

GENDER AND MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

By Dr Esther Njiro CSIR Built Environment
enjiro@csir.co.za

A paper presented at National Stakeholder Consultation on
Gender and energy for CSD organized by NOVA AFRICA
and ENERGIA on 16th March 2006 Pretoria South Africa

INTRODUCTION

- MDGs are an agreed set of goals/blueprint/roadmap for a better world
- They represent global partnership that has grown from commitment to targets established at world summits of the 1990s.
- Set for the year 2015, MDGs agree on what can be achieved when poor countries govern better and rich countries support them through aid, debt relief and fairer trade

INTRODUCTION cont.

- Gender is a social construction by which gender differences between males and females result in differential values and unequal access to opportunities and life-chances
- This paper explores the extent to which the MDGs are taking gender into consideration in monitoring their progress.

MDGs, Targets and Indicators

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Target 1 - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportions of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.
 - Indicator 1: Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
 - Indicator 2: Poverty gap ratio
 - Indicator 3: Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

Goal 1 continued

- Target 2 - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportions of people who suffer from hunger.
 - Indicator 4: Prevalence of underweight Children under five years of age
 - Indicator 5: Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- Target 3 - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
 - Indicator 6: Net enrolment ratio in primary education
 - Indicator 7: Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
 - Indicator 8: Literacy rate of youth aged 15-24 years.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Target 4 - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015
 - Indicator 9: Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
 - Indicator 10: Ratio of literate women to men aged 15-24 years
 - Indicator 11: Share of Women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
 - Indicator 12: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Target 5 - Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.
 - Indicator 13: Under-five mortality rate
 - Indicator 14: Infant mortality rate
 - Indicator 15: Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Target 6 - Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
 - Indicator 16: Maternal mortality ratio
 - Indicator 17: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Target 7 - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
 - Indicator 18: HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years
 - Indicator 19: Condom use rate of the contraceptive
 - 19a - Condom use at last high-risk sex
 - 19b - Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
 - Indicator 20: Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10 to 14 years

MDG 6 continued

- Target 8 - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
 - Indicator 21: Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria
 - Indicator 22: Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures
 - Indicator 23: Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
 - Indicator 24: Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under DOTS

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.
 - Indicator 25: Proportion of land area covered by forest
 - Indicator 26: Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area
 - Indicator 27: Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)
 - Indicator 28: Carbon dioxide emissions per capita and consumption of ozone depleting CFCs
 - Indicator 29: Proportion of population using solid fuels

MDG & Continued

- Target 10 - Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
 - Indicator 30: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an Improved water source, urban and rural
 - Indicator 31: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural

MDG 7 Continued

- Target 11 - Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
 - Indicator 32: Proportion of households with access to secure tenure

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Target 12 - Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. This includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally.
- Target 13 - Address the special needs of the least developed countries, which includes tariff- and quota- free access for exports, enhanced programme of debt relief for and cancellation of official bilateral debt, and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- *Official Development Assistance*
 - Indicator 33: Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors' gross national income
 - Indicator 34: Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
 - Indicator 35: Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied
 - Indicator 36: ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their GNIs
 - Indicator 37: ODA received in small island developing states as proportion of their GNIs
- *Market Access*
 - Indicator 38: Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms from developing countries and from LDCs, admitted free of duty)
 - Indicator 39: Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
 - Indicator 40: Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP
 - Indicator 41: Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

MDG 8 Continued

- Target 14 - Address the special needs of land-locked countries and small island developing states through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and 22nd General Assembly provisions.
- Target 15 - Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.
- *Debt Sustainability*
 - Indicator 42: Total number of countries that have reached their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives (HIPC) decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)
 - Indicator 43: Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative
 - Indicator 44: Debt Service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

MDG 8 Continued

- Target 16 - In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.
- Target 17 - In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- Indicator 45: Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total
- Indicator 46: Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

Gender Mainstreaming in MDGs

- MDGs are only a partial improvement of International development targets as women are still not part of the poverty reduction goal
- Women continue to be identified with human development (education, health and incidence of HIV/AIDS and Malaria)

MDGs new gender features

- Gender equality is treated as an explicit goal
- Indicators of progress reduce gender disparities in primary and secondary schools ensuring gender parity in enrollment and adult literacy

Challenges of Gender in MDGs

- Women and men experience poverty differently.
- Gender inequalities in the domestic domain intersect with inequalities in the gender-neutral institutions of market state and community to make gender inequality a society-wide phenomena.
- Lack of social institutions to advocate for gender equality especially in the rural setting

Lack of Gender-sensitive Indicators

- Gender disaggregated statistical data for implementing MDGs policies and programs is lacking. Accurate and reliable primary data which makes gender issues visible and exposes hidden gender biases in general statistical information is not available.
- MDGs indicators are not gender-sensitive and do not indicate how far and in what ways the MDGs have met the gender equity goal

Gender sensitive indicators

- The argument is given that increasing the number of indicators for each target will weigh down the monitoring process and make it difficult for international comparability to be made. Thus reduce the relevance of indicators.

Gender sensitive research methods

- MDGs require designing and implementing policies that respond to urgent issues of development at national and international contexts.
- Such policies must be based on sound and relevant research demonstrating the interrelationship between targets.
- Identifying gender differences is a powerful way of highlighting the under laying conditions that shape social change

Gender Rights and MDGs

- Disregard of the legal issues raised by CEDAW in many countries
- Access to and control of secure rights to property such as security of tenure for land is a major outstanding issue to fight gender discrimination and promoting gender equity.
- Women comprise a large proportion of economically active population engaged in poverty alleviation yet efforts to give them access to productive resources of land, credit, labor, extension services and legal protection are slow.

Gender Perspectives in HIV/AIDS Pandemic

- Poverty provides a fertile ground for the spread of HIV/AIDS in that poor men have to move away from their families in search of work and that way spread infection.
- Women are more vulnerable than men due to their biology and because of their unequal negotiating power.
- HIV/AIDS pandemic has a negative impact on food security, household incomes and general well being.

Environmental Sustainability

- There are strong links between indigenous knowledge systems, gender roles and sustainable agro biodiversity.
- Unfortunately there is too much stress on the need for the poor to refrain from using the natural resources while the rich continue to pollute the air with the greenhouse gases

Conclusions

- It has taken nearly half a century for the goals of poverty reduction and gender equality to achieve this prominence in mainstream policy concerns. In the process, the understanding of poverty has been transformed from the early equation with income poverty to a more multi-dimensional understanding. This includes its human dimensions as well as its structural causes
- The understanding of gender issues has also grown, but more slowly and unevenly. This is partly political, since gender equity may be threatening to the power and privilege of policy-makers themselves rather than being confined to a constituency 'out there'. However, it is also partly conceptual and lies in the nature of mainstream macroeconomic analysis, models and methodologies.
- The work of gender advocates and feminist academics has helped to keep gender issues alive in the development agenda in some form or other since the 1970s.
- Moreover, the clear links that have been identified between poverty and gender inequality, particularly where SAPs have been imposed, have shown that unless macroeconomic *thinking* is better informed by gender analysis, macroeconomic *policy* will remain gender blind.

THANK YOU