of sustainability has been shunted to the back ground in the MDGs which are dominated by social and economic targets. It is at least equally important to ensure that the idea of sustainability, with all its ecological and economic aspects, is firmly entrenched as an action-guiding (i.e. crosscutting) principle in all fields of development policy.
- Measurement issues: Targets that are set out as statements of intentions (Goal 8) mean different things to different people and are exceedingly difficult to monitor. In some countries and for some indicators, statistics are not good enough. In other countries and for other indicators, statistics are difficult to find.
- Misunderstanding: Global MDG targets are often used as a scale for assessing the performance of different regions or specific countries. But the MDGs were meant to be collective targets for the world as a whole which did not have to be reached by every country. In fact, countries were meant to contextualize the MDGs in terms of initial conditions and national priorities.

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