

Breaking Point Review of MDGs in Nepal

Project Completion Report

June 2012-March 2013

Submitted To

United Nations Millennium Campaign
Regional Office,
Bangkok, Thailand

Submitted By

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Salient Features of the Project

Project Title	Breaking Point Review of MDGs in Nepal
Assistance	UN Millennium Campaign/Commonwealth Foundation
Project Number	MDG/G/2012-006 COA: Project 00078578, Activity 2, Donor 00185, Op Unit H21, Fund 30000, Dept ID 09702, Imple 001981
Implementing Agency	NGO Federation of Nepal
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Review status of MDGs in Nepal– Assess the problems and challenges to attain MDGs– Explore the agendas for post 2015
Total Budget	\$ 8000
Duration	June 2012-March 2013
Key Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research• Consultation• Meetings/Seminars• Media partnering

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1. Background

In 2005, the Commonwealth Foundation published *Breaking with Business as Usual: Perspectives from Civil Society in the Commonwealth on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*. The report provided an overview of progress towards the goals in the Commonwealth, based on national reports by governments and civil society. It examined the contribution of civil society organisations (CSOs) to the MDG agenda and suggested ways in which this could be enhanced. It also analysed some of the variables—conflict, loss of human resource capacity and ecological shocks—that could affect MDG attainment.

In January 2012, the foundation commenced a review process in some commonwealth countries and Nepal as case studies in *Breaking with Business as Usual and Assesses Progress* that has been made since 2005. The review focused on national experiences in MDG implementation and monitoring; identify gaps and challenges to implementation and propose solutions and alternative strategies; and review partnership experiences for delivery and advocacy. It examined experiences from all participating countries. The data from this work would be placed in the broader context of current global development debates.

On top of facts mentioned above NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) has also implemented a research project on MDGs, taking support from UNMC/Commonwealth Foundation, which has just been completed as per the schedule. The lessons drawn from the research have been captured and documented. The research outputs included national paper, and policy recommendations which the Foundation expects to have relevance in the various global processes, consultations and discussions focusing on the post-MDG framework.

This report has been prepared intending to brief about the information related with the project activities performed and to share about the results and outcomes produced by the project.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the project was to review the progress of MDGs in Nepal through civil society perspective and recommend for policy asks. The specific objectives were as follow:

- Critically analyze the changing development context of Nepal,
- Review available national data and statistics on MDGs,
- Review partnership experiences for delivery and advocacy,
- Explore cross-cutting issues highlighted by the research,
- Identify gaps and challenges to MDGs implementation and propose solutions and alternative strategies for accelerating MDGs achievement, and
- Propose country specific ideas for Post 2015 development framework.

3. Duration

As per contract with UNMC, the project was formally started on 22 June 2012 and was ended on 29 March 2013.

4. Key Activities

4.1 Research on MDGs

Breaking Point Research was undertaken on MDGs in Nepal following different research methodologies – mainly desk review of literatures, key informants interviews and participatory focus group discussions. Key informants for individual interview and networks/alliances for focus group discussions were selected in consultation with senior executives of the NFN. The informants comprised of interlocutors and co-analysts. A total of six key informant interviews, two individual interviews with the grassroots representatives and nine focus group discussions (FGDs) and one national civil society consultation were carried out. Research questions developed jointly by the CF and UNMC were considered as basic guidelines for the individual interviews and FGDs.

This Breaking Point Research was focused to facilitating the ‘breaking with business as usual’ on behalf of Nepalese Civil Society to explore their perspectives on MDGs attainment and post MDG agenda. The lessons drawn from this research and documented in this paper will be used to lobby and advocate in various national and international processes, consultations and discussions to accelerate the development process till 2015 and for setting a development framework for the post MDG period. In this context, this review of the progress towards assessing the attainment of the MDGs in Nepal was undertaken through the eyes of Civil Society. The report has been placed in the broader context of current development debates including the setting of post 2015 development agenda. The research report has been enclosed with this report.

4.2 National Consultation Workshop

A draft report was prepared after comprehensive desk review of available information/data, interviews with persons holding some relevant information and organising focus group discussions (FGDs) with different interest groups. The report was shared with the larger civil society and other stakeholders who convened from all 75 districts of the country for their information and additional feedback. Thus, the two pronged objective of the workshop was to share the findings of the review of the progress towards the attainment of MDGs and post 2015 development agenda, and solicit feedback to further strengthen the report.



The consultation and feedback session was organised on 27 September 2012 in Kathmandu, and was moderated by Ms. Sharmila Karki, the Secretary General of NFN (now President) and the report was presented by Dr Sarba Raj Khadka, the consultant researcher. This programme was organized as a part of National Civil Society Conference, when there was a massive assembly of civil society leaders from across the country.

Beginning the session, Ms. Karki set the tone by introducing the topic for discussion and the importance of the civil society engagement in the development agenda of the country and the contributions that would be made through the deliberations of the seminar participants. Linking the valuable points discussed in the previous session on the general political, economic, social and environmental situation of the country, she reiterated the unparalleled contributions this report is going to make. Dr Khadka presented the report in a sequential order of the context, objectives, methodology, findings and recommendations which is briefly discussed in the following sections.

It was very remarkable that after consultation the issues raised by participants, that related with political parties, were further discussed with senior leaders of major political parties. Mr. Shatya Pahadi (Unified Communist Party of Nepal- Maoist), Mr. Shovakar Parajuli (Nepali Congress), Mr. Pradip Gyanwali (Communist Party of Nepal-UML), Ms. Pampha Bhusal (Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist) were present on behalf their parties. Including them altogether 533 persons were present in the programme.

4.3 Broad based seminar on MDGs, Post MDG agenda and Barrier to Change

In course of sharing the report with the larger civil society and other stakeholders, the report was also shared with broad-based stakeholders amidst a program in Kathmandu on 5 November 2012. The main objective of this seminar was to draw the attention of policy makers and government agencies on the issues of MDGs and make aware on the key agendas of post-2015 on behalf of Nepalese civil society organizations.



For this particular seminar basically concerned government agencies were invited including National Planning Commission, Ministries, Social Welfare Council, and constitutional bodies.

But for making diverse participation the various civil society organizations and international agencies were also invited. Altogether 148 persons were present in this seminar.

The seminar was facilitated by Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina, Immediate Past President of NFN and the report was presented by Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha, Executive Director. Dr Timsina began the session introducing the civil society engagement in the post-2015 development agenda and the discussions and outcomes that have been made so far.

Mr. Shrestha presented the report that included the context, objectives, methodology, findings and recommendations. He introduced the Breaking Point Research Project on MDGs as a joint initiative of the UNMC and the Commonwealth Foundation, simultaneously undertaken in 20 countries of the world. The NFN has executed this project in Nepal, where efforts were made to review national experiences in MDGs implementation and monitoring the results, and identifying a promising post-2015 development framework. The main purpose of this initiative was to review national experiences in MDGs implementation and monitoring the progress in Nepal. At the same time, it aims to propose country specific civil society ideas for Post 2015 development framework.

The research has found some critical and emerging issues affecting the MDGs attainment in Nepal: these issues were shared in the broad-based seminar. The issues were categorized as policy and governance related factors; resource and opportunity related factors; and the newly emerging issues. Besides, the previous consultations have garnered some critical issues to be resolved for attaining the MDGs by 2015; the issues also were shared in the present seminar. The recommendations regarding the essential conditions for setting development framework beyond 2015; and development agenda beyond 2015 were also shared. A few suggestions were received regarding this.

4.4 Discussion meeting on the issues of poverty inequality, injustice and political instability in Nepal

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are expected to address the issues of poverty, inequality, injustice and political instability in Nepal. The development agenda not only in the MDG period till 2015 but also beyond 2015 need to underline these issues. In the present context, while the global discussions and consultations on attainment of MDGs and post 2015 development agenda are in progress, civil society and civil society organizations are engaged and need to be engaged in the discussion to bring to forefront the issues and problems of the common people. The discussions are expected to make the global dialogues more inclusive in agenda and participatory in approach. In this context, a discussion meeting, as a part of Breaking Point Research Project, was organized among the key CSOs on 4 November 2012 in Kathmandu.

This discussion was aimed to increase the level of awareness of the leaders of the civil society organizations on MDGs and post-2015 development framework so that they are able to lead the local civil society initiatives for attainment of MDGs and consultations for framing the post-2015 development programmes. The programme was relevant in that CSO leaders need to understand and need to be aware of national and international dimensions of development, development politics, and aid.

The issues on MDGs and post-2015 development agenda were raised by Dr. Arjun Karki through his presentation and facilitation on the discussion. Following the presentation, Dr. Karki

answered the queries and led further discussions to clarity and to specify roles of the CSOs. Altogether 43 persons were present in this meeting.



4.5 Partnering with media

The media sector was highly mobilised to collect relevant information and disseminate the project findings. They were invited in all major events of the project including consultation meeting, broad based seminar and discussion meeting. The news of the events was disseminated through the television and radio programme. Most importantly, a video programme was developed based on the discussion among key persons including Mrs. Sharmila Karki (*as a representative of civil society*), Dr Sarba Raj Khadka (*as a representative of development expert*) and Dr Prem Rai, a member of National Planning Commission (*as a representative of government*). This programme was telecast in popular programme " Sarokar" on Kantipur TV on 25 December 2012.

5. Results and outcomes

Production of a country case study report entitled "The Post 2015 Agenda: A Review of the Progress towards Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals-Civil Society Perspectives" itself is the main output of the project. This report has been able to assess the MDGs adapted to nationally relevant targets and indicators, as part of National Plans, PRSPs or other instrument that the government used in this regard.

The research has been able to find out the gaps between the performance at national level and the information contained in official reports on MDGs, including the level of penetration by the MDGs in the communities.

The project has been able to recommend policies and actions to be taken by the government, civil society and other development partners for achieving MDGs in the country and government officials have been made aware about intervention measures to speed up the efforts of the government to achieve the national targets in stipulated time.

Moreover, the project has been able to explore/propose robust agenda for MDG period and policy recommendation for post 2015. Civil society activists, development professionals and media persons have been made aware about the national priorities to be adopted in the context of post-2015 development framework.

6. Lessons learnt and way forward

Since this project was more focused on research work and national level events, it has been realized that more review and discussions should be taken at local level as well, so that perspectives and views of local people, civil society activists and development workers can be reflected in the research work. This will help to expand the knowledge about the MDGs and development policies of the government and local governments. In the context of formulating global development framework for post 2015, intensive dialogues can be instrumental to set the common position on behalf of Nepalese civil society. Rigorous interactions with government are important for influencing government authorities so that the demands of civil society are adequately incorporated in government policies documents.

Annex 1: Financial Report

NGO Federation of Nepal

**Breaking Point Project
From 1 July 2012 to 31st March 2013**

Receipt & Disbursement Statement

S.N	Particular	Amount in Doller	Amount in NRs
A.	<u>Fund Received :</u>		
	UNMC	\$6,000.00	530,100.00
B.	<u>Disbursement :</u>		
2.1	Researcher and research	\$4,010	354,280.00
2.2	National Consultation Workshop	\$1,170	103,400.00
2.3	Broad based seminar on MDGs	\$1,300	114,898.00
2.4	Administrative and Logistics	\$687	60,665.00
3.1	Press Meeting, television, radio, programme	\$283	25,000.00
3.2	Organise discussion meeting	\$574	50,716.00
3.3	Transmit key message through radio interview programme	-	-
	Total (B)	\$8,024.44	708,959.00
	Balance Amount (A-B)	-\$2,024.44	(708,959.00)

Exchange Rate \$ 1 = NRs. 88.35

Balance Representated by :

Bank Balance in Nrs	57,742
Total	57,742
Less : Payable	236,601
To be Received from UNMC in Nrs	(178,859)
To be Received from UNMC in Dollar	(\$2,024)

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