

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON PUBLIC  
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MAINSTREAMING POVERTY REDUCTION  
STRATEGIES WITHIN THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs):  
THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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# STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Why MDG is so important?
2. In what way MDG is unique?
3. The MDG Targets, Issues and Imperatives
4. The implications of MDG for Public Administration
5. What role can DPADM/DESA play in MDG Capacity-Building

## Why MDGs are so important?

- It has the endorsement of world leaders
- The Goals are results-oriented and not input or sectorally-based
- The Goals are appealing (extreme poverty cut in half; all children in school; infant, child and maternal mortality to be greatly reduced)
- Goals are achievable (many believe)

## **The Key Challenges leading to MDGs:**

- **Abject poverty: 1 billion in poverty**
- **War and violence**
- **Environment**
- **Collective and mutually appreciative initiatives needed**

## **These Challenges led to MDGs, which also added three more goals:**

- **Human rights, democracy and good governance**
- **Protecting the vulnerable from natural and man-made disasters**
- **Meeting special needs of Africa**

# THE MDGs TARGETS

8 Goals, 18 Targets and 48 Indicators

## The 8 Goals (1990-2015)

- Halve the proportion of extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, etc.
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop global partnership for resource mobilization

## IN WHAT WAY MDGs ARE UNIQUE?

MDGs are underpinned by social/poverty objectives –

- ❖ 7 Goals are poverty/socially-oriented and linked to 11 targets
- ❖ The 8<sup>th</sup> Goal – ‘Partnership in Development’ concerns
  - international resource for development; and
  - greater opportunities for developing countries in the global economy

There are, however, questions asked about the utility of some of the indicators or targets: for example, school enrolment rate is no guarantee for quality of education, etc.

# ELEMENTS THAT ARE KEY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MDGs

- Enabling policy environment
  - Suitable institutional framework with technical and partnership capabilities
  - Improvement in service delivery
  - More money\*
- \* Many argue that money is the least important of all the elements  
This has implication for Public Administration, the MDG mentor

# MDG Targets and Imperatives

## Goal 1: Reduce Income Poverty & Hunger

**\*TARGET - Reduce abject poverty by half by 2015**

### ISSUES:

- Economic growth is key, but not the only factor
- South East Asia grew at a rate of 6% annually between 1990-1999 and reduced poverty from 28% to 14% (50% reduction)
- South Asia grew by 4% and reduced poverty more slowly, 2% per annum
- In Eastern Europe, poverty increased by 9% annually, though per capita GDP fell at a much slower rate
- Slow growth in Sub-Saharan had no impact on poverty

### IMPERATIVE:

- ◆ Policy with regard to income distribution, employment, etc.



# MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

## Goal 2: Universal Primary Education

\*TARGET - Reach Universal Primary Education enrollment by 2015

### ISSUES:

- Enrollment rate is an important indicator of progress but not a sufficient one
- Quality of education is an issue not given much attention
- Completion rate is more important than enrollment rate
- Measuring net enrollment is a problem
- More public expenditure does not automatically contribute either to increased enrollment or to improved quality

### IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ Appropriate policy package and resources
- ◆ Improved measurement
- ◆ Improved management: The role of State?

# MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

## Goal 3: Gender Equality

**\*TARGET** - Equal enrollment rates for boys and girls, at primary level by 2005; at secondary by 2015

### ISSUES:

- Many countries have either reduced or eliminated disparity between boys and girls in net enrollment rates
- Girls' enrollment rates are lowest in lowest enrollment rate countries
- Improving girls' enrollment rates involve overcoming social and economic barriers, though "higher income" on its own has little significance

### IMPERATIVE:

- ◆ Consistent economic growth and focused policy

# MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

## Goal 4 & 5: Infant, Child and Maternal Mortality

**\*TARGET-** To reduce child and maternal mortality rates by two-thirds by 2015

### ISSUES:

- Ambitious target
- Child mortality is falling except in Sub-Sahara Africa
- Though low-income countries are reducing child mortality at slower rate, two low-income countries, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, reduced child mortality significantly
- Maternal mortality is difficult to measure and the data are limited
- Maternal mortality is often a reflection of quality of medical system in a country

### IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ Suitable policy package and proper prioritization contribute to these goals, even in low income countries
- ◆ Greater effort needed to capture data on maternal mortality

## MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

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

\*TARGET- Eradicate HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases

#### ISSUES:

- Data on communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS are either incomplete or irregular
- Successful prevention program in country like Uganda has helped reduce the infection rates of HIV/AIDS.

#### IMPERATIVE:

- ◆ Focused government policy backed up by resources, the right strategy

# MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

## Goal 7: Environmental Sustainability

### \*TARGETS

- Integration of principles of sustainable development
- Providing access to water to all by 2025
- Provide improved water and sanitation and land tenure to urban slum dwellers

### ISSUES:

- The targets are somewhat vague and esoteric
- Issues are country specific

### IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ Mainstreaming of SD concept within the development management and value processes
- ◆ Clear policies and strategies on water and urban poor

# MDG Targets and Imperatives (cont'd)

## Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership

### \*TARGETS

- Doubling of aid-flow to \$40-\$70 billion per year
- Better trade deals

### ISSUES:

- Possibilities of securing additional aid resources do not look good
- Agricultural subsidies and continued protection provided by some developed countries render improved trade deal a slow moving accomplishment
- More efforts needed for improved trade deal/debt service

### IMPERATIVES:

- ◆ More internal savings, more domestic resource mobilization and increased cost-effectiveness in public expenditure
- ◆ Continuous dialoguing to enhance international resource flow
- ◆ DFI

# The Overall Imperatives of MDGs and the Implications for the Public Administration

## OVERALL IMPERATIVES

- MDGs are a complex package of goals and targets requiring great deal of harmonization, re-organization and re-orientation.
- In terms of goals and targets, a clear bias towards social development goals is perceived, stressing the need for a social or “pro-poor” orientation to all aspects of development management – the strategies, tools and techniques
- Need for great deal of data gathering, analyses, policy advice, integrated implementation, followed by results oriented monitoring

## Overall Imperatives...cont'd.

- New options, strategies and tools are needed on the one hand, to generate more resources internally and on the other, making more efficient use of existing resources (making the \$ go further concept!)
- Continuous dialoguing at the international level for enhanced resource mobilization, debt relief, improved trade deals and DFIs



# Implications for Public Administration

- A value or culture shift from sector-oriented planning to socially-oriented goal-based planning; from over-emphasis of macro-economic stabilization to pro-poor policies
- Internal re-alignment of institutions for better connectivity to work to a whole, and not to a piece or a set of pieces
- A more engaging governance arrangement to allow the civil society organizations, the private sector and the community to participate more fully at the policy processes of the Government

## Implications for Public Administration (cont'd.)

- Finding means, options and technologies to harness more the resources at the national level – improved taxation, etc.
- Find tools, techniques and methodologies to maximize returns on invested resources/public programmes
- Engage people into the monitoring process to ensure quality in service delivery – “the score-card” system, etc.
- Build capacity of the public sector staff in analytical and policy advising work
- Create an incentive structure that can attract the best talents to the public sector
- Protect civil service from the process of politicisation/political interferences

# What DESA can do?

Through its networking, advisory services and TC interventions DESA can:

- Provide technical cooperation assistance to build government capacities in MDG mainstreaming, planning and monitoring
- Offer upstream policy advice and strategies for ‘engaged governance’ as a process to achieve MDG
- Introduce new tools and techniques to help formulating pro-poor macro-economic policies; budgeting; audit, etc.