

BO FOCUS

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL / Vol. III, Issue IX, Friday September 10 - 17 2010

MDGs: WHERE ARE WE ?



Bhutan is committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015. This global pledge, in consonance with the ruling principles of Gross National Happiness, is in tune with the nation's highest development priorities.

The MDGs have been integrated into the national development planning process with Poverty Reduction as the main theme of the Tenth Plan (2008-2013)

While Bhutan is on course to achieving most of the MDGs, it is a charted roadmap laden with inherent constraints. On the long haul to economic self-reliance, development in Bhutan still remains heavily driven by external aid.

Along this roadmap in the nation, the stark truth that has arisen is the apparent spatial disparities that exist between regions and districts.

While the MDG target of reducing malnutrition of under-five children have been achieved, several districts have high and unacceptable levels of malnourished children that are almost twice as high as the national average. The five poorest districts experiences almost eight times the poverty levels relative to the five least poor districts.

Such startling facts represent the moral dilemma of a skewed perspective to the achievement of the MDGs.

SPONSORED BY

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

WHAT IS MDGS?

In September 2000, 189 world leaders met at the UN and endorsed the Millennium Declaration, a commitment to work together to build a safer, more prosperous and equitable world.

The Declaration was translated into a roadmap setting out eight time bound and measurable goals to be reached by 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality of children under five.

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

- Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters

Goal 6 Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS

MATTER OF FACT

- 1.2 billion people across the world are hungry.
- Seven out of ten of them are women and girls.
- Million of children start schooling but eventually drop out – without having acquired basic literacy and numeracy skills
- Women hold 18% of seats in parliament
- Every year, 536,000 women and girls die due to complications during pregnancy, childbirth or the six weeks following delivery. 99% of them occur in developing countries.
- Aid to the poorest countries falls far short of the 2010 target

- Halt and reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Improve the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020

Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-

discriminatory trading and financial system

- Address special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states
- Deal with developing countries' debt
- In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

WHAT WORKED

- Cambodia's 100 percent Condom Use Programme contributed to twice as much condom use among sex workers. HIV prevalence declined from 1.2 to 0.7 percent between 2003 and 2008
- South Asia's Women Well-being, Work, Waste and Sanitation project trained women as sanitation facilities installers. It also allowed them to earn additional income.
- Ethiopia promoted small- and medium-scale enterprises, community-based urban works programmes and constructed over 80,000 public housing units to address the 60 percent rise in slum-dwellers between 1990 and 2008

FROM THE UN



*Claire Van der Vaeren,
Resident Coordinator*

Ten years ago, the world agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an ambitious set of development targets aimed at improving the lives of people around the world by 2015.

Global success cases, even in the poorest countries and the most difficult circumstances, show that the MDGs can be achieved. Indeed, the MDGs have led to unprecedented commitments, partnerships and progress in combating poverty and hunger; in improving school enrolment, in fostering gender equality and in extending equal access to health care. Yet progress is uneven between and within regions and

countries and often too slow to meet the 2015 deadline.

In Bhutan, the nation's development concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH) is in consonance with the MDGs. The start of the implementation of the UN common Country Programme Action Plan (2008-2012), which coincides with the launch of the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2008-2013) with poverty reduction as its overarching goal has signified further integration of the MDGs in the country's development activities.

The UN cooperation in Bhutan is in the areas of poverty reduction, environment and disaster management, governance, education and health. Support entails providing policy advice and capacity building for pro-poor growth; targeted and integrated poverty reduction initiatives; integration of environment and disaster risk reduction into national and local development planning and programming processes; complementing national effort on good governance and goals on education and health.

With five years remaining until the MDG deadline, the year 2010 is the defining moment for keeping the global MDGs promise. To do so, though, countries must accelerate efforts toward meeting the MDGs by the target date. Strengthened with knowledge, evidence gathered and lessons learnt over the past ten years, the national as well as the in-



ternational community must seize the opportunity to revitalize the push towards creating the world that was envisioned for 2015: one that is healthier, better educated, better nourished, embraces gender equality and has taken significant steps toward eradicating extreme poverty. For Bhutan, this means addressing poverty inequalities that exist within Dzongkhags and within Gewogs; supporting girls through to tertiary education and to their gainful employment; continuing to support quality primary education for all; and accelerating efforts to combating HIV/AIDs. eak transition

The UN remains committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015, in partnership with the Royal Government of Bhutan, donors, private sector and civil society to help enhance the happiness of the Bhutanese people through mobilization of global expertise, knowledge and resources.

MDGs Messages from the UN Secretary General's Report

"We must not fail the billions who look to the international community to fulfill the promise of the Millennium Declaration for a better world. Let us meet in September to keep the promise,"

- Ban Ki-moon UN Secretary-General, March 16, 2010.

FROM THE NATION



*Dasho Karma Tshiteem
Secretary
Gross National Happiness
Commission*

Bhutan along with UN member States signed the Millennium Declaration in 2000 that outlined a shared vision for the new century based on fundamental values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility.

Since then, MDG targets have become a very powerful tool for ensuring that governments of developing countries focus on key areas of development with specific targets going up to 2015. This is an extremely positive development because at the individual level, what MDGs translate into is a reduction in the tragedies and difficulties that large number of people continue to face in the developing world. What it means is that one less child is crying out of hunger somewhere, one less mother dying during childbirth, one less family facing the

pain of seeing their children die due to diarrhoea or one less child that has missed the opportunity to obtain an education that could transform his world. Clearly, there is no monetary value that can be assigned to any of these achievements and addressing these challenges of developments are precisely what the MDGs are all about.

For Bhutan, the MDGs form the core of our own development priorities and indeed poverty reduction is the overarching objective for the Tenth Five Year Plan. As part of the exercise to ensure that MDG targets are met, Bhutan undertook a detailed MDG needs assessment and costing exercise during the preparation of the Tenth Five Year Plan that helped to inform development partners and indeed galvanize support and resources for this important Plan.

Today, there are numerous activities underway around the country that will have a positive impact on the MDGs, in particular the focus on rural development in terms of land reforms initiated by His Majesty the King, rapid improvement in basic infrastructure for all gewogs such as drinking water, lighting, motorable roads, communication, irrigation and continued enhancement of access and quality in education and health-care. Not surprising, the recently concluded Bhutan Multiple Indicators Survey conducted by the National Statistical Bureau shows that Bhutan is well on track to achieve and indeed surpass the MDG targets.

While this is a significant achievement by any comparison, given the vision of our Monarchs and our GNH



philosophy, we have always held the view that the MDG targets fall short of both what we want for our people as well as how soon we want it. Accordingly, we have focused in our development on aspects beyond the MDGs such as preservation and promotion of our rich culture and traditions, the values handed down by generations of Bhutanese and indeed happiness while at the same time, we have set more ambitious targets for achieving the MDGs as is evident from the Tenth Five Year Plan document, not only for poverty reduction but across the MDGs. In hindsight, based both on the objective evidence of surveys mentioned earlier as well as what we can see around us, it is clear that our ambitions are being blessed.

Going forward, there is still so much more that we as a nation need to do. I believe MDGs set minimum targets for development that Bhutan appears certain to achieve ahead of time, but in terms of what we as a nation really aspire to, there is only one objective by which we can truly measure our collective achievement, and that must always remain the timeless vision and noble goal of Gross National Happiness.

Tashi Delek!

GROUND REALITIES

'Ungar Diaries'

This report by Rabi C. Dahal of Bhutan Observer, won the coveted Bhutan National Journalism Award in 2010 for his scathing and unflinching reflection on the state of the poorest villagers of Lhuentse.

Key Excerpts:

" ... It was a trip with the Secretary of Gross National Happiness Commission to one of the farthest and poorest villages in Bhutan."

" ... I know that poverty is everywhere. The people there were only concerned about eking out a mere existence. Their concern was about food, shelter and survival."

" ... Their common parlance is, 'We are happy as we are' while they hardly have any reason to be happy. They hold serious reservations about telling Zhunglay Jenmi Dasho that they are unhappy. Therefore, I have reservations about the government's statistics on their well-being. The same people, who had told the GNHC survey team that they were happy, confessed to me later that they hadn't told the truth. I convinced them that I wasn't a Zhungi Dasho but a newspaper man. Therefore, if they told me the truth, the government might help them."

" ... Indeed, the truth is, they aren't happy. They suffer a food shortage for at least six months in a year. Many of them are indebted to financial institutions. An old woman told me that she couldn't pay off her debt even if she 'piled life upon life'. Marauding wild animals ravage their crops every season leaving them with little of a little they grow. Then they have to contribute Zhabto Lemi which sometimes include clearing tourist trails and camps at the cost of their crops. There are no road and electricity. They cannot send their children to school for numerous reasons. The



villagers, who have resigned to their fate, say that many government officials came to their village with pen and paper, asked questions, and never returned."

" ... They need real plans and concrete implementation."

"They don't need volumes of GNH literature but only what it means to them."

" ... Had the Ura-Ungar-Lhuentse road plan been approved, we would have passed through that picturesque village of Ungar but never would have noticed who live inside the houses. The houses are mostly double-storied, large and CGI sheet-roofed. One would not suspect that the poorest of the Bhutanese live inside those houses. These decent-looking houses have no properly ventilated ovens, doors or windows. No toilets either. I was told that the people built their big houses when timbers and stones were aplenty in the village. The vil-

lagers helped oneanother build their houses. I learned that the people of 52 households were all related."

" ... Next morning, Dema Tshering, a frail, skinny, 80- year-old woman, comes to offer a bottle of milk and hard boiled eggs to the Secretary. I wondered when she last had a glass of milk. The day before, she told me that she was Nu 15,000 in debt to a bank. Her daughter had gone to Samtse to get some money from their relatives and never returned. Ungar was provided drinking water supply in the mid 1990s but no repair works have been done. Although a few households tried to bring water to a common place, the difficulty is still there. Despite all the problems and setbacks, Ungar is a memorable village. With its beautiful landscape, moderate climate, and breathtaking forests surrounding the village, it is refreshing."



POVERTY REDUCTION



Where we are

The Bhutan MDG Progress Reports for 2008 both strongly emphasize the fundamental role that agriculture and rural development play in combating poverty and hunger in

the country. As various international poverty studies and surveys also indicate, there is perhaps no other economic activity that generates the same level of beneficial impact for the poor as agricultural and rural development.

The Poverty Analysis Report (PAR) 2007 estimated that 23.20% of the population lived under the national poverty line of Nu. 730.36 per capita per month and that poverty incidences and depth is much more widespread and severe in rural than in urban areas.

In due redress of the scenario, Poverty Reduction has been integrated into the national development planning process as the main theme of the Tenth Plan (2008-2013)

ROAD AHEAD

While cognizant of significant declines achieved on track to halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, one fifth of the population still experiences severe poverty, 98% of whom live in rural Bhutan. In the face of impressive annual growth rate of 7.5 percent in its Gross Domestic Product and one of the highest per-capita income in the region, such widespread inequalities prevail to presents a moral dilemma to the hallowed vision of GNH.

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER									
Target 1: Halve , between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living below the poverty line	Proportion of population below the national poverty line (%)		36.30%	23.20%			<15%	20%	On Track
Target 2: Halve by 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption		3.8% (03)	5.90%				1.90%	
	Percentage of underweight under -5 children	38% (89)	19%			11.10%		19%	
	Percentage of underweight under -5 children	56% (89)	40%					28%	

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Malawi's national fertilizer subsidy programme has been associated with an increased total cultivation area by 25 percent. Maize production reached 3.2 million tonnes in 2007, ensuring food self sufficiency.
- Debt relief through Nigeria's Virtual Poverty Fund was directed to agriculture and contributed to doubling agricultural production and farmer's income.
- Ethiopia's agricultural development-led industrialisation benefitted more than 30 percent of rural population and increased cereal and food crop yields between 1993 and 2005.



EDUCATION



Where we are

As an integral part of the government's broader development strategy to improve the lives of the poor, the need to improve the educational attainment levels of the general population remains a key factor. This is also essential to achieving the long term national vision of transforming into a knowledge based society.

The country has made vast improvements in scaling up all of its primary

and secondary education indicators since the inception of modern education four decades ago. Notwithstanding several challenging constraints, especially the difficulties associated with enhancing access to education for a widely dispersed and scattered population, Bhutan remains on track to achieve the MDG goal of universalizing primary education as reported in the MDG Progress Report 2008.

ROAD AHEAD

While accelerated progress has been achieved in net enrollment, the present levels is still low by regional and global standards. By 2008, 16,500 children, particularly in rural areas like Gasa, Samtse, Sarpang and Tsirang still remained without education which remains a matter of deep concern. Meanwhile, quality of education has recently emerged as a mounting national concern focusing on crowded classrooms, teacher competence, curriculum relevance, lack of academic and recreational facilities and so on.

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION									
Target 3: Ensuring that by 2015, children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Gross Primary Enrolment Ratio (%)	55%	72%	106%	116%	117%	100%	100%	Achieved
	Net Primary Enrolment Ratio (%)		62%	83.70%	91.80%	93.10%	100.00%	100%	On Track
	Proportion of Pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (%)	73%	91%	92.40%	96.40%	93.60%	96.00%		On Track
	Proportion of Pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 7 (%)	35%	81%	85.40%	89.90%	86.90%		100%	On Track

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

- Global primary school enrolment is at 88 percent
- Gross intake rate in sub-Saharan Africa increased by 25 percent
- 72 million children are still out of school

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Investment in school infrastructure and human capital: Tanzania ensured the construction of 54,000 classrooms between 2002 and 2006 and hired 18,000 additional teachers



GENDER EQUALITY

Where we are

Women in Bhutan enjoy substantive freedom, equal opportunities, entitlements and legal status. However, there are several areas where women are at a disadvantage and gender gaps are quite apparent.

While the kingdom remains broadly on track to achieving the third MDG of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, there are some significant challenges to be addressed.

It is widely recognized that investing in girls' education and empowering women - through labour participation and self-employment - has strong multiplier effects across all the MDGs.



ROAD AHEAD

The key challenge, whilst in the relative absence of gender inequalities, remains to address the weak transition of girls to the tertiary level education and the workplace, high level of female youth unemployment and underemployment, low levels of female participation in political and high public office, and the reality of prevalent domestic violence.

At the local government level, only 4% of leadership roles are occupied by women. There is only one woman gup and four woman tshogpas in the 205 gewogs in the country.

Goal 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Target 4: eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education by 2015	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education (%)	69% (‘91)	82%	99.50%	99.00%	99.40%		100%	On Track
	Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education (%)	43% (‘91)	78%	97.20%	101.60%	103.50%		100%	On Track
	Ratio of females to males in tertiary institutes (%)	12% (‘91)	41%	54%	53%	61%	80%	100%	Needs attention

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

- The gender gap in school has narrowed significantly. By 2007, 95 girls per 100 boys were enrolled in schools. In 1999, it was 91 girls to 100 boys.
- Women held 18 percent of seats in parliament

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Public-Private partnership advance women's empowerment in the work place: Mexico's federal programme Generosidad gives certificates to private firms for achieving gender equity in recruitment, career advancement, training and sexual harassment. by 2006, more than 117 firms received the certificate.



CHILD MORTALITY



With over 47% of the 6,34,982 people comprising young people aged 10-24 years (NSB,2006), it is appropriate that the health sector's MDG efforts are specifically in the area of child health, maternal health and emerging and re-emerging diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, corresponding to the fourth, fifth and sixth MDGs.

ROAD AHEAD

While child mortality has been halved between 1990 and 2007, the core challenge remains of securing the financial resources to enhance access and improve maternal, neonatal, and child health services and intensify support programmes, particularly for remote rural communities. New interventions in terms of both preventive and care for infants will also be required as new and emerging diseases are frequent.

Where we are

A country's social development is measured by the level of health care, education and other services available to its people. Health has always been accorded high priority which is evident in the increasing

budget allocation received over the years.

The Health sector received 11% of national budget in the 9th Five-Year Plan (2002-2008) and preventive, promotive and curative health services are provided free of charge to all the people.

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY									
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Under -5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	123	84	62		61.5	<30	41	On Track
	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	90%	60.5%	40 (05)		40.1	<20	30	On Track
	Proportion of children covered under immunization programme	84%	85	90%		90%		>95%	On Track

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

- Between 1990-2007
- Under five mortality decreased from 93 deaths per 1000 live births to 67
- Measles-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa decreased by 91 percent
- Under five mortality in sub-Saharan Africa went from 4.6 to 4.2 million

WHAT HAS WORKED

- International and public-private partnerships: Global Campaign to End Fistula, Vietnam's tetanus eradication campaign, Egypt's maternal health care initiatives, etc.



MATERNAL HEALTH



Where we are

The promotion of institutional delivery, skilled personnel attending all births and the increase in emergency obstetric care (EmOC) services have together contributed to a dramatic decline in maternal mortality.

Maternal mortality rates of Bhutanese women have been significantly brought down by 33%; a decrease from 380 per 100,000 live births in 1994 to 255 per 100,000 live births in 2000.

National strategies/initiatives

Scale up institutional delivery
Increase access to family Planning services
Intensify informational and educational communication
Conduct Reproductive Health research and studies

ROAD AHEAD

Most maternal deaths are due to post-partum hemorrhage occurring either at home or because women arrive too late at hospitals which necessitates easy access to emergency obstetric care services.

The increase in scale and quality of institutional obstetric care will be the key to reducing maternal mortality and other pregnancy related complications.

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH									
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	560	255				100	140	On track
	Births attended by skilled health personnel	15%	24%	55.90%		67.40%		100%	On track

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

- Maternal Mortality ratio fell from 320 to 251 per 100,000 live births between 1990-2008

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Health in a box: Afghanistan's basic package of health services and Pakistan's mobile health care services unit



DISEASES



Malaria

There has been a consistent decrease in malaria burden over the years. In 2009 there was 972 cases a 53% reduction from 2005. Four deaths were registered in the same year. The malaria indicator survey of 2009 on malaria outcomes shows that the population knowledge on transmission of malaria is 55% and knowledge on the symptoms of malaria is 50%. The coverage and utilization of Long Lasting Insecticidal

Net as well as Indoor Residual Spraying has remained above 90 percent. However, the abnormal rainfall patterns associated with early rains and some dry spell led to numerous localized outbreaks in 2009. The Annual Parasite Incidence increased from 0.7 (in 2008) to 2 (in 2009) per 1,000 risk population. This is further compounded by high infection rates across the border and cross-border mosquito movements.

Tuberculosis

A total of 1154 cases of all forms of TB were reported in 2009. While, the burden of TB in Bhutan is lower than regional average, in view of the significant public health challenges, the prevention and control efforts are being accelerated. Case detection rate has improved significantly from 64.73% (in 2005) to 86.45% (in 2008). Of significant challenge today is the drug resistant strains of TB and TB-HIV co-infections which seriously threaten prevention and control efforts. 11 Multi-Drug

Resistance TB (MDR-TB) cases were reported in 2009. Similarly, of the 185 cases of HIV infected people today, 11 of them are co-infected with TB.

ROAD AHEAD

While Bhutan has maintained a truly notable record in expanding medical services and infrastructure in most of the regions, the key challenge remains of increasing access in the rural areas, securing the finances to pay for the services and the inadequate numbers of quality medical professionals in the country.

Given the low population base, the rising trend of HIV infection with new cases being detected with increasing frequency, is an alarming development. It is estimated that more than 500 people could be potentially infected but living undetected currently.

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES									
Target 7: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	HIV cases detected		38			217			
Target 8: halt and begin to reverse the spread of Malaria and other major diseases	Contraceptive prevalence rate	18.80%	30.70%			35%		60%	
	Number of Malaria cases	22126	5935		972				
	Number of Malaria cases per 100,000 population at risk	3687	875		142				
	Number of Tuberculosis cases	4232	1140		1154				
	Number of Tuberculosis cases per 100,000	720	168		171				

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

- Between 1990-2007
- The number of newly infected with HIV fell from 3.5 in 1996 to 2.7 million in 2005
- AIDS related deaths declined from 2 to 1.7 million

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Targeted interventions: Cambodia's 100 percent Condom Use Programme contributed to twice as much as condom use among sex workers. HIV prevalence declined from 1.2 to 0.7 percent between 2003-2008.



ENVIRONMENT



Where we are

Bhutan, by constitutional mandate, has stipulated the sustainable use of natural resources and the maintenance of a minimum forest cover of 60% for posterity.

With regard to climate change, Bhutan stands out as one of the very

few countries with net greenhouse gas sequestration capacity.

Barring the occurrence of major natural catastrophe, Bhutan is set to achieve the seventh MDG of ensuring environmental sustainability. The 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI) compiled by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy in conjunction with the World Economic Forum, ranked Bhutan as fourth among the Asian countries in its environmental performance.

A total of 29% of its land area has been designated as protected area, covering an area of 10,513 sq. km. In addition, 9% of the country's territory has been demarcated as biological corridors which connect the nature reserves, parks and wildlife sanctuaries to allow the free and uninhibited movement of birds

and animals within a wide natural range.

The country's agrobiodiversity is impressive as well and it has 20 crop species and 10 livestock species, 250 landraces of rice, 47 of maize, 24 of wheat, and 30 of barley.

ROAD AHEAD

The growing pressure on environmental costs extracted by development remains the delicate challenge: such as land degradation, potential biodiversity habitat loss, impact of road construction, waste management, natural disasters, and the competing interests of community's livelihood and conservation interests.

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY									
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Proportion of land area covered by forest	72.50%		72.50%					on track
Target 10: Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation.	Ratio of protected area to surface area for maintaining biological diversity	23%	26%	28%					
	CO2 (per capita) emissions		-7.9 mt						insufficient data
	Proportion of population using solid fuels (i.e. wood, charcoal, dung)		75%	70%					
	Proportion of population without access to an improved drinking water source	55%	22%	19%			5%	27.50%	achieved
	Proportion of population without access to improved sanitation	33%	12%	10%	17.50%		4%		achieved

GLOBAL FAST FACTS

- CO2 emissions reached 21 billion metric tons in 2006. This is a 31 percent increase from 1990.
- Deforestation continues at 13 million hectares every year.
- 75 percent of the 884 million people who face water scarcity live in rural areas.

WHAT HAS WORKED

- Provision of bio-fuel technologies in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Senegal created income-generating opportunities for women
- South Asia's Women Well-Being, Work, Waste and Sanitation project trained women as sanitation facilities installers. It also allowed them to earn additional income.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



- Divisions of labour
- Transparency for accountability

Innovative finance

- Explore schemes for development and climate finance

Debt Sustainability

- Post-crisis, consider extending debt relief to vulnerable countries, including through a moratorium and/or debt swaps
- Orderly debt work-out mechanism

Trade

- Agree on development friendly Doha Round by end-2011
- Support South-South trade and regional integration

Other areas

- Access to technologies
- international migration
- foreign Investment
- Illicit flows and tax cooperation

South-South cooperation

- New opportunities for resource and knowledge transfers

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT (GDP)**Further strengthen the GDP**

- Focus on policy coherence
- Accountability for pledges

Aid quantity and allocation

- Increased ODA has supported MDG progress

- Allocate efficiently across countries and priorities
- Invest in capacities to manage ODA

Aid effectiveness

- Tackle fragmentation
- Increase predictable budget support

Targets	Indicators	1990	2000	2007	2009	2010	2013 (plan target)	2015	Status of Progress
Goal 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT									
Target 14: in cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	Youth unemployment rate		2.60%	9.90%	0	0		0	Needs attention
Target 18: in cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technology	Fixed Telephone Lines in Service	4052	16,580	35,420					On track
	Telephone density (per 100 persons)	0.68	2.4	15.6 (05)					On track
	Computers in use (per 100 persons)		0.58 (01)	2.3 (05)					On track
	Internet users (per 100 persons)		0.43 (01)	1.2 (05)					Insufficient data

LESSONS LEARNT

Complimenting broad based poverty alleviation programmes with targeted poverty interventions



The poverty alleviation strategy of the Royal Government in the past has been to address the human deprivation challenge broadly through the expansion of social services, rural development and income generation activities. While this has helped greatly reduce poverty, the country's development experience over the Ninth Plan have strongly suggested

the need to compliment this universal approach with more focused and tailored interventions to address the particular vulnerabilities and needs of disadvantages and communities and groups. As the Bhutan Vision 2020 document articulates, "the legitimate aspirations of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups have not yet been fully met."

Various national poverty and development studies point out that there are small pockets of socially and economically disadvantaged communities and groups across the country, including even within prosperous regions, dzongkhags or geogs. This is not helped by lack of local level socio-economic data and the fact that national and regional data often tend to mask states of serious indigence and human deprivation that may exist in particular areas.

The Royal Government over the Tenth Plan will adopt a dual poverty reduction strategy that employs both the universal and targeted approach. On one hand, poverty alleviation will continue to be addressed by mainstreaming it through various sectoral plan programmes as in the past that have helped improve living conditions in rural Bhutan but may have lacked targeting efficiency in a certain context. This will be effectively complimented by integrating relevant and focused interventions for target locations or groups that suffer from high income poverty and food poverty or other vulnerabilities and disadvantages. The focused targeting would thus involve delivering development benefits directly to the poor, enhancing their human capabilities and addressing root causes of their impoverishment.

This will be done through dynamic partnerships with civil society and community groups who may often be better able to address these needs. This is anticipated to help scale down poverty levels more effectively, reduce their intensity and severity and ultimately eradicate poverty completely.

REACHING THE UNREACHED



COMING TOGETHER: Villagers inaugurate the savings scheme with the Tarayana field officer making a note of all the savings collected. In the centre, cane and bamboo products made by the self-help group are displayed.

Zhemgang Dzongkhag, with a population of 18,636 and a total land area of 2,421.74 square kilometers, lies in the south-central region of the country. Zhemgang has the highest poverty incidence in the country and remains among the most vulnerable districts in terms of food security due to geo-physical constraints, poor physical infrastructure and weak road access. However, the district enjoys reasonably moderate levels of human development linked to the acceptable levels of education and health facilities.

With support from Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, farmers were trained in cultivation and compost making using organic materials, and was supplied with 10 silo bins for storage of grains. 25 additional silo bins are on the way. Ginger and garlic cultivation has started, and farmers were also familiarized with the rainwater harvesting. Exposure visit for farmers and distribution of seeds

will be carried out from September onwards during the winter crop season to further enhance their knowledge and skills, and improve production through provision of training and agricultural input. Moreover, two poultry sheds were constructed to house 200 birds, and 4 CGI sheets were supplied to each household to construct piggery sheds.

Civil Society

With the support of Tarayana Foundation, a saving group was formed in the village to create a common fund to be used during the time of emergency. This saving scheme has been in operation for three months, during which Nu.12,200 has been collected. Each member contributes Nu.100 per month to the common fund. The scheme's membership has grown from the initial 10 members to 25 members to date. The management of the saving scheme will be handed over to the community, and

will be converted into the micro-credit scheme after setting up the bi-laws, constitution and appointing the executive members.

In Lamthang, construction of 12 houses are ongoing. The project has supported the distribution of 276 CGI sheets for the roofing material, and the rest of the materials as well as the labour is contributed by the community. In order to diversify the livelihoods and to earn extra income, four self-help groups have been set up to engage in income generation activities, such as production of handicrafts and weaving. The 15% of the profit generated from the sales of handicraft items is saved as seed fund-ing for micro-credit. Training to improve the quality of products is in progress, and the plan is to upgrade their quality to cater for potential export market in the future.

A sustainable approach was consciously adopted, for example in constructing the houses through the use of locally available raw materials and training men and women on carpentry and masonry skills.

The community members were happy to receive the support from the donors, and were in turn motivated to work hard to improve their livelihoods. The village has not been supplied with electricity, and the community members have expressed the need for solar panel in each household, as well as the farming tools such as axe and shovel to help ease their farming activities. The block office has supplied cement to construct toilet facilities to improve their sanitation.

A Tarayana field officer noted that "there has been a visible impact in the community through the project intervention as the community was empowered to take ownership for their development."

ON THE ROADMAP

Key Messages for the 2010 MDG Summit

We can achieve the MDGs. The evidence is there.

The MDGs are not just abstract but well specified targets that can, and have been met, even in the poorest and most disadvantaged countries with strong political will, adequate resources and concerted efforts.

Significant challenges remain, but we have the knowledge and experience to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

Progress has been uneven across the MDGs and across regions, as well as between and within countries.

Global case studies and assessments have identified appropriate policies and proven interventions. The need of the hour is to scale them up.

We are at a defining moment in the fight against poverty. And the

challenges of achieving the MDGs cannot be overcome by a single actor.

In 2000, 189 governments committed to achieving the MDGs by 2015. This must be done in concert with the business world, philanthropic community, civil society and the UN system. No single actor can do it alone.

The September Summit is an opportunity to build agreement on a global action plan to meet the MDGs.

The Secretary-General will convene a special summit on the MDGs in New York in September 2010. The Summit will take stock of proven initiatives and also serve as a crucial opportunity to strengthen the MDGs "pact" - the collective efforts to ensure the Goals are met.

A successful summit should generate a renewed political commitment and lead to a global action agenda.

The UN has developed innovative tools to strengthen MDG achievement and stands ready to assist countries in accelerating progress.

The UN has facilitated governments and communities to put in place systems that incorporate the MDGs into national and regional poverty reduction strategies through localised development plans and to distil success factors and impediments to progress to generate robust country-level evidence reaching agreement on a global action agenda at the Summit.

Vulnerability



Apart from earthquakes, landslides and river erosion, the country is susceptible to disastrous hazards arising from glacial lake outbursts floods (GLOFs). GLOFs

primarily occur when melting glaciers create and fill up lakes that subsequently burst due to unstable moraine banks resulting in catastrophic flooding.

Bhutan's entire northern areas abound with glaciers and glacial lakes – 677 glaciers and 2,674 glacial lakes – of which 25 pose potentially high risk of GLOF. Since the last inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes in the country in 2001, 120 new glacial lakes have been formed. Moreover, Bhutan's glaciers are also retreating at alarming and record levels – between 20-30 meters a year – due to climate change and glaciologists warn of the heightened risks of GLOFs, particularly from faster retreating glaciers.

Bhutan's Progress: Midway to the Millennium Development Goals, November 2008.

Managing Director: Tenzin Wangdi, **Head of Operation:** Phuntsok Wangmo, **Editor:** Phuntsok Rabten, **Designer:** Deki Zangmo, Sushil Mishra, **Commercial General Manager:** Gopal S. Mongar, **Business Manager:** Deeptika Chhetri

Printed and Published by Bhutan Observer Pvt. Ltd., Norzin Lam, Thimphu, Bhutan. Tel: 975-2-334891/92/93 Fax: 975-2-327981, E-mails: editor@bhutanobserver.bt, advertisement@bhutanobserver.bt, www.bhutanobserver.bt