

**Development Account Project on Interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goals**

**ECA concept note**

## **Introduction**

Mid-term reviews of the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have highlighted the need to measure the progress made towards reaching them in a way that truly represents the empowerment of women and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in society. Certain social groups are wholly or partially excluded from participating in the economic, social and political life of the community in which they live, resulting not only in diminished material and non-material quality of life, but also in tempered life chances, choices and reduced citizenship.

Although countries have been adopting policies to improve social inclusion and gender equality, evidence suggests that progress is still slow. There is thus an urgent need to give greater visibility to this effort. The MDGs could serve as a good medium for this effort. But recent reviews<sup>1</sup> of the MDGs clearly show that they do not explicitly incorporate issues of social integration. Yet the inclusion of social integration into the broader development agenda is critical for sustained social development and poverty reduction. The reviews also indicate that existing MDG targets and indicators may not adequately capture progress on the inclusion of socially vulnerable groups.

The challenges of meeting the targets of the MDGs in Africa are immense as is widely acknowledged. Whilst there has been progress in many African countries on MDG 2 on education, and on gender parity, progress on the other goals has been slow (see annex 1). In addition, the progress reported by many countries does not fully capture social and regional disparities in the incidence of the benefits of actions taken by governments towards achieving the MDGs. Thus the existing MDG framework may not fully reflect the progress being made towards inclusion of the socially excluded and marginalized groups in mainstream development and in addressing inequities in health.

Yet it is crucial that the progress made on social inclusion, gender equality and health equity is measured and closely monitored to provide information essential for effective policy development. Social inclusion can be a key element of a strategy to minimize social conflict and tap into the productive potential of minority groups that may otherwise feel alienated. It is in this context that a need

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCAP (2005) A Future within Reach- Reshaping institutions in a region of disparities to meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.  
WHO, (2003) En-gendering the Millennium Development Goals on Health.  
UNDP (2005) En route to equality: a gender review of national MDG reports 2005.

to develop supplementary targets and indicators relevant to Africa arose, that would improve the capacity of countries to measure progress towards inclusion of vulnerable groups, promote gender equity and address health inequities.

### **Objective of the project in the African region**

To increase the capacity of Governments to promote the social inclusion of vulnerable groups, address gender equity concerns and promote health equity in national development plans through development of contextualized targets and indicators in the MDG process. The ECA is identifying supplementary targets that can help ensure inclusion of socially excluded groups that include women, youths, the elderly, the disabled and people living with HIV/AIDS; and promote health equity and sexual and reproductive health in the MDG framework.

### **Methodology**

The proposed methodology will involve a combination of secondary and primary research and electronic consultations to identify the additional targets and indicators. The first step involves secondary research using desk research/collation of existing information to identify targets/indicators that are needed in the identified issue areas. Once the areas where additional targets/indicators have been identified, a questionnaire will be developed to solicit additional information from selected member countries, and specific interest groups (organisations working on women's, youth, the elderly, disability and people living with HIV/AIDS).

A report will be prepared based on the outcome of the desk review and the survey. The draft report will be reviewed and discussed at an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to be held in April/May 2008. The EGM is also expected to validate the identified targets/indicators. After the EGM, further work will be done with case study countries on the uptake of the indicators. Electronic discussion groups will also be used to create 'communities of practice', where different stakeholders will be invited to discuss and provide guidance on the additional targets/indicators.

### **Project Outputs**

The project outputs will be:

- (i) Additional region-specific targets and indicators on inclusion of the socially excluded groups, gender equality and health equity and sexual and reproductive health; and
- (ii) MDG knowledge hubs and stakeholder networks to disseminate relevant information, analysis and advocacy report.

### **Project's Expected Accomplishments**

- A. Additional Africa-specific targets and indicators pertaining to socially excluded groups (women, youths, the elderly, the disabled and people living with HIV/AIDS); health equity and sexual and reproductive health are identified or developed that facilitate the formulation of more comprehensive development strategies in the context and spirit of the MDGs.
- B. A stronger foundation for knowledge management is established for collecting and analyzing information and data related to additional MDG targets and indicators.

**Indicators of achievement**

**By the end of the project:**

- Region-specific targets and indicators pertaining to social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion are identified or developed and aligned with the MDG process.
- A network of MDG knowledge hubs is created that undertakes policy-oriented research and analysis on region-specific MDG-related targets and indicators and serves as a centre for creating national capacity for accurate data collection and analysis to facilitate formulation of effective MDG policies.

**Within five years from the end of the project:**

- At least one country in the region has adopted the new targets and indicators and incorporated them into the national policy planning process for the achievement of MDGs.

**Project plan**

The project will be implemented from August 2007 – December 2008 as detailed in table 1.

**Table 1. Detailed project plan**

Time	Activity	Output
Aug- Dec 2007	Desk assessment of existing literature	Report containing overview of existing knowledge
Nov 2007	Development of questionnaire for case study countries	A questionnaire
Dec 2007 – March 2008	Conduct survey and consult with case study countries	Completed questionnaires and detailed information from case study countries
Dec 2007 - March 2008	Report writing of outcome of the survey	Report containing identified areas of indicators
Dec 2007 -ongoing	Establish electronic MDG knowledge hub	Up-to-date website and ‘knowledge hub’
April/May. 2008	Hold ‘expert group meeting’ with case country representatives and experts	- ‘Expert Group Meeting’ held - Validated consolidated report containing additional targets/indicators

June. 2008 - ongoing	Publish validated report	Validated report disseminated to stakeholders
June. – Oct 2008	Promote country uptake of targets/indicators	-Targets /indicators included in case country MDG monitoring -Experiences for finalising report.
Nov 2008	Project reporting	Project funds accounted for

Annex 1: Progress on selected MDG targets and indicators

MDG, Target and Indicator	Developing Regions		Northern Africa		Sub-Saharan Africa	
	1990	2005	1990	2005	1990	2005
<b>MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b> Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day						
1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day <sup>1</sup>	31.6	19.4	2.6	1.4	46.8	41.1
2. Poverty gap ratio <sup>1</sup>	9.3	5.4	0.5	0.2	19.5	17.5
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption <sup>1</sup>	4.6	3.9	6.2	6.3	3.4	3.4
<b>MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</b>						
Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger						
Indicator 4: Total Children under-five years of age who are underweight, percentage	33	27	10	8	33	29
Indicator 5: Percentage of undernourished in total population <sup>2</sup>	20	17	4	4	33	31
<b>Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education</b> Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling						
6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education <sup>3</sup>	80.2	87.9	82.0	95.3	53.7	70.4
7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 4 <sup>4</sup>	80.4	86.0	86.4	93.9	50.7	60.8
8. Literacy rate of 15 to 24 year-olds <sup>5</sup>	80.2	85.0	66.7	84.3	64.4	67.8
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b> Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015						
9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education	0.87	0.94	0.82	0.93	0.84	0.89
11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	-	-	19.8	20.1	28.0	31.6
12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	10.4	15.7	2.6	8.1	7.2	16.6
<b>MDG4: Reduce child mortality</b>						
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate						
Indicator 13: Under-five mortality rate Deaths per 1000 live births	106	88	88	35	185	166
Indicator 14: Infant mortality rate Deaths per 1000 live births	72	57	66	30	110	99
Indicator 15: Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles Percentage of children 12-13 - months who received at least one dose of measles vaccine	71	75	85	95	57	64
<b>MDG5: Improve maternal health</b>						
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio						
Indicator 16. Maternal mortality ratio. Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births <sup>6</sup>	n.a	450	n.a	130	n.a	920
Indicator 17: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel Percentage of deliveries	43	57	40	75	42	45

MDG, Target and Indicator	Developing Regions		Northern Africa		Sub-Saharan Africa	
	1990	2005	1990	2005	1990	2005
<b>MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>						
Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS						
Indicator 18: HIV/AIDS prevalence Estimated adult (15 - 49) HIV prevalence (%) <sup>7</sup>	0.3	1.1	<0.1	0.1	2.0	5.7
Percent of adults living with HIV who are women (%) <sup>7</sup>	n.a	n.a	<20	23	54	59
<b>MDG 6: Target 8</b>						
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases						
Indicator 23: Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis						
(a) Incidence Number of cases per 100,000 population (excluding HIV infected)	148	149	54	44	148	281
(b) Prevalence Number of cases per 100,000 population (excluding HIV infected)	367	255	59	44	331	490
(c) Deaths Number of deaths per 100,000 population (excluding HIV infected)	34	31	5	4	7	55
Indicator 24: Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment strategy (DOTS)						
(a) New cases detected under DOTS: DOTS smear-positive case detection rate (%) <sup>8</sup>	29	61	84	92	36	49
(b) Patients successfully treated under DOTS Treatment success (%) <sup>8</sup>	82	84	88	84	72	74
<b>MDG7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b>						
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation						
Indicator 30: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source <sup>8</sup>	71	80	89	91	49	56
Indicator 31: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation <sup>8</sup>	35	50	65	77	32	37

<sup>1</sup>Data is for the years 1990 and 2004, <sup>2</sup> Data is for the years 1990 and 2003, <sup>3</sup>Data is for the years 1991 and 2005, <sup>4</sup>Data is for the years 1999 and 2005, <sup>5</sup>Data is for the years 1984-94 and 1995-2004; <sup>6</sup>Data is for year 2000; <sup>7</sup>Data is for the years 1990 and 2006; <sup>8</sup>Data is for the years 2000 and 2004

Source: UN, 2007.