





Sustainable Development: Achieving MDGs through Enhanced Local Governance & Development

Abdul Rehman Khan
Fulbright Scholar (2005-07)
Brandeis University – Massachusetts, USA



The Presentation.....

- Introduction to the Topic
- MDGs: an Overview
- Realizing the MDGs
- Challenges in Achieving MDGs
- Devolved and Un-Devolved Approaches for Development.
- Conclusions on Locally Initiated Development



Introduction

- Sustainable Development:
 - No more a Jargon but a real need of the day
 - The words 'Sustainable Development' very clear – the question is "How to Achieve"
 - Strategies developed by Governments, Organizations and Common People
 - The Goal - to be achieved through any possible means
 - The UN MDGs are one of globally accepted strategies, probably one of the most effective



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – An Overview:

- Millennium Summit – 2000
- Eight Goals
 - Include:
 - Eradicate Poverty and Hunger
 - Universal Primary Education
 - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
 - Reduce Child Mortality
 - Improve Maternal Health
 - Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Develop Global Partnership for Development



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – An Overview:

- World leaders in agreement and commitment to achieve them by 2015
- To be achieved through collaborative efforts of:
 - Governments
 - International Organizations/Agencies
 - National & Regional NGOs
 - Academic Institutions
 - Local CBOs
 - Communities



Realization of MDGs

- Achieving the MDGs depends on:
 - Good Governance
 - Political Commitment
 - Effective Development Policy Frameworks
 - Local Institutional Capacity Building
 - Increase in Development Assistance
 - Enhanced Opportunities for Local Economic Development

Challenges in Achieving MDGs

- The number of people living in poverty
- The rate of population growth
- The human development targets set out in the MDGs are not being met in many of the LDCs
- Anything less than a fully inclusive, countrywide effort prevents effective achievement of the MDGs
- Need for Increased Overseas Development Aid (OAD) or funding, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and to eliminate trade barriers by the Developed countries for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Anything less than a fully inclusive, countrywide effort prevents effective achievement of the MDGs.

- How to achieve local level participation:
The only successful and proven approach is improved Governance through “Devolution and Decentralization” of :
 - Administrative Authorities
 - Financial Allocation & Decision Making
 - Political Autonomy, and
 - Social Participation & Empowerment

Countries Under Transition...

- India
- Sri Lanka
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Ghana
- Mozambique
- Senegal
- While Europe and North America are already with their part.

“Our experience with decentralization has opened up many new possibilities for us in addressing our poverty issues. We have found that development efforts are more effective when they are planned and executed in partnership with local communities.”

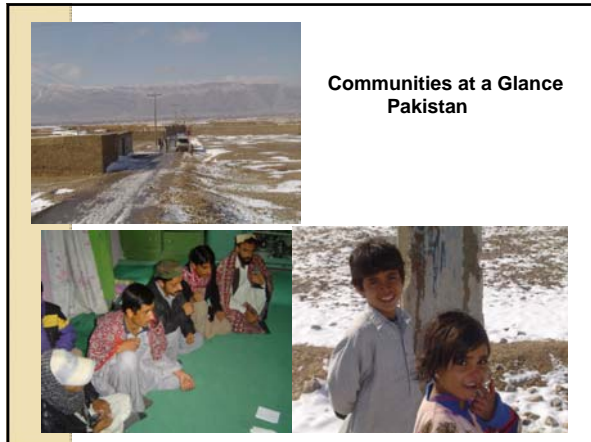
Lúisa Dias Diogo
Prime Minister,
Mozambique

Non-Devolved vs Devolved Approaches

- **Non-Devolved Approach:**
 - Narrow Participation
- **Devolved Approach:**
 - Multi Stakeholder Approach
- **Non-Devolved Approach:**
 - State alone is responsible
- **Devolved Approach:**
 - Society as a whole is responsible
- **Non-Devolved Approach:**
 - Focus on Outputs
- **Devolved Approach:**
 - Focus on outcomes /impacts and the quality of participation and management processes

Non-Devolved VS Devolved Approaches

- **Non-Devolved Approach:**
 - Sector-based research and planning
- **Devolved Approach:**
 - Partnerships and integrated research and planning
- **Non-Devolved Approach:**
 - Focus on costly “projects” (and a consequent dependence on external assistance)
- **Devolved Approach:**
 - Focus on cost savings and domestically driven and financed investment and development
- **Non-Devolved Approach:**
 - Develops and implements a single “master plan” for development
- **Devolved Approach:**
 - Builds a system of coordinated mechanisms and processes for development step-by-step



So we can say...

- That Devolved Governance System strengthens;
 - Localized Approach to problem solving
 - Participation
 - Empowerment
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
 - And.....

Overall

Good Governance

which could be one of the most effective paths towards Realizing MDGs and thus achieving

Sustainable Development

“Good governance is a crucial necessity in every country, so that funds destined for poverty alleviation and social improvement have the maximum effect.”

*James Wolfensohn
World Bank President*

“(If we are to realize) the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015, good governance must operate... at the local level, through effective targeting of poverty and its chains... For this we need programs that are light in terms of overhead, are leverage-able, and, above all, enjoy full community ownership, participation and control over direction setting.”

Mark Malloch Brown

Thank You So Much

References:

- ADB (2003) Report. Millennium Development Goals: Initiatives And Challenges. Manila
- IIED Report. The Millennium Development Goals and Local Processes: Hitting the Target or Missing the Point? Edited by David Satterthwaite.
- UNCDF. Investing in Pro-poor Infrastructure and Services. Brochure.
- UNDP (Thursday March 4th, 2004) "Achieving the MDGS in the Least Developed Countries: Challenges and Choices" UN Headquarters New York, Summary Record.
- Pranab Bardhan – (2002) Decentralization of Governance and Development. *Journal of Economic Perspectives—Volume 16, Number 4—Fall 2002—Pages 185–205.*