Regional Cooperation to Support MDG Achievements

South Asia

SAMAN KELEGAMA Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

UNESCAP /ADB/UNDP Conference on MDGs in SSWA, 18 February 2012

Outline

- MDG Achievements where we stand
- Goal-by-Goal Situation
- Regional Initiatives
- Regional Limitations
- Case for Regional Cooperation
- Areas for Strengthening Cooperation
- Conclusion & Way Forward

MDG Achievements - where we stand

- More than a decade since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, progress towards MDGs in SA has been mixed across countries
- High growth rates have contributed to a reduction in income poverty levels & improvements in literacy, health & access to basic amenities
- However, the SSWA subregion is still "off track" in 9 out of 21 MDG indicators measured, including underweight children, infant & maternal health, CO2 emissions, forest cover & basic sanitation
- Rises in income inequalities & regional disparities during periods of rapid economic growth is a major concern
- The global economic & food-fuel crises have also placed substantial strain on the region's progress towards MDGs
- Regional challenges present an opportunity to refocus policy attention in harnessing the full potential of regional cooperation to achieve MDGs

MDG Progress in SSWA Countries

Soal		1		2			3			4		5		6			7				
	\$1.25 per day poverty	Underweight children	Primary enrolment	Reaching last grade	Primary completion	Gender primary	Gender secondary	Gender tertiary	Under-5 mortality	Infant mortality	Skilled birth attendance	Antenatal care (2 1 visit)	HIV prevalence	TB incidence	TB prevalence	Forest cover	Protected area	CO2 emissions	ODP substance consumption	Safe drinking water	Basic sanitation
Afghanistan							-		-		-	4		>	•	-	•	-	•	•	
Bangladesh	-	>	-		-	•	•			•	-		>	>	•	-	0	-	•		
Bhutan					-	•	•				>	•	•	٠	•	•	•	-	•		
India			•		-	•							•	►	•	•	•	-	•		
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)		•	•		•	•	•	•	>		٠	•	4	•	•	>	0	-	0		1
Maldives			•		•	4	•		•	٠	-		>	•	•	•		-	•		<
Nepal		-			-	>	-		►	•		-	>	►	-	-	•	•	•	•	
Pakistan		-			-	•	>				-	-	>	•	•	-	•	-	•		
Sri Lanka			•		•	•	•					9	>	•	•		•	4	•	•	<
Turkey				4		•	-		•	•		1		•			•				

Source: ESCAP/ADB/UNDP, 2010/11, based on United Nations MDG Database

Goal-by-Goal Situation

- **MDG1**: Progress in reducing income poverty pc income increases of around 6% but hunger is a persistent issue 1 in 6 malnourished & 1 in 3 children underweight
- **MDG2**: Primary net enrollment ratios rising on average, but still low in Pakistan (66%) & Nepal (74%)
- **MDG3**: High gender equality in primary school enrollment, but low for secondary & especially tertiary enrollment
- **MDGs4,5&6**: Health-related MDGs have improved but more needs to be done to reach 2015 targets:
 - Decline in infant & maternal mortality rates, but no. of births attended by skilled professionals still low – Bangladesh, India & Pakistan record lowest %s of births preceded by antenatal care in AP region
 - Good progress in reducing both death and incidence for TB
- **MDG**7: A source of concern:
 - PC emissions of CO2 rising & all countries except Nepal showing no progress
 - Deforestation a major threat
 - Sanitation facilities poor in rural areas

Goal-by-Goal Situation Cont. MDG8

ICT Indicators in SSWA: 2010 Debt Service as a % of Exports in SSWA: 2000 & 2009 (per 100 population) 180 Afghanistan 160 Bangladesh 140 India 120 Iran 100 Maldives 80 60 Nepal 40 Pakistan 20 Sri Lanka 0 Baneladesh Megnanistan India Maltives Aebal TUREY Bhutan Tran a Palistan Srilanka Turkey 0 5 15 20 25 10 Percentage ■ Telephone Lines ■ Cellular Subscriptions ■ Internet Users 2000 2009

Source: UNSD, 2011, Millennium Indicators Database Online

Regional Initiatives

MDG1: Eradicating Extreme Poverty & Hunger

- Poverty alleviation over-arching objective of SAARC referred to in SAARC Charter (1985)
- Independent South Asian Commission for Poverty Alleviation (ISACPA1) (1992) – to study and recommend policies to address poverty in the region
- ISACPA2 (2002): "Our Future, Our Responsibility"
 - Halving poverty by 2010
 - Priority Actions + Road Ahead (2005 2010)
 - 22 SAARC Development Goals (SDGs) in line with MDGs:
 "Engagement with Hope" (2007-2012)
 - Benchmarks developed for each SDG, for integration with national planning processes + national implementation monitoring of MDGs

Regional Initiatives Cont.

MDG1: Eradicating Extreme Poverty & Hunger Cont.

- Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers (Delhi, 2008)
- Technical Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development
- Core Group on Research Extension Farmer Linkages
- Establishment of SAARC Food Bank (2008) to act as a regional food security reserve for SAARC countries:
 - Operational modalities agreed
 - Capacity to be increased from 243,000 MT



