

FINAL REPORT
UNDAF Pre-Prioritization Meeting
24 June 2010

1. Overview

The UNCT convened a half-day UNDAF pre-prioritization meeting on 24 June to discuss and agree on priority areas for Bangladesh's next UNDAF (2012). Results from the MDG national dialogues were presented by MDG focal points for consideration by the UNCT as inputs to the UNDAF (2012) priority areas. The pre-prioritization meeting's primary objective was to allow the UNCT to consider MDG results to agree on potential areas for UN system collaboration and specifically, potential areas where the UN system should provide a collective push to assist the GoB with accelerating achievement of the Millennium Declaration and MDG goals and targets. Specifically, the half-day meeting will identify potential areas for UN system collaboration and priority areas for the new UNDAF (2012).

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Arthur Erken, UN Resident Coordinator Ad Interim and UNFPA Representative. UN agency participation at the meeting included: UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNIFEM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, FAO, UNIDO, WHO, UNODC, WHO and IOM.

2. Review of MDGs Status and Bottlenecks

Presentations were given by the UN system's MDG focal points on each on each of the MDGs 1-8 and the Millennium Declaration with migration issues incorporated in MDGs 1 and 8. The presentations focused on four key areas:

1. Update on the status, progress and trends towards achievement of the MDG goals, targets and indicators.
2. Gap analysis identifying bottlenecks and challenges
3. Way forward and priority actions required
4. UN system contributions and interventions

Copies of the presentations will be disseminated by the RC Office shortly. The key points following the MDG presentations are highlighted below:

MDG 1A: Poverty

- Poverty reduction should focus on the mitigation of inequalities and a thorough analysis of income quintiles and poverty trends should be undertaken.
- Inadequacies of social safety nets should be addressed.
- Pro-poor economic growth through employment and jobs/livelihood creation should be further analyzed and highlighted.

MDG 1B: Hunger

- The reality of increased demand for food to feed growing population as a growing dimension of poverty requires further analysis.

- Food security is closely tied to agricultural sustainability and access to livelihoods with a further link to environment, climate change and climate induced migrants and displaced.
- Analyses should also look into effects on different vulnerable groups and regions.
- Analyses of hunger/food issues should include a close look at micro-nutrient supplements.

MDG 1: Overall

- MDG 1 is closely linked to several other MDGs, for example, poverty, education, environment/climate change. Further analysis should address these linkages.
- MDG 1 analyses should explore the linkages between food security, agricultural development, land and natural resource management and pro-poor employment generation.
- UN system interventions under MDG 1 will need to target specific regions and groups, with policies at the national level. It will also need to systematically draw from lessons of what has worked in the past, particularly in four core areas:
 1. Support to policy development and technology transfer in food and agriculture.
 2. Reforms and rationalization of the social safety net programmes.
 3. Provide sector approach to ensure food security.
 4. Capacity development to GoB.

MDG 2: Education

- Quality and access to education services is an underlying challenge. With gains made in primary school enrollment, keeping children in schools (particularly girls) will require strong attention. Analysis and advocacy should address the need to justify an “immediate return on investment”, when trends demonstrate that particularly in response to crisis, children are pulled out of school and made to work (leading to low survival and high drop-out rates).
- Overall efforts will need to strengthen the educational system, and focus on reducing disparities in rural/urban education, particularly in the slums (linked to youth and unemployment).
- UN contributions as “Education Plus” which requires a comprehensive look at education. The framework and quality of formal education at all levels should be reviewed closely with vocational training/non-formal education to improve employability and income generation.
- Focus on gender disparities is critical for overcoming bottlenecks in achieving targets in education. The gender dimensions of tertiary education (e.g. large drop-out rates impact on trends on early marriage and fertility). Support to national education policy and strengthening of the sector, will also need to address decentralization and planning.
- Linkages between education, urbanization, migration, and jobs/livelihood should be explored and addressed in new UNDAF.

- A multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to education is needed, with clear links to natural disaster risk response mechanisms.

MDG 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- Wide consensus that addressing the challenges and bottlenecks in MDG 3 impact widely on progress for all other MDGs.
- Gaps are consistent with key bottlenecks for women, including access to education linked to reduced/limited opportunities for participation in economic (non-agricultural wage employment) and political activities.
- Underlying socio-cultural factors exacerbate the problems, including harmful practices (early marriage, dowry, etc) and violence against women. Institutional mechanisms are inadequate, with weak leadership of women and lack of effective plans to address gender equality and mainstreaming.
- Issues of violence against women are linked to the rapid changes and transformation of Bangladeshi society and the shifting role of women.
- UN system contributions should address gender as a cross-cutting issue, linking with education and employment, including promoting counting of women's work in the non-agricultural sector.
- More reliable data is needed and further analysis should be undertaken, particularly in the contributions of women in the informal sector to better provide legal protection of women's rights and assets.
- UN system should support a broad focus on women's empowerment through education, employment and politics.
- Rural/urban dimensions of gender are an important factor that should be further explored.
- As a first step, UN agencies should ensure that its own programmes have adequately mainstreamed gender concerns.
- UN system should strengthen advocacy aimed at changing underlying societal and institutional norms, as well as incentives. Social change cannot be achieved through laws alone and further analysis should keep this in mind.
- **Note:** A suggestion was made to revisit the assignment of a lead/convening agency role on gender. The **RC Office should assist with drafting criteria for lead/convening agency.**

MDGs 4-6: Child Mortality, Maternal Health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

- Economic inequity is an important social determinant for child mortality. Additional dimensions of regional disparities (disaster prone areas) and urban/rural impact on this MDG as well, where highest child mortality recorded in slums.
- Drowning has emerged as a leading cause of child mortality and this should be addressed urgently.
- Low public expenditure on health is part of the inadequacies of the social safety net system for the poor.

- UN interventions should focus on strengthening the quality and capacity of health systems, prioritizing the delivery of health care services, including intensifying service provision in low performing and hard to reach areas. Promoting demand for services and capacity to delivery will need to be addressed.
- Private-public partnerships in service delivery need to be further explored.
- Enhancing programme management capacity for preventing and managing HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and other communicable diseases.
- Improvements in the current health system is urgently required including:
 - Decentralization in health systems and financing
 - Alternative models for health care, including access and utilization
 - Evidence and performance-based budgeting, and decentralized resource allocation (considering geographic inequality)
 - Consideration of strengthening capacity and increasing supply of nurses and midwives
 - Harmonization and collaboration of human resource planning for all appropriate health care providers including task shifting where needed and monitoring for quality and accessibility of services
 - Models to address human resource constraints
 - Management of information systems – local data collection, analysis and planning
 - Procurement and logistics management
 - Leadership and governance – decentralized management authority, public-private models ineffective, weak inter/intra-ministerial coordination and collaboration
 - Addressing social determinants of early marriages, inequality and gender
 - Closing the gap between communicable / non communicable disease surveillance and programme operations
 - Models to mainstream non communicable disease control in policy, advocacy and service delivery addressing risk factors such as road traffic accidents and tobacco use
- UN interventions should include a 'life-cycle' approach, focusing on high priority districts and improving delivery of services as well as developing capacities of partners. Resource allocation and decentralization are important components that need to be addressed when providing a health sector approach, including laws, policies and strategies.
- Knowledge management (research/analysis) is a critical area where the UN system can add-value.
- All targets for MDG 5 are noted as off-track and this is a serious challenge with too many women still dying from lack of access to health services and care.
- Overall consensus that in the area of maternal health, the UN system has the required knowledge, capacity and resources to address problems/issues comprehensively. This expertise should be further enhanced collectively to maximize impact in this area: a 'Marshall Plan' for MMR!
- On HIV/AIDS, there was a strong call for more reliable data and analysis, advocacy, as well as leadership. Danger of complacency is very real.

- HIV/AIDS service delivery is currently weak with help not adequately reaching those most at risk. Despite massive influx of funding, too little is being done.
- For malaria control: quality diagnosis and treatment for the vulnerable groups (<5 yr children and pregnant women) in hard-to-reach areas; and adequate coverage by effective means of malaria prevention (Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets-LLIN) in three Hill Districts in particular.
- Better incentives should be put in place, including working with media to communicate urgent issues to policy makers.
- Coordination and joint planning for the health partners (UN, INGO, NGO, Donor) in emergency situation through Health Cluster is very important as this guides and maintains active coordination among UN-DER group members and the government health sector. This has significant impact on the mortality and disability reduction.
- Access to health services for migrants and their physical, psychological well being is an issue that would need greater recognition and implementation strategies in the near future.

1. MDG 7: Environment

- Key challenges revolve around pollution, illegal land use and land 'grabbing'.
- Comprehensive vision and long term solutions required with strong links to poverty reduction.
- Integrated land, water and natural resources management, as well as sustainable energy policies should be viewed alongside pro-poor economic growth plans and models (e.g. land use planning and zoning and removing anti-poor lease laws).
- Overlaps in policies and institutional mandates and the challenge of inadequate resources should be addressed through:
 - Climate resilient development, integrating decentralization in poverty-environment nexus.
 - Green growth focusing on pro-poor access to clean energy and low carbon emissions.
- While UNDP is currently leading in the area of environment and climate change, greater inter-agency efforts are needed/possible.
- Environment, climate change and disaster are strongly linked and more efforts are required to reduce loss of livelihoods.
- 'Climate change' is currently a popular buzz-word or 'fad' and it should be recognized that climate change is but one dimension of environment issues.
- Further analysis of the link between climate change and displacement/migration is needed, leading to policy response and interventions.
- Gender dimensions of migration due to climate change should be addressed.
- Population growth and dependence/pressure on natural resources exploitation (increasing pressures on water, forests and fisheries) is a key challenge in MDG 7.

MDG 7: Water and Sanitation

- Gaps include weak institutional capacities and lack of coordination (policies and implementation frequently not adequately linked) impacting on service delivery.
- Effective responses are rooted in sector wide approaches tied to stronger local governance, with specific attention to capacity development, accountability and financing.
- Access to safe drinking water is an increasingly important issue. Further, maintenance of safety of water from recontamination within the supply system and up to the point of consumption is major concern. Investments thus are required to strengthen the resilience of water systems, implementing the Water Safety Plan, safeguarding from natural disasters, arsenic, etc. and enforcing strict national standards.
- General consensus on the need for further analysis (including clarity on definitions of indicators and targets) on access to safe water linked to population pressures
- UN system will increasingly need to anticipate future challenges related to water issues, in particular, trans-boundary dimensions.

MDG 8: Global Partnership

- No international targets set for MDG 8. The goals and targets are essentially viewed as primarily the responsibility of developed countries vis-à-vis developing countries.
- Gaps center on international resource flows via ODA and FDI, which are currently on a downward trend given the global economic crisis.
- Supply side constraints also hamper progress in this area, concerning infrastructure, policies that limit competitiveness, as well as access to international markets for goods and services.
- UN system interventions should focus on effective utilization of aid to deliver development effectiveness (including coming together through joint cooperation strategy) and in promoting pro-poor trade and investment policies and programmes.
- UN system interventions could support a more dynamic agriculture sector, which is able to make better use remittances.
- Mapping of the UN system's normative role and efforts to promote pro-poor trade is an area where the UN system can collectively add-value.

Millennium Declaration

- The issue of democratic governance is vital for the UN system and for achievement of the MDG goals and targets overall.
- Bottlenecks are primarily due to corruption and the concentration of power in hands of few, lack of capacity to deliver services, dysfunctional justice system and shrinking democratic space.
- Solutions need to support national priorities, including: strengthening checks and balances, improving local governance through decentralization, reforming civil service, establishing rule of law and ensuring gender equality.

- UN system contributions should focus on deepening democracy (institutions and space), transparent, accountable, effective and equitable public service delivery, and access to justice and human rights.
- The role of media and civil society is critical for achieving solutions proposed.
- UN system's capacity to be a strong voice on human rights should be reviewed and enhanced.
- Further analysis should include gender disaggregation, particularly on assessing pockets of poverty (rural, urban, landless).

Common Issues Underlying Discussions on the Review of MDGs

- Mitigation of inequities and gender are important, recurring themes across MDG results.
- UN system interventions should address disparities: urban/rural; regional and districts, etc.
- Timeline considerations: immediate ('final push') and long term ('anticipatory').
- Analyses should build on progress and lessons-learned.
- The 'final push' towards 2015 (e.g. MMR, IMR, MDG 1) vs. medium and long-term (e.g. eco-system).
- More reliable data required across all MDGs.

3. Potential Areas for UN Collaboration

1. Pro-poor economic growth: social safety nets and employment
2. Food security and nutrition
3. Education plus: slums/urban, quality
4. Women: politics, education, employment
5. Health: maternal and newborn health
6. HIV/AIDS: advocacy, data and leadership
7. Environment: climate change resilient development, green growth
8. Water and sanitation: sector wide programme, dual approach (eco-systems approach and delivery), trans-boundary issues
9. Development effectiveness and Trade/Investments
10. Democratic governance and human rights
11. Disaster risk reduction

4. Next Steps: Now to SPR in August

- Pre-prioritization summary to be circulated to the UNCT by 28 June 2010 to facilitate further reflection (how to cluster, alignment with national priorities, etc). Suggestions include matrix presented by UNICEF
- UNDAF Strategic Prioritization Retreat (SPR) to be conducted the week of 22 August 2010.
- MDG national dialogue reports to be consolidated into one MDG country report to serve as country analysis.

- Preparatory analyses by UN Deputy Representatives will move forward to review/assess:
 1. Common CPAPs/UNDAF Action Plan
 2. UNCT comparative advantage: SWOT analysis
 3. Validation of MDG Country Report as country analysis (replacing need for CCA)

- UNDAF evaluation on process and annual review of results to be completed by the time of the strategic planning retreat (SPR) and will also feed into the new UNDAF exercise.

ANNEX: AGENDA

Topic	Responsible	Time
Opening remarks & objectives	Arthur Erken / RC a.i.	08:30 – 08:40
Presentations on MDG Gap Analysis		
MDG 1A: Poverty	K. Morshed / UNDP	08:40 – 09:00
MDG 1B: Hunger	Nusha Choudhury / WFP	09:00 – 09:20
MDG 2: Education	Nabendra Dahal / UNICEF	09:20 – 09:45
MDG 3: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	Noor Mohammad / UNFPA	09:45 – 10:10
MDG 4: Child Mortality	Midori Sato / UNICEF	10:10 – 10:25
MDG 5: Maternal Health	Hashina Begum / UNFPA	10:25 – 10:40
MDG 6A: HIV/AIDS	Rokhsana Reza / UNAIDS	10:40 – 10:50
MDG 6B: Malaria and Other Diseases	Arif Khan / WHO	10:50 – 11:00
MDG 7A: Environment	Mamunul Khan / UNDP	11:00 – 11:20
MDG 7B: Water and Sanitation	Hans Sprujit / UNICEF	11:20 – 11:40
MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership	K. Morshed / UNDP	11:40 – 12:05
Millennium Declaration	Peter Stringer / UNDP	12:05 – 12:30
Coffee break		12:30 – 12:40
Summary / Recap: areas for potential collaboration: moderated discussion	UNCT	12:40 – 01:40
Wrap-up / Next steps	UNDG Asia-Pacific	01:40 – 02:00
Lunch		02:00