



VOICES AGAINST POVERTY

Effective City Management to achieve the MDGs

by: Erna Witoelar
UN Special Ambassador for the Millennium
Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific *

Millennium Declaration:

- At the UN Millennium Summit in Sept 2000, 189 member states adopted the **Millennium Declaration**, to cooperate on : development and poverty reduction; environment; human rights, peace, security, democracy, good governance, etc
- The Declaration is translated into **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** with specific, concrete, time-bound & quantitative targets for action by 2015

→ the ***“Declaration of Interdependence”***

The MDGs are not new

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability



- 8. Develop a global partnership for development



- 2. Achieve universal primary education
- 3. Promote gender equality & empower women
- 4. Reduce child mortality
- 5. Improve maternal health
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases

→ The MDGs are our own development challenges for some decades, now gaining a new opportunity from global and national momentum of solidarity

→ The MDGs are interrelated and interdependent

Interdependence of MDGs:

- **Holistic approach:** working towards achieving 1 Goal will make us closer to achievements of the rest & would reduce costs of achieving others.
- **Synergistic relationships:** when a single intervention can achieve advances in multiple goals across sectors, it's much more cost-effective.
- **Multi-stakeholder approach:** none of the Goals are achieved by governments alone, private sector & civil society have been engaged in all of them for a long time & should continue to be so.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 9: Integrate principles of sustainable development and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Target 10: sustainable access to safe drinking water & basic sanitation

Target 11: significant improvement in the lives slum dwellers

All Goal 7 targets are very relevant to cities, not just in developing countries but also in the developed ones.

MDGs: most relevant at the Local Level

- MDGs are not just the national governments' commitment to the UN; most important: they are their commitments to their own people
- The MDGs are national commitments, but their achievements (*or failures*) are at the local level
- MDGs ownership by local governments plays a vital role, can make a huge difference in the national and global achievements of MDGs
- The Goals are global in scope, but targets and indicators can be tailor-made to shorter time scales, higher targets & local situations.

Increased Local Governments' & City Authorities' Commitments:

- Today, increasing number of cities around the world are recognizing the importance of the MDGs, and realizing that the achievements depend on their hands, and are more and more engaged in the global efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015.
- Mayors and local government representatives from around the world at the UCLG World Council in Beijing 2005, have committed themselves to the global efforts to achieve MDGs
- Their *MDG Working Group*, chaired by the Mayor of Rome met at the 5th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) in March 2006, and presented its first Plan of Action 2006-2007.

Local Government Millennium Declaration

(approved by UCLGA World Council, Beijing, 10 June 2005)

- Making MDGs top priority
- highlighting indispensable need for action at local level
 - underlining gender equality
 - raising awareness that MDGs require society's commitments
 - strengthening local governance
- launching the Millennium Cities & Towns Campaign



In September 2005, as part of the UCLG "Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign," the city of Bogotá hung a large white banner in support of the Millennium Goals with the slogan "2015: No Excuses! The world must be a better place."



The "MDGArches" were displayed in Bonn during the celebration of the World Youth Day 2005.



MDG's: a great tool for local authorities

- to plan comprehensive development plans & budgets,
- to measure result-based performances.
- to convince their national governments to effectively devolve more power and budgets to the local level.
- to enhance local public accountability.
- to mobilize resources to fund efforts to achieve the MDGs based on national, regional & global commitments

Effective City Management to Achieve the MDGs

- Define local policies to implement the MDGs: localise the MDGs to local situation & priorities
- Debate & adopt political resolutions supporting an MDGs local development plan: advocate & lobby national & regional government and parliament
- Ensure the greatest possible participation of citizens – including civil society organizations in decisions on planning, implementation and monitoring of local plans to meet the MDGs.
- Invest in sustainable local monitoring systems for tracking progress against the MDGs.

Effective City Management to Achieve the MDGs ... *continued*

1. More developed local governments can share a percentage of local budget to development aid linked to the MDGs,
2. insert “development education” curricula in educational institutions to create empathy and solidarity to fight global poverty
3. Create alliances with local civil society, sponsor their activities/events to promote the MDGs among local citizens
4. Focus existing ‘twinning initiatives’ on the MDGs and involve civil society, professional groups like EAROPH members, private sector and the media.

MDGs: basis for C-to-C Partnerships

- MDGs are becoming more relevant basis for decentralized or C2C cooperation, either through town twinning or international associations / networks of local authorities.
- Partnerships among cities are cost-effective and sustainable to strengthening capacities of cities in achieving the MDGs in their local contexts, with participation of stakeholders.
- Moreover, cities benefit directly by taking the initiatives to develop their roles as partners in international policy processes addressing global issues of concerns.

Possible Areas of C-to-C Partnerships involving EAROPH members

- ✓ Improving sustainable provision of safe drinking water and better sanitation
- ✓ Spatial planning for revitalization of slum areas
- ✓ Creative financing of housing for the poor
- ✓ Improving urban solid waste management.
- ✓ Improving air quality and transportation system.
- ✓ Capacity building for improved urban governance
 - *Forms of partnerships: strategy development, technical cooperation, joint project, training, etc.*
 - *The benefits for more developed cities: an increase in technical expertise & knowledge to use in city's future work*



THANK YOU

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