

UNCT Bangladesh Vision for the 2012 UNDAF

The UNCT in Bangladesh envisages a vibrant and robust UNDAF for 2012-2016 that aligns its work with pressing national priorities (as defined in the PRSP, 5 Year Plan and the Vision 2021 – under the Awami League’s Election Manifesto) and the UN system’s comparative advantages.

Purpose: The purpose of the new UNDAF is to give a final and urgent push towards the achievement of the MDGs by its 2015 target year. The UNDAF will thus be to both demystify what the UN system plans to achieve, as well as how it envisions achieving collective results linked to the MDGs. It will therefore address both substance and process. The 2012 UNDAF will capture the UN’s normative and operational work by defining quantifiable/measurable and relevant objectives, and will contain an indicative, rolling workplan that will be updated annually through national consultations. The UNDAF will also describe how the UN system plans to work together in areas of common concern, and which agencies will take lead facilitation roles.

Focus: The next UNDAF will summarise how the UN system in Bangladesh intends to support the Government of Bangladesh in achieving the national objectives as identified in PRSP. The PRSP describes the macroeconomic, structural and social policies to be implemented in Bangladesh with the ultimate aim of eradicating poverty and is an operationalization of the Government’s Five Year Plan (2010 – 2015). These in turn will feed into longer term national priorities targets as defined in the Vision 2021. The UNDAF will also capture how it plans to strengthen its coordination mechanisms so that it feeds into processes such as the GoB/Development Partners’ Joint Cooperation Strategy. As the next UNDAF timeframe corresponds to the final years of the MDG goals, it will focus on high priority interventions required to achieve the MDG targets by 2015. A few other pressing issues of national importance, such as climate change and migration, will also be included. To ensure an effective regular monitoring of the UNDAF priority interventions, the UNDAF objectives and indicators will be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) defined. As some MDG targets are being achieved faster in some parts of the country, the new UNDAF will include geographic focus where relevant to accelerate progress across-the-board.

Process: The UNDAF formulation process will include all resident and non-resident UN agencies. It will start with a set of meetings to review the status of MDG achievements, lagging areas and priority actions to reach the goals by 2015. UN agencies will work with relevant government ministries to jointly prepare and hold these MDG meetings, with participation from government, civil society and development partners (see attached TOR for these groups). These national discussions will inform the selection of focus areas for the next UNDAF. UNDAF focus areas will be identified in close consultation with the government and will form the basis for inter-agency working groups that will determine the appropriate UNDAF results indicators (outcome level) for the UNDAF, the indicators for the rolling annual workplans, the opportunities for closer inter-agency programming, and joint monitoring of results. The groups will also collectively reconstitute the results of all participating UN agencies on an annual basis with government.

Roadmap: The road map for formulating the UNDAF is attached. It articulates the roles and responsibilities of the UNCT members to work together to finalize the UNDAF by December 2010. Activities in 2011 will focus on activating agreed thematic groups and moving forward with agency programming as endorsed by governing bodies. The UNDAF implementation will commence on 1 January 2012.

National MDG Dialogues
UN Terms of Reference
January 2010

- 1. Background:** To complement national planning instruments (PRSP, 5 Year Plan) already in place and given the 2015 MDG deadline, the UNCT wishes to focus its UNDAF analysis by holding national MDG dialogues. The dialogues will be facilitated by specific UN agencies, in close consultation with relevant government ministries, and will include the participation of civil society, development partners and the private sector (where applicable). The dialogues will document the status of Bangladesh's achievement of the MDGs, with particular emphasis on lagging MDGs, including the identification of key bottlenecks constraining progress on specific MDG targets. The MDG National Dialogues will also assess the implications of the impact of the economic crisis and climate change on MDG progress as well as assess good practices examples that accelerate MDG progress and their replicability. The National Dialogues should to the extent possible include reliable and MDG-related trends and inequality analyses.
- 2. Composition:** The following working groups, with agreed coordinating/convening agency in parenthesis, were agreed by the UNCT:

 - Millennium Declaration: Governance and human rights (UNDP)
 - MDG 1: food security (WFP) and poverty, including urban poverty (UNDP)
 - MDG2: universal primary education (UNICEF)
 - MDG3: gender equality and women's empowerment (UNFPA)
 - MDG4: child mortality reduction (UNICEF)
 - MDG5: maternal health (UNFPA)
 - MDG6: HIV/AIDS (HIV/AIDS) and Tuberculosis, Malaria (WHO)
 - MDG7: Water & Sanitation (UNICEF) and (Environment/Climate Change/Disaster Management (UNDP)
 - MDG8: ODA, trade and tariffs (UNDP), target 16 - *develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth* - merged with MDG 1 and Target 17 - *Access to affordable essential drugs* - merged with MDG 4, 5 and 6.
 - Migration: (IOM)
- 3. Role of coordinating/convening UN agency:** The coordinating/convening UN agency's representative will prepare the national dialogue in close consultation with government. The coordinating/convening agency will call together the relevant GoB ministries, UN agencies, development partners, national experts and other relevant participants to contribute to the analysis of the respective MDGs. The analysis should reflect the latest and most reliable information currently available. The coordinating/convening agency will ensure that non-resident agencies which could significantly contribute to the analysis are called into the discussion as needed. The coordinating/convening agency is responsible for compiling information/analyses generated by the group, addressing any emerging issues with participating agencies, and completing the final assessment for the UNCT (see attached template)
- 4. Role of participating agencies:** The participating agencies will ensure that their participation is consistent (same staff member) and regular (attend all meetings). The participating agency representative must ensure that s/he receives feedback from all groups and that the staff member attending meetings is empowered to make decisions/contributions on the agency's behalf. Any emerging issues from the group can be discussed between the participating agency's representative and the convening/coordinating representative if needed.

5. **Organization of the MDG National Dialogues:** The Working Groups should complete the analysis by early April. The RC will schedule a UNCT meeting to collectively finalize and endorse the material for the MDG dialogues. The dialogues will be scheduled in close consultation with the relevant ministries, one of which should be a lead ministry that can also co-chair the dialogue. Presentations at the dialogue from civil society luminaries should be a centre piece.

Template of Report from the National MDG Dialogue

Each working group must produce a 5-7 page analysis in single space Calibri 11, and formatted as follows:

Section One: Scope (1-2 paras)

This section should outline the scope of analysis (i.e. the MDG target area concerned plus other related national priorities to be included).

Section Two: Trends (1 page)

This section should trace the long and shorter term trends and zero in on the areas in which Bangladesh is lagging. This section should thus seek to spell out key bottlenecks constraining progress on specific MDG targets and the implication of the impact of the economic crisis and climate change on MDG progress.

Section Three: Analysis of areas where more effort is required to reach the targets (3 pages)

Description of evidence-based findings with references (annexed if needed). Where applicable, this section should include good practices examples that accelerate MDG progress and their replicability

Section Four: UN response (annex)

Identification of priority areas where UN agencies need to place greater emphasis (to be used to inform the UNDAF formulation)

Annexes

- reference documents
- list of participating partners in the national dialogue
- tables and charts to substantiate the analysis as required.