

Overview of MDGs in Southeast Asia: the Water Supply & Sanitation Targets



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part 1. Overview of the Millennium Development Goals / MDGs

"We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected." Kofi Annan

Today's World's Challenges

- **Income Poverty** : More than one billion people in the world live on < \$1/day. Another 1.8 billion struggle to survive on < \$2/day
- **Hunger & Malnutrition**: More than 800 million people go to bed hungry everyday, 300 million are children. Every year 6 million children die from malnutrition before their 5th birthday.
- **Education**: About 114 million children don't get even a basic education & 584 million women are illiterate.
- **Health**: Around 529,000 women are dying / year in pregnancy & childbirth. Every year 11 million children die from preventable diseases.
- **Water & Sanitation**: 4 out of 10 people in the world don't have access even to a simple latrine; and 2 in 10 have no source of safe drinking water

... and many more

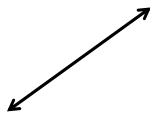
Global Response to this “silent Tsunami”: ***THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION***

- At the UN Millennium Summit in Sept 2000, 189 member states adopted the
Millennium Declaration
to cooperate among others on : development & poverty reduction; peace, security & disarmament; environment protection; human rights, democracy and good governance; etc.
- The Declaration is translated into the
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
with specific, concrete and inter-related targets, indicators, and time frame to be achieved by 2015.



Goal 7 Targets are Inter-related: (Ensure Environmental Sustainability)

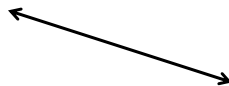
Target 9: Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.



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



Target 11: Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.



Interdependence of MDGs:

- **Holistic approach**: working towards achieving one Goal will make us closer to achievements of the rest and would reduce costs of achieving the others.
- **Synergistic relationships**: when a single intervention can achieve advances in multiple goals across sectors, it's much more cost-effective
- **Multi-stakeholder approach**: none of the Goals are achieved by governments alone, private sector & civil society have been engaged in all of them for a long time & should continue to be so.

MDG Challenges in Southeast Asia

- The most probable achievement will be halving of poverty proportions by 2015, as the 1990s saw significant decrease of incidence of income poverty from around 23% to 16 % of the population.
- In primary education, the region will most likely achieve the Goal but will require significant efforts.
- Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Philippines made remarkable progress in poverty reduction, but disparities among areas within a country are still "hidden" figures lost in national aggregates.
- Greater efforts required in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia to improve their human development and governance.

MDG Challenges in SEA cont.

- Pervasive malnutrition and hunger: such as outbreak of malnutrition in various regions of Indonesia recently.
- The extent of deprivation & vulnerability are particularly acute among children & women in poorer areas.
- Countries like Thailand & Cambodia have shown progress on reversing HIV/AIDS prevalence but sustainability of efforts remains a challenge, while stagnant in others.
- On water, sanitation, reforestation, or even on CO2 emission, the region is unlikely to attain the set targets at the present pace of development.
- Trade barriers faced by the countries are still high; economic integration is still a major challenge; more efforts needed to boost regional solidarity & compact

2005: Where are we now?

“Sprint” → 2005

- ✓ **Awareness** on MDGs
- ✓ MDG National and Regional Reports
- ✓ **Commitments & renewed pledges** at the highest levels:
 - Pro-poor policies in developing countries
 - Pro-development policies in developed countries

“Marathon” → 2015

- ✓ **Ownership** of MDGs at all levels, by all stakeholders
- ✓ Political / public support: policy changes & implementations
- ✓ **Capacities** built & resources mobilized to meet the MDGs
- ✓ Monitoring, Evaluating & Reporting



Part 2: Focus on Water Supply and Sanitation Targets

“Access to safe water is a fundamental human need and, therefore, a basic human right. Contaminated water jeopardizes both the physical and social health of all people. It is an affront to human dignity.” Kofi Anan

Investing in Water is Investing in all of the MDGs

- ADB Water Policy: “ *water is a socially vital economic goods that needs careful management to sustain equitable economic growth & reduce poverty.* ”
 - UNDP Human Development Index: access to safe water as one of 5 key indicators of poverty.
 - Investing in water and sanitation access is creating improvements to:
 - livelihood,
 - service provision, and
 - environmental health,
- contribute directly and indirectly to different dimensions of poverty reduction & achievements of all of the other MDGs.

Water, Environment & Poverty

- ✓ Asia is home to 71% of the total number of people in the world without access to improved sanitation; 58% of those without access to safe water.
- ✓ Water scarcity and pollution have complex impacts on income poverty & environmental degradation through:
 - lowering agricultural productivity;
 - preventing productive economic activities and income esp. of the poor;
 - increasing burden to get water & diverting women's productive time to fetch water;
 - depleting forests, biodiversities, aquatic ecosystems, etc
- ✓ Reducing poverty & recovering environmental degradation will improve water availability & accessibility

Water, Environment and Health

- ✓ More than 3 million children die every year caused by waterborne diseases. This is worsen by disasters with even less access to clean water & sanitation, and more contaminated water.
- ✓ The burden of finding and carrying water is more damaging to women's health and increasing the risk during pregnancy and child birth.
- ✓ Environmentally destroyed watersheds become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and worms, which increase susceptibility to a wide range of diseases, from diarrhea to malaria.
- ✓ An integrated approach to clean up water resources & surrounding environment for better public health will significantly increase access in water services

Water, Education and Gender

- ✓ Lack of clean water and no sanitation facility at many village schools in the region caused decline of school attendance, especially among girls
- ✓ In general it's the women and girls that have to walk a distance or stand a long queue for collecting water, causing them the lack of time for productive or educational activities
- ✓ Water related disasters, often destroy or damage schools so badly they're hampering the quality and quantity of education; it's even worse in poor and remote areas, where teachers are more reluctant
- ✓ Improving education and better gender equality will certainly improve water management and ensure better access to water services

Access to Basic Sanitation need a Comprehensive Approach

- Develop & implement efficient household sanitation system; promote affordable, socially & culturally acceptable technologies & practices
- Improve sanitation in public institutions, especially schools; promote environment & health education, especially safe hygiene practices
- Promote innovative financing & partnerships mechanism → upscale existing appropriate technology pilot efforts by NGOs/communities through public-private-community-partnerships

Governance in Water & Sanitation

- Water resource management and equal access to water & sanitation services are very much local issues: but they require pro-poor policies at national as well as provincial / state levels to support action at the city / district level
- Well-informed engagement of local citizens and the private sector in decision-making processes will ensure the sustainability of efforts to increase access to water and sanitation
- Equally important is the role of local councils, provincial and national legislators in resources reallocation, and advocate for affirmative actions for poorer & more remote areas

Building a Multi-stakeholder Synergy

- Whoever are delivering most basic social services, ultimately it's the government's responsibility to ensure that these services are accessible & affordable for all the people, especially the poor.
- In the case of increasing access to clean water & sanitation, it's everybody's responsibility too, as everybody contribute to water depletion & pollution
- Wise governments do not do what others (private sector, civil society / local governments) can do, but instead develop a more conducive atmosphere for participation and concentrate resources on regions / communities not reached by others.

Conclusion

- Meeting the MDGs targets, especially increasing the number of people living with improved water and sanitation, requires initiatives and action of a cross-section of people:
 - Nobody is irrelevant in achieving MDGs

- It is important to invest in sharing knowledge and information, consolidating trust and ensuring good working relationship among all stakeholders, at all levels of governance
 - Nobody can achieve MDGs alone



VOICES AGAINST POVERTY

THANK YOU

**) Presented at 2nd Southeast Asia Water Forum (SEAWF) "Better Water Management Through Public Participation", Bali August 29, 2005*

Broad Roles of Civil Society

- Equal participants in formulating integrated water resource management strategies / action plans at local & national levels
- Service providers through community based organizations, neighbourhood groups, etc; building communities' self help capacities.
- Policy advocacy & monitoring to ensure government's fulfilment of MDG pledges
- Mobilizing public engagements through campaigns & solidarity activities, educational outreach, etc.

Private Sector more Active Role in Realization of MDGs

- It makes sound business sense to contribute to the achievements of MDGs as business has a stake in social stability:
 - *Investing in Sound Business Environment*
 - *Managing direct Costs & Risks*
 - *Harnessing new Business Opportunities*
- The Millennium Goals are Corporate Social Responsibility's and Corporate Citizenship's challenges for some decades, sharing the same vision & values → now gaining a new thrust from the global and national momentum of solidarity → new partners, new approaches, new opportunities

MDGs & Good Governance

- Focused and well-targeted policies/programs need responsive, transparent and accountable administration at national as well as local levels.
- Many developing countries should be able to achieve most MDGs, nick-named Minimum Development Goals with own national/local budget by improving governance at all levels.
- Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately: diverting funds intended for development, undermining government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign investment and aid.