

LOCALIZING MDGS IN SRI LANKA

CITYNET Cluster Meeting, - 2 November 2013, Seoul, Korea

The Rationale

“For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone”

The UN Millennium Declaration

MDGS CAPTURE THE UNIVERSAL ASPIRATIONS FOR PEACE, JUSTICE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

MDGs - A PARADIGM SHIFT

- **Economic development is now a broad based notion, not only mere growth.**
- **Income & economic growth should lead to human development & the overall wellbeing of people to achieve equity.**
- **Poverty reduction is not only an income issue, but also social, cultural & environmental dimensions as well.**

Localizing MDGs

A UN-Habitat & CITYNET initiative in
Sri Lanka, Indonesia & Nepal

- SL on track in achieving almost all of the MDG goals. However, regional variations exist. Others are closely following but not in all.
- Benefits of economic growth have largely been confined to and captured by those in Urban areas. This requires correction.
- Intra- national & intra municipal gaps in MDGs too have been identified and attended to remove disparities & build equity.

CONSTRAINTS

- **City level understanding and perception of MDGs.**
- **MDGs perceived as matters for central government action & not within the mandate of the LAs.**
- **The planners construed MDGs as a national level initiative and did not involve LAs in planning.**
- **Notion of centralized action was such that in the initial years, it was not considered necessary to raise**
- **local govt. awareness on MDGs.**

The Process Adopted

- **City Consultation & orientation seminars.**
 - **City level MDG Working Groups.**
- **Literature Review & City MDG Profiles.**
 - **Preparation of MDG Action Plan.**
- **Workshop to validate findings and actions.**
- **Municipal budgetary allocations for priorities.**
 - **Social awareness and mobilization.**

LESSONS For National Application

The city plans must go parallel to the national policies & strategies, and integrated within the national programs.

Municipal authorities are an important corollary to achieving MDGs. They are more organized and better resourced than rural local authorities.

UN-Habitat helped several cities in piloting Data Analysis, MDG Profiles, identifying local disparities & City Plans.

The documents were published and widely circulated.

LESSONS For City Level Application

- **Enlightened political commitment at city level is important . The Mayor should be**
- **a committed partner in the whole process.**

- **MDGs require adequate time frame to prepare the convention-bound Municipal leadership**
- **to accept the challenge.**

- **Orientation programs, consultations & personnel discussions are important tools**
- **to create needed mindset.**

Data analysis must be done by professionals.

City consultations must be carefully planned not to over represent groups with vested interests.

The annual budget of LA must be realigned to reflect the MDG priorities.

LOCALIZING MDGs

Five Salient Phases

- 1. Orientation of political & administrative leaders of the city.**
- 2. Orientation & training of functionaries.**
- 3. City consultations for wider participation in decision-making.**
- 4. Working Group mechanism to guide the MC on planning & monitoring.**
- 5. Seed Funding for MCs to veer them away from conventional planning processes.**

THANK YOU

