

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & CHILDREN

POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



Editor
Bishwa Keshar Maskay Ph.D



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SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
NEPAL

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Foreword

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) consisting of eight goals, targets and indicators that were enacted as follow up to Millennium Declaration by United Nations General Assembly at a Special Session in September 2000 has served as time bound development focused and guidelines for most of developing countries. It indicated forceful need for a shared responsibility among countries both developed and developing for poverty reduction mother-child centered critical social development concern and environmental issues. While Nation have two and half years remaining for compilation of MDGs time frame 2015 program in meeting most of the goals have been remarkably in Nepal context, despite nation being engulfed in violent conflict till 2006 and thereafter suffering from political uncertainty and instability, progress in MDG has been impressive Absolute poverty has reduced to 23. Children primary education reaching to 95 per cent child mortality reduced to 55 per 1000 birth and natural mortality reduction target through unlikely to be achieved yet progress remained encouraging

It has encouraging that MDG major focus on primary education, health particularly child mortality reduction, maternal health and reproductive health as well as prevention of HIV/AIDS all related to the child welfare and well being in recent decade apart from families and parents, most of communities and nations have increased resources and programs for protecting children's rights and promoting of their welfare. As children are considered to be nations' future resource for development and prosperity, timely investment in children and youth ins considered crucial and fundamental for productivity enhancement and capacity building.

Currently United Nation in partnership with member states and other international organization is engaged in working out new development framework and goals as follow up to MDGs. Consultations have been widely progressed.

The Secretary General of the United Nations constituted high level panel of eminent persons on post-2015 development agenda and the panel had submitted its report “A New Global Partnership Eradicate Poverty and Transform economies through Sustainable Development” on April 2015. The Report has emphasized on building further achievements made on the MDGs and has called for action ending hunger and extreme poverty as well as addressing poverty in all its other forms. Calling for five transformative shifts for creating conditions for poverty and hunger eradication, the panel has suggested twelve illustrative goals. The United Nations is expected to make a final decision in later sessions of its General Assembly.

In that context to the recently organized Round Table on Millennium Development Goals and children in Nepal: post 2015 Development Agenda served useful purpose in evolving concrete inputs for Nepal's viewpoint at the forthcoming debates and discussion and at the UN General Assembly and elsewhere. This publication is a compilation of resource paper, proceedings and recommendations on specific themes from detailed deliberations at the concurrent sessions and consolidated recommendation of the Round table. The deliberation at the Round Table has strongly emphasized children's rights, policy measures as well as program under the Post 2015 development agenda should have child-centric focus, as it is the quickest way to achieve sustainable development in all nation. Human rights equity and quality fair inclusion for all would depend on appropriate investments in child and youth development and empowerment. Therefore the Round Table had strongly emphasized that child welfare and child rights should be honored and should be carried further forward. The Organizers of the Round Table, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, ActionAid International Nepal, SOS Children's Villages Nepal deserves high appreciation for organizing such as noble exercise. Special thanks goes to Dr. Bishwa Keshar Maskey. Chairman of the Organizing Committee and his team members for steering the Round Table most successfully. We hope the report will be useful for all who works for the child rights.

Riddhi Baba Pradhan
Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare

Preface

Nepal has been in political chaos since the last two decades. However, during this period Nepal has made significant progress towards poverty reduction despite of the armed conflict and the socio-economic and political transition. Social mobilization and strengthening people's agency to fight unjust power relations has been a key social phenomenon in the last decade. The government is embarking on inclusive public policy and the social sector is growing, especially basic education, primary health care and social security. As a result, ever since Nepal expressed its commitment to realize the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there has been significant progress in the area of access to education and reduction of child mortality, which has been appreciated by the international community. The trends observed in the government reports show Nepal's consistent progress towards achieving MDGs in most sectors and subsectors. As a result, the status of children has significantly improved as shown by aggregated indicators. MDG progress reviews indicated that Nepal had maintained favorable policy environment for meeting most of the MDG targets. There were appropriate strategies, plans and programs backed up by resources to attain most of the targets.

As per Nepal's commitment on several human rights and child rights related international instruments, some promising efforts have been made at the national level including the formulation of some children friendly policies, programmes and laws. However serious disparities can be seen along the lines of class, gender, geography, caste, ethnicity and household characteristics, and thus, those policies are yet to be fully implemented so that the rights of the children would be guaranteed. Despite the achievement of the most of MDGs related to the rights of children, effectiveness of the established mechanisms and quality of services for the child protection are under the question mark. Nepal yet has to do lot more to make our children free from all forms of

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exploitation, discrimination and injustice. The political turmoil has prevented economic expansion from going ahead. Economic growth rate remains almost stagnant (3-4 per cent) over a couple of decade. It has largely affected the children especially the disadvantaged ones continue to suffer from several problems. The researches and data show that high drop-out from schools which directly link with the child labor in Nepal, which is relatively higher than other SAARC countries. More than one third of the children between the ages of 5 and 14 are engaged in economic activities. Over two million are child workers, whose basic rights have been denied. Some of them are in a very hazardous condition.

The rights and interests of the children is the national issue for which, co-operation and coordination among all concerned agencies including the non-governmental sectors is highly necessary. For this, people need to be empowered to cope with the challenges inflicted from increased corruption due to lack of effective accountability in the political system and government mechanisms. A critical challenges for the Nepali leadership to to prepare citizens to cope with these challenges and transform subordinates to equal citizens. Likewise, employment opportunity must be created for youths and economic empowerment of people living in poverty is necessary to reduce the social cost by ensuring basic human rights are fulfilled. Then, only we can reduce the dependency on remittance from foreign employment in the long run and maintain the sustainability of poverty reduction in the days to come.

The round table on 'Millennium Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Children' is thus a forum which is convened in right time to bring all the stakeholders including government policy makers, international organizations, institutions working on child rights and child protection, civil society representatives, academics and experts to share the experiences and ideas in terms of progresses and challenges of development efforts in achieving the MDGs in Nepal from child rights perspective as well as to explore and recommend the most feasible approach, methodology, mechanism and instrument for mainstreaming children's rights and development programs into the national development agenda. We hope that this publication will contribute to the global discourse on post-2015 development agenda as well. The Organizers of the Round Table, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, ActionAid International Nepal and SOS Children's Villages Nepal appreciates the outcome and recommendations concerning poverty eradication, equity and quality concern in education, public investment in basic services like education and health, to address the issue of child protection in Nepal for achieving ambitious international development goals.

Bimal Kumar Phunyal
Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal

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*T*his publication is a collective effort of Policy-Makers, Academics, Professional experts, researchers and practitioners involved in the field of child rights and welfare as well as government officials. Involved in implementing various programs related to Millennium Development Goals (MDG) professional experts and prepared five theme papers covering important areas such as Policy and planning for child welfare, education, health, children rights and protection and investment in overall development.

This publication includes all those resource papers, addresses, reflections and observation delivered at the all important aspects and facets of Round Table including declarations and recommendations of the Round Table.

We are particularly grateful to the resource persons and participants each of whom rendered their valuable time to share thoughts to animate the possibilities in making the Round Table lively and constructive. Distinguished leaders, policy makers, resource persons, experts and participants and several organizations that have worked with us, encouraged us and supported us throughout deserve deep appreciation. It has also been an immense experiences working together in solidarity with our colleagues and fellow travelers in working for child care and development organizing this significant exercise in Nepal. The presentations, deliberations and recommendations of the Round Table will be useful to the concerned organizations and individuals in developing policy program and implementation of Millennium Develop-

ment Goals and Children in future.

First we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Rid-dhi Baba Pradhan, Minister of Woman, Child and Social Welfare, for her encouragement and support in organizing the Round Table. We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya, Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission for being the chief guest of Inaugural Ceremony of the Round Table and for his inaugural speech. We are thankful to Mr. Dinesh Hari Adhikary, Secretary, Ministry of Woman, Child and Social Welfare for his support and guidance on organization of the Round Table. We are equally thankful to Officiating Secretary Mr. Upendra Adhikary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare for his support as a member of organizing committee and Chairing the inaugural ceremony and as Guest of Honor in valedictory session and encouragement throughout.

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We are particularly grateful to the participants each of whom gave time to share his or her thinking and understanding to explore the possibilities in making Round Table lively and constructive. We would like to put on record the contributions of the Organizing Committee for their support in organizing the Round Table. We are thankful to Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal, Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal chairing the Drafting Committee. and presented the thematic papers as a resource persons.. We are also thankful to Shubhendra Man Shrestha, Education and Youth Program Coordinator, ActioAid International Nepal, for his contribution in coordinating with the Organizing Committee and resource person as a panellist. We are also equally thankful to Mr. Shree Shankar Pradhananga, National Director, SOS Children's Village in Nepal, and member Secretary of Organizing Committee and for his administrative coordination and also serving as the Resource Person and panellists in the Round Table. We would like to thank the co-workers and volunteers of the SOS Children's Villages Nepal for their support and contribution. Especially the thanks goes to Ms. Ujjala Shrestha for compiling the information.

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We hope the publication would be useful to all those who are working in area of child rights and welfare in Nepal and abroad. We sincerely feel it provides valuable inputs for evolving concrete Post 2015 development framework with child focused issues for the Millennium Development Goals.

Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay

Chairman

Organizing Committee of Round Table and
President, SOS Children's Villages Nepal

INTRODUCTION

Millennium Development Goals and Children

Post 2015 Development Agenda

Professor Bishwa Keshar Maskay

1. Overview of the Millennium Development Goals

*I*n September 2000, the Millennium Development Assembly took place at the United Nations bringing 147 heads of States and Government in one place, the largest ever such gathering of the world leaders. These assembled leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration that sets forth a series of quantified and time bound goals to reduce extreme poverty, diseases and deprivation. The goals and targets gleaned from the Millennium Declaration have now become the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which aim to: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, provide gender equality, reduce child mortality, combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and develop global partnerships for development. The MDGs also give special recognition to the needs of landlocked countries and the least developed countries, and provide debt relief for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC).

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) address extreme poverty in its many dimensions – income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion – while promoting gender equality, child rights, education and environmental sustainability. As pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Millennium Declaration, the MDGs aim to secure basic human rights – the rights of each person on the planet to proper health, education, shelter and security.

While MDGs have been vastly successful in strengthening global political consensus, providing a focus for advocacy, improving the targeting and the flow of foreign aid, and improving the monitoring of develop-

ment projects, they are not free of drawbacks as pointed out by scholars at the Lancet and London International Development Centre Commission among many others. The MDGs are an assembly of sector-specific and often quite narrowly focused targets that have their various origins in development ideas and campaigns of the 1980s and 1990s. As a result, MDGs have also encountered a range of common challenges. Challenges with the conceptualization and execution of the MDGs arise at three discreet levels - goal, target, indicator – based on the way they are constructed. Some studies point out that the way of achieving goals lacks a holistic approach; they argue that the potential synergies between goals should be explored further to gain maximum efficiency in achieving the goals. As the current MDGs approach the final stage, we must put considerable thought on devising a new set of goals, which not only tackles problems with the current goals but also builds on the successes of them.

The Millennium Declaration presented six values that are fundamental to international relations in the 21st century: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility. MDGs represent an integration of different international development strategies and initiatives emerging over recent decades. Endorsed by 189 governments, these goals embody an unprecedented global consensus on international development. Even with the drawbacks, the MDGs are recognized as “the first global development vision that combines a global political endorsement with a clear focus on, and means to engage directly with, the world’s poor people”.

2. MDGs and Children

As today’s children are the most valuable resource of a nation’s future, it is natural that governments, communities and families all over the world perceive children’s rights and well-being as priority concerns. In order to address these concerns, appropriate programs and activities are designed and implemented on priority basis. Important considerations have been placed on child development since the World Summit on Children held in United Nations in New York in 1990. Other various global summits on sustainable development, population and social development were held during 1990s. The Millennium Declaration was adopted by United Nations in 2000 and the subsequently formed MDGs had major concerns for child development, particularly that of child’s accessibility to education, health, nutrition and protection. The goals related to universal primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health and HIV/AIDS have direct bearings on children’s rights and well-being. It

is heartening to note that a recent UNICEF study appropriately states “providing children with essential services through an equity-based approach that focuses on the poorest and most marginalized children and communities can greatly accelerate progress, particularly in meeting MDGs”. The study also emphasizes that sustainable development starts and ends with safe, healthy and well-educated children.

It is well established that a country’s level of human development is key to economic growth. An expansion of human development comes with educating children. Well-educated children are better able innovate or adopt technologies of technological leaders. They are better able to thrive in socio-economic world. All these factors can help developing countries achieve high rate of economic growth and “catch-up” with the high-income nations.

Moreover, when the essential needs of children are met, including access to health care, education, nutrition, nurture and care, they grow into confident adults and become contributing members of society. They are able to break the cycle of poverty and inequity and subsequently evade the social and financial burdens. A society as a whole can benefit by investing in the well-being of children, and instituting policies and measures that support them to develop to their full human potential.

Despite the well-founded notion that a nation’s future hinges on the well-being of today’s children, many children are still deprived of proper care and attention. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 by the United Nations points out that in 2001 more than 101 million children under age five (one in six) were still undernourished and underweight. Additionally, more than 150 million children under age five (one in four) show signs of stunted growth. At the current progress rate, it is unlikely that the goal of universal primary education by 2015 will be achieved, partly due to poverty but also because of gender discrimination and place of residence. While substantial progress has been made on development fronts since the inception of MDGs, further push is necessary as a part of post-2015 development agenda that ensures proper care and provision to children.

3. MDGs and Nepal

The Millennium Declaration and MDGs have set a new thinking in development paradigm and have guided socio-economic development process in most developing countries. In Nepal’s context, incorporation of MDGs in the medium-term development plans and effective implementation of MDGs related activities have led to a substantially wider

accessibility of education, health, drinking water and sanitation to larger sections of population. MDGs have also emphasized on shared responsibilities among developed and developing countries for global partnerships for reducing poverty and other socio-economic deprivations. As a result, financial and technical assistance to developing and the least-developed countries like Nepal has significantly increased.

We find very encouraging signs as we review Nepal's achievements on the goals. Overall, children's accesses to basic social services have expanded. Absolute poverty level has lowered to 23.5 percent. Universal primary enrollment has reached 95.3 percent, basic education 87.5 percent and secondary education to 32.4 percent. In terms of health, child mortality below five has lowered to 55 per thousand births in 2011 as compared to 118 in 1996. Maternal mortality is reduced to 250 as compared to 539 earlier. All these statistics indicate significant achievements related to children's welfare. Overall, the Human Development Index increased from 0.40 in 2000 to 0.46 in 2011, a 15 percent improvement. A Center for Global Development study identifies Nepal as one of the "trailblazers" – a country that has performed well based on its MDG progress index. The Nepalese government is quite keen on increasing investments in child development and thus empowering the children's career prospects. We must appreciate the visionary global leaderships in conceiving, committing and helping nations in implementing these innovative policies and programs. Such concrete time bound programs and activities with clear goals and targets should be further pursued and strengthened.

Taking into consideration the importance of child development for future growth and development, the Nepalese government has already revised and enacted 'National Child Policy 2012' with major objectives of protecting children from physical and mental violence, ending discrimination, providing quality education and health, and strengthening juvenile justice system. Ten-year Action Program outlines policy details. The recently prepared report of the UN Secretary General's High level Panel of Eminent Persons' on the post-2015 development agenda serves as a guide to our preparatory work.

Nepal's experience in implementing the MDGs, especially related to the development and well-being of children are encouraging. However, to make further progress we need to identify issues, challenges and opportunities for further progress in promoting child rights and well-being and propose a set of new or revised goals and targets as successors to current MDGs in the post-2015 period. We need to deliberate extensively on child rights and protection, child health, investment in child development

and create opportunities for the children in Nepal. We are confident that the expert participants would discuss all the pertinent issues and formulate concrete pragmatic options for improving children's appropriate growth and development dimensions for future career opportunities. These new goals and targets, while being relevant to Nepal, can be regarded as Nepal's contribution to the international community.

4. The post-2015 development agenda and Children

The MDGs, one of the most significant and unifying global agreements of our times, is set to end in 2015. It is now time to reflect, evaluate and learn from the persistent challenges, while looking towards the future and building on our successes. Now is the time to coordinate our efforts to achieve an equitable society, where no child is condemned to be born into a lifetime of poverty, discrimination and exclusion. It is the time to work together to build a safer world where each and every child is provided the care and protection they are entitled to so that they can lead a life of freedom, dignity and opportunity.

We are determined to make these visions a reality by firmly rooting the post-2015 development agenda into the basic principles of human rights by placing children at its core and addressing the needs and rights of children, especially those the most disadvantaged and marginalized such as children without or at-risk of losing parental care. This will secure healthy personal development of all children and contribute to the creation of an equitable society premised on sustainable ecological, social and economic development.

We firmly believe that entrenching children and young people at the core of the new development agenda can open space for those highly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the problems of post-conflict society and children without parental care or on the verge of losing parental care. These at-risk children will not only be influenced by the agenda of today, but will ultimately benefit from or pay the consequences of resulting policies in the future.

Health, education and well-being of children are at the heart of the current MDGs. The global development agenda, however, is becoming very crowded. There is a risk that the central place of children in the MDGs might be sidetracked in the post-2015 development agenda. Recognizing this, we need to explore creative strategies to ensure continuing focus on children and human development in the post-2015 agenda. Moreover, the MDGs did not always follow a rights-based approach

to development and issues of child protection did not figure much in them. The post-2015 agenda should seek to explore innovative ways to ensure that the new agenda overcome these shortcomings. Discussions have to include policy formulation, implementation strategies, coordination mechanisms, networking and collaboration. We also need to assess, document and analyze existing policies, plans and priorities, and evaluate progresses made and remaining challenges in the process to achieve the goals from a child care perspective. It is expected that recommendations will be made to Nepal's national development agenda to incorporate the best feasible approaches and instruments for mainstreaming children's rights and programs to achieve the post-2105 goals.

It is also imperative that we protect children against violence and exploitation. These goals are largely missing from the current MDGs. As noted by the scholars at the Austrian Development Cooperation, "poverty is not just a cause, but [in particular] also a consequence [...]." This implies that societies that provide poor and inadequate protection and status to children can lead to further child poverty and deprivation. For this reason, strict rules against arrangements such as child labor and child prostitution must be in place to ensure violence and exploitation-free society. The post-2015 development agenda, hence, must consider the proposition of child protection so that children to grow in safe and nurturing environment.

In Nepal's context, a special attention must be provided to children affected by armed conflicts. Because of the recent insurgency, many children are without or at risk of losing parental care. In such cases, alternative child care services provision must be set up so that children retain access to education and health, and their fundamental rights are protected. Of equal importance is the need for continued assistance for education in the times of emergency, be it an armed conflict or a natural disaster. This allows schools to function as a safe place for children to meet their peers and share haunting experiences with others; this helps children to deal with the traumatic experiences and subsequently supports mental stability.

Many changes have occurred since the advent of the MDGs with a clear impact on education, health and child protection. However, there is a need for clear, concise and measurable targets to ensure and monitor the achievement of equitable access to education and health care to children, efficiency in child protection system, as well as progress in governance, investment and partnerships. The quality learning and health care for all should be the unifying umbrella theme for national education

policy reforms and the future global development agenda. Learning is a continuous process throughout all levels of education, from early childhood to adulthood. To make further progress, we need to assert the government's obligation to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all, at least at the basic education level, quality, accessibility and affordable health services, and child protection principles and mechanisms.

We will have to identify other areas of policy improvements, devise concrete programs and define the modalities of partnership especially networking, cooperation, collaboration and alliances in the areas of MDGs and Children. We need to identify the policy and program gaps, issues and emerging opportunities and recommendations on health care, educational quality and standards. We need to share the promotional approaches for appropriate priorities and criteria in investment in children and enhance the understanding of appropriate and adequate key components of national child protection systems.

The issues of social justice are at stake when sufficient child protection is not provided by the system. Many children living in poverty have not had a fair chance to live because they are victims of illness or poor health care, mal-nutrition, inaccessibility to education facility or low quality of education. Remediating these fundamental inequalities and injustices is a massive step towards a better and a uniform child rights. A focus on the poorest and most marginalized children should be the foundation of the post-2015 agenda.

The concept of holism and synergy, where several goals are met simultaneously, can be well applied in a process that starts with early child development programs. As pointed out in a UNICEF's study, with proper care in the earliest years to both girls and boys, a quality primary school education, an expanded set of immunization and basic health care, and protection against violence, exploitation and abuse, children are able to grow up in a supportive environment and be contributing members of the future generation. All these efforts help attain the major entries in MDGs such as reducing extreme poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality and primary education, improving maternal health and reduce child mortality rates, and combating harmful diseases. This cycle of development is further propelled with the notion that the generation of well-educated children that grow in a comfortable environment become well-equipped adults, and they subsequently are better able to provide for their children.

The post-2015 goals should strongly emphasize that concrete works undertaken during MDG's period be continued. To further the develop-

ment agenda for MDG and children, it must also have a strategic framework in place to be collectively pursued with full commitment. We need to enhance the understanding of appropriate and adequate care as a key component of the national child protection systems. Equally important is the need to identify the gaps, issues and emerging opportunities, and incorporate them into policy recommendations for child-care friendly services for in vulnerable situations. As advocated by a United Nations study on MDG and children, the post-2015 development agenda should incorporate actions to mobilize resources and put the care and protection of children first, gather pace towards universal access to treatment, strengthen health and education services, and build stronger partnerships among people, institutions and countries.

4. Future strategies for the post-2015 development agenda

As we approach the terminal phase of the current MDGs, the United Nations, in partnership with its members and other international and regional bodies, is working on a post-2015 development agenda as successor to the current MDGs. We must work to further build on what we have achieved under the current goals. Millennium Declaration's overriding mandate and spirits on human rights, equity, democratic ideals and right to empowerment and decent living still remain the guiding principles in national and global governance even when global, regional and national socio-economic parameters have had wide scale transformations and new challenges in maintaining stability, growth, sustainability and equality of opportunities have emerged with new dimensions. While adhering to those guidelines and global mandate, we must now add new initiatives to supplement our continuing efforts by incorporating actions on inclusion, equality and sustainability. In that respect, children's concerns and their rights to development must remain the core elements of post-2015 development agenda.

A cross-sectoral analysis suggests that future goals should be built on a shared vision of development, and not on the bundling together of a set of independent development targets. A holistic approach is needed to avoid gaps in the development agenda and ensure synergy between its interlinked components, each of which should address elements of human, social, and environmental development. A broad development agenda arising from this process should be agreed internationally, but developed locally, to ensure ownership of goals and their monitoring across society nationally, regionally, and globally.

We need to raise awareness about the possible programs and projects, seek implementation modalities, approaches and mechanisms for collective action in implementation of MDGs. We hope we will be able to formulate a road map for effective networking and alliances in policy mechanisms amongst the state and non-state actors, international organizations and community organizations to accelerate efforts in improving and delivering the post-2015 development agenda.

The education and health services are of basic human rights of every person, a public good for all societies, an essential condition for human fulfillment, sustainable development, peace and democracy. Although significant progress has been made, a quality education, and accessible and affordable health related goals are yet to be achieved in many countries. The post-2015 agenda should enforce renewed efforts that are needed to improve education quality and provide lifelong learning opportunities to children. As not leaving anyone behind and tackling exclusion and inequality feature in the post-2015 development agenda, a UN General Assembly report suggests a stronger need of education for women and girls, those belonging to ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and at-risk children. Similarly, as improving health is a priority, a strong emphasis must be put on ending preventable maternal and child deaths, increasing child immunization coverage, and promoting healthy behaviors concerning water, sanitation and hygiene. These actions help improve child health, particularly in developing nations.

Some of the other main concerns are widening disparities, demographic changes and environmental challenges. Addressing these require that sustainable development, broadly defined to cover social, economic, environmental and cultural issues, is upheld more than ever as a key principle in promoting inclusive and equitable societies in the future. Besides we need to encourage the institution and organizations to address specific needs, and challenges, and share solutions. We also need to identify the need to raise awareness about standard guidelines, share experiences and concert cooperative action.

The High Level Panel's (HLP) recommendations are timely for further dialogue and debate. The five big transformative shifts – leaving no one behind, putting sustainable development at the core, transforming economies for jobs and inclusive growth, building peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all, and forging a new global partnership - suggested have a forward looking approach. We believe there

is a need for paradigm shift, a profound structural transformation to respond to the challenges and meet goals. These relevant and actionable transformational shifts are applicable to all societies and organizations. The post-2015 development agenda should be devised to help us realize our hopes and aspirations.

Although the post-2015 development agenda will outline global goals, it is imperative that such goals be embedded in national plans as national goals; such an idea is advanced by various studies on post-2015 agenda including the one by the high-level panel of eminent persons. With the government's leadership, citizens, officials, business and civil societies must decide high but feasible targets, and devise plans to attain them. When targets are internationally recognized but locally refined, accountability is fostered, which is vital for forming lasting partnerships. Accountability must be exercised at all levels, from the local and national governments to their communities, and I/NGOs, civil society and private sector organizations to their stakeholders. From Nepal's perspective, the Nepalese government and other responsible individuals and societies must harmonize their efforts to devise both short-term and long-term goals and targets to foster better child development and collaborate on actions to attain these goals and target. The most efficient method of executing global target is through the local ownership of goals.

Moreover, today different institutions are providing programs in MDGs in the absence of effective coordinating guidelines. A true global partnership must be forged; that various institutions and governments assist each other and tackle problems together in achieving development goals. We also need to define our goals in such a way that the government and the non-state actors can have holistic approach to solving problems. We are resourceful institutions, and today, we stand at a defining moment. Collectively we have the necessary expertise and experiences. Many organizations and institutions are acting almost independently which does not seem to be the best strategy; we need to share our collective vision of our journey for promising future for our children. We have to spark new spirit of solidarity, mutual respect and trust based on our respect for children and common humanity. Such a spirit could inspire us to address challenges and new opportunities through partnership, bringing together government and non-state actors, business and civil society, community organization professionals and academicians. These players should be more organized than before, better able to communicate with each other, more willing to learn from real life experiences, and more committed to solving problems together.

The advancement in information technology over the last few decades has allowed for improved data collection, dissemination and analysis. However, as pointed out in a UN General Assembly report, further progress in these areas is called for as the post-2015 agenda will include broader range of development indicators. Many developing nations, including Nepal, will require financial and technical assistance for hardware and software setups necessary to build improved statistical systems. Only when reliable data are available for developing countries will we see a true “data revolution,” which is integral for policy-assessment of post-2015 goals.

The world has changed since the Millennium Declaration in 2000. Much more needs to be changed in coming years. We have many challenges but these challenges can also present opportunities. The post-2015 development agenda, building on the foundations of MDGs, should bring renewed people-to-people and global partnerships of institutions, organizations and programs. In order to improve child welfare. It is important to promote shared commitment and ensure proper accountability. Through the post-2015 development agenda, we have an opportunity to achieve what could not have ever before. International agreement in post-2015 development agenda is needed for inclusive process in achieving the ambitious goals.

5. Synthesis

We have a dream of a world where the principles of equity, sustainability, solidarity, respect for basic human rights and shared responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities have been brought to life by our common actions. A world where everyone has equal opportunity. A world where extreme poverty and hunger have been eradicated. A world where no person is left behind and where schools, clinics and clean water are available for every young child.

We have a dream that every child has equal access to quality and relevant education and affordable health care. The government and the community protect children in all aspects of their lives. They can have a better chance of secured future, dignified life, and grow up to be a contributing member of the society in their adult life. We have a dream that proper policy actions are devised to help child-development.

While we recognize the world has changed significantly since the Millennium Declaration and formulation of Millennium Development Goals, we will have to ascertain how much we could change in post-2015 agenda by 2030. We have to see transformative shifts in human devel-

opment efforts and human history in the next fifteen years of the new development goals. Our efforts will bring us much closer to our dream that we see in our open eyes. The world today possesses the tools and resources. It needs a bold and ambitious vision. What we need is a continued constructive engagement with government, international organizations, I/NGO and civil society and community organization in people centric agenda. We must embrace a dynamic and innovative approach to partnership to fulfill our hopes, ambition and expectation of humanity that no one, particularly the children, is left behind.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Children and Post-Millennium Development Goals in Nepal and the World

Post 2015 Development Agenda

Kul Chandra Gautam

I commend the Government of Nepal, SOS Children's Village and Action Aid Nepal for organizing this timely Round Table on Post-Millennium Development Goals and Children.

The United Nations is organizing a high-level event in New York on September 25, 2013 on the post-2015 global development agenda. The outcome of this round-table could, therefore, be useful for the Nepalese delegation attending the UN General Assembly, and for other advocates of child rights who aspire to influence the evolving national and global agenda for children.

The well-being of children has been at the very heart of the current Millennium Development Goals. All eight MDGs and their indicators pertaining to reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; achieving universal primary education; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; promoting gender equality and empowerment of women; ensuring environmental sustainability; eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; and forging a global partnership for development, are quite directly related to the survival, development and well-being of children.

Origins of Child-centric MDGs

The preponderance of so many child-centred MDGs did not happen by accident or coincidence. Some of us, particularly those working at UNICEF worked hard to influence and shape the MDGs. In this effort, we were greatly helped by the outcome of the historic 1990 World Summit for Children with its heavily goal-oriented approach.

The Summit for Children was the world's truly first world summit and it set the tone for other Summits that followed in the 1990s, includ-

ing the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and the Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995. All of these helped build the momentum towards the Millennium Summit in 2000.

As the cause of children is one that unites people and governments more than any other cause, and as the Summit for Children had been more systematically followed up and rigorously monitored than any other UN Summit of the 1990s, it was relatively easy for world leaders to agree on child-related goals as the backbone of the Millennium Development Goals.

Even in the follow-up of MDGs, the key instrument used for monitoring progress towards most of the goals is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), devised by UNICEF and WHO to monitor the original goals of the Summit for Children.

We all hope that like MDGs, the post-2015 global development agenda too, will once again put children at its core.

However, the world's development agenda has become more complex in the past two decades. Issues like climate change have emerged as major global challenges, and the rights-based approach to development calls for a more qualitative approach than the heavily quantitatively-oriented Summit for Children goals and MDGs with their focus on the most cost-effective, readily doable and measurable goals and targets.

Thus, we have seen a very broad agenda in "The World We Want" outcome document adopted by the Rio+20 Conference which is now a key reference point for the post-2015 development agenda. It would, therefore, be unrealistic for us to expect that the post-2015 goals, which are now being informally referred to as Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs, will be so heavily child focused.

Yet, we do want to see that all the key issues concerning the survival, development, protection and participation of children will figure prominently in the SDGs. After all, while many things in the world change with the times, the yearning of all human beings to see a world that is fit for their children and future generations, remains timeless and universal.

Outline of Post-2015 SDGs

We are, therefore, delighted to see that the new Report of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, issued on 30 May 2013, entitled: "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development" emphasizes the role and agency of "young peo-

ple”, recognizing them as “subjects, not objects, of the post-2015 development agenda.”.

UNICEF has welcomed the HLP report, noting that the illustrative goals and targets it suggests: 1) address the unfinished and continuing agenda from the MDGs (e.g. ending all preventable child deaths); 2) serve to deepen or improve upon issues from the MDG agenda (e.g. quality education through minimum learning standards); and 3) address issues that did not specifically appear in the MDG agenda (e.g. eliminate all forms of violence against children, end child marriage, free and universal legal identity through birth registration, etc.).

SOS Children’s Villages has applauded the HLP’s vision of changing the status quo by leaving no one behind; reaching the most vulnerable; and eliminating violence against children.

ActionAid International has particularly appreciated the HLP’s recommendations concerning poverty eradication, women’s rights, and especially, the recognition by the panel to address the issue of tax evasion and avoidance which cripples many governments’ efforts to mobilize adequate resources for achieving ambitious international development goals.

The Nepalese delegation to the UN GA high level meeting will surely address the issues and proposals contained in the HLP report. We hope that as far as children are concerned, it will take account of the outcome of this Round Table consultation.

To summarize some of the highlights of the HLP report -

It calls for a single and universal agenda applicable to all people, bringing together all of the dimensions of sustainable development.

It outlines a bold vision calling for five big transformative shifts: 1) Leave no one behind; 2) Put sustainable development at the core; 3) Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; 4) Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and 5) Forge a new global partnership.

Ensuring more and better long-term finance is recognized as a key enabling measure for realizing these transformative shifts.

The report presents 12 illustrative goals – expanding from the current 8 MDGs. These include:

1. End Poverty
2. Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality
3. Provide quality education and lifelong learning
4. Ensure healthy lives
5. Ensure food security and good nutrition
6. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation

7. Secure sustainable energy
8. Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth
9. Manage natural resource assets sustainably
10. Ensure good governance and effective institutions
11. Ensure stable and peaceful societies
12. Create a global enabling environment and catalyze long-term finance

Each of these goals contains several indicators, encompassing but refining all the indicators used in support of the current MDGs, and adding several new ones drawing on the lessons learned from the comprehensive review of the MDG experience.

The report also identifies several cross-cutting issues of great importance that are not adequately addressed through any single goal, but are relevant for most of them. These include: peace, equity, climate change, urbanization, concerns of young people, girls, and women, and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Focus on Equity

Most importantly, the HLP report emphatically states that: “Targets will only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups”.

This responds to what many have considered one of the biggest shortfalls of the MDGs – that they did not directly address the issue of inequalities and how people are marginalized based on their ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, age, race and/or other status.

Along with the transformative shift calling to “Leave no one behind”, this assertion of universal coverage is a crucial safeguard to ensure that groups which have not benefited from progress under the MDGs will not continue to be left behind.

UNICEF has welcomed this assertion enthusiastically, noting that it would have far-reaching implications for how monitoring should be designed and how future progress should be reviewed at all levels.

The Report’s call for a “data revolution for sustainable development”, including collection of disaggregated data, rigorous monitoring, and increasing the use of innovative techniques and technologies for data collection and evaluation has also been widely welcomed. As noted in the Report, “data must enable us to reach the neediest, and find out whether they are receiving essential services.”

The HLP report is one among several others that will be the basis for

negotiations among UN Member States between now and 2015 when the post-2015 agenda will be finalized and promulgated by the United Nations. Based on what is on the agenda for negotiations so far, we can be optimistic that the issues concerning the well-being of children will figure quite prominently in the post-2015 global development agenda.

It is understandable that all of us may not be fully happy with the post-2015 agenda because it is not likely to include all of our wishes.

For example, SOS Children's Villages' priority agenda of children without parental care may or may not be included as a specific goal, target or indicator in the final outcome document.

Action Aid's very important campaign issue of eliminating tax evasion is proposed for inclusion under the HLP recommended goal to "Create a global enabling environment and catalyze long-term finance", but it may not be as specific as Action Aid might have wished.

UNICEF too might be disappointed that the centrality of child rights and well-being may not figure as dominantly in the SDGs as it did in the MDGs.

However, we need to appreciate that if the SDG agenda becomes overloaded by a long list of goals, targets and indicators, it might satisfy many constituencies, but it might be less effective, less implementable and less memorable. That would not be good for the already agreed progressive goals and targets for children on which there is broad consensus and near certainty of inclusion in the SDG agenda.

We must, therefore, find other creative ways to pragmatically use the umbrella of the SDG agenda to promote some of our very worthwhile specific concerns. There are three main ways in which we can do so.

First, the HLP report speaks of universal goals and national targets. Therein lies an opportunity for us to advocate for inclusion of certain additional child-related targets as part of national plans of action in different countries. After all, real action takes place at the national and local levels. So long as our specific concerns fit within the broad SDG framework and strategies, there is always room for pursuing sensible proposals.

Second, the fact that equity, universality, non-discrimination, and leaving no child behind are likely to be agreed strategies of the SDG agenda, provides great opening for child-advocacy agencies to promote issues that we consider important. Ensuring that these principles, as well as the human rights-based approach to development, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the normative framework is retained in the final negotiations is far more important than struggling to get additional goals, targets and indicators included in the SDG agenda.

And finally, the well-being of children can be made a practical consideration under all of the major SDG goals and targets, not just under those that are ostensibly child-specific. Child rights activists must welcome and use this opportunity as a challenge for our creativity and advocacy skills.

Nepal and MDGs

Let me now shift from some of these global concerns to the situation of Nepal.

Nepal has done a very respectable job in implementing the Millennium Development Goals. Out of the 8 MDGs, Nepal is on track to achieve 6. These include reduction of maternal and child mortality, poverty reduction, primary education, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and quite a few specific sub-components of these goals – e.g. childhood immunization, polio eradication, combating micronutrient malnutrition, etc.

We can be proud that Nepal is one of the few Least Developed Countries that is on track to achieve or exceed many MDGs. This is especially remarkable considering that Nepal was engulfed in a decade-long violent armed insurgency from mid-1990s to mid-2000s, and is still in the midst of a prolonged political transition with very unstable governments.

However, like many other countries, Nepal's success in achieving the MDGs has not been evenly shared by all its people. Indeed, in many cases, inequalities have increased even as progress has been made on average. This is of great concern especially since we had a major people's movement in 2006, part of whose agenda was to create a more egalitarian and inclusive society overcoming a legacy of age-old marginalization, discrimination and exclusion of many communities from the mainstream of national development.

To illustrate the point, let me cite a couple of examples:

Four decades ago, Nepal had the 12th highest child mortality rate in the world. By last year, we had moved ahead of 50 other countries, reducing U5MR down by 80% from 250 to 50 deaths per thousand live births.

This was possible because Nepal, with considerable international support, focused on problems that were the biggest killers of the poorest children - like diarrhea, pneumonia, measles and malnutrition.

Public health programmes, including training and equipping of auxiliary

nurses and midwives, female community health volunteers, support for mass vaccination campaigns, vitamin A distribution and de-worming, etc. were both universal and equity-focused, targeting the most deprived communities.

Challenge of Inequity

However, in recent years problems of inequity seem to have worsened, and many challenges remain to further sharpen and deepen the equity agenda.

For example, while 90 % of children go to primary school today, the 10 percent who do not, are primarily from the historically, geographically, economically and socially deprived and marginalized communities.

Only 38 % of children from the indigenous communities, 20 % of Dalits and a mere 1% of disabled children are enrolled in primary schools.

This is totally unacceptable in today's Nepal that aspires to be an inclusive democracy.

Persistence of disparity, inequality and exclusion are therefore still real, and need to be addressed with utmost seriousness in the remaining few years of MDGs and as we embark on the post-2015 SDGs.

However, in the highly polarized politics of today's Nepal, development professionals and decision-makers, and our international development partners too, need to be careful not to fall into the trap of sweeping generalizations about inequities by broad ethnic, caste and geographic groups, but look deeper at which specific sub-groups are most deprived, and merit special attention.

For example, we know that contrary to popular perception, the disparities in terms of U5MR are far more pronounced between urban vs. rural areas, than between the hills vs. Terai.

We know that not all Janjatis are worse off than Bahun-Chhetris – with Newars being often at the top of the totem pole in terms of various human development indicators.

We know that in terms of health services and water supply, the Terai is much better off than the hills and mountains, whereas it is worse off in sanitation and nutrition.

We know that the size of the family is often a more significant determinant than geographic location and ethnic grouping.

We know that neither Terai nor the hills are monolithic regions in terms of social indicators – with Central Terai being worse off in terms of basic education than Western Terai; and the Far-Western hills being worse off than Central hills in terms of nutrition.

While Dalits and Muslims tend to be worse off across the board, the

level of mother's education is a far more important factor than caste or ethnicity in terms of most social indicators.

The worst exploiters of poor Madheshis are rich Madheshis, not Pahadis. Elite Bahun-Chhetris exploit less well-off members of their own kin, as they do other marginalized groups.

And as in most other societies, class interests are often stronger than caste interests when it comes to people's economic behaviour.

As programming based on caste, ethnicity and geography is likely to be highly divisive and controversial, and does not neatly correlate with levels of poverty and deprivation, wherever possible, prioritizing people at the bottom quintile in terms of poverty and other social indicators, would be a more sensible and less controversial approach.

Looking ahead, the biggest risks as well as the greatest opportunities for building a bright future for Nepal's children can both be summarized in one word – equity.

A thoughtful, genuinely calibrated pursuit of the equity agenda is likely to be the saving grace, and the most promising way to build a bright future for the children of Nepal. But a superficial pursuit of the equity agenda as advocated by some political activists with vested interests poses real risk of injecting divisiveness, and potential “elite capture” of services and resources, bypassing the truly deprived sub-groups and individuals.

Post-2015 Challenges for Nepal

In the context of MDGs, Nepal already has well-developed strategies in the areas of child survival and development, particularly in health, nutrition, sanitation, basic education, etc. which will serve it well in the post-2015 period.

I would therefore like to make some remarks and suggestions on 4 relatively new areas which are emphasized in the UN's emerging post-2015 development agenda, which require better articulation in Nepal's context as well: 1) better social protection of children, 2) environment, 3) urbanization, and 4) good governance.

Child protection

The HLP report calls for elimination of all forms of violence against children, including ending child marriage, free and universal legal identity through birth registration, etc. As a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, Nepal has made some attempts to tackle the issues of protection of children in especially dif-

ficult circumstances, but with limited success.

We Nepalis used to think and claim that we are a very family-friendly society and value our children enormously. But it appears that our value systems are changing rapidly.

Domestic violence against women and children has been a known phenomenon in our society for some time. With modernization, and growing trend towards increased urbanization and migration of population, our traditional family structure and social fabric have become weaker.

Sometimes this may be liberating, for example, for women oppressed in conservative traditional families, but on the whole this leads to children becoming deprived of the loving care of parents, grand-parents and extended family members.

Sometimes children are lured to abandon their families, and parents are misled by unscrupulous outsiders to even “sell” their children into servitude in private homes, “orphanages”, factories, and even brothels.

This is partly a global phenomenon in many poor countries. But the situation has deteriorated in Nepal because of the decade-long conflict and the prolonged political transition that has accelerated rural-urban migration, and led to large number of Nepalis going abroad as migrant labourers, thus further weakening traditional family structures.

Vigorous efforts are needed to combat violence against children in the family, at schools and at work places through measures such as child-friendly schools, better enforcement of child labour laws, and a culture of non-violence in society as a whole.

A growing phenomenon is child abandonment for a variety of reasons. In response, we have seen a rapid growth of orphanages and child care homes particularly in urban areas.

While there can never be an adequate substitute for the tender, loving care of one’s own parents in a family environment, it is our duty to offer children who need it, the best possible alternative care in other settings with extended family members, and well-run institutions under proper guidance.

SOS Children’s Village and a few other institutions try to offer such alternative care consistent with international standards as outlined in the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care for Children, approved by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 64/142 in 2009.

Nepal needs to adopt and adapt such guidelines to its own unique situation, but always insisting that such guidelines are not meant to encourage or even inadvertently lure children away from their families and into institutionalized care, which must always be seen as the last resort.

Environment

Environmental degradation due to climate change and other factors, and the need to give this high priority as a key component of sustainable development, will undoubtedly be a central theme of the post-2015 global development agenda.

As far as the well-being of children is concerned, way back in 1987, the landmark report entitled “Our Common Future” by the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development had memorably stated that we must pursue development to meet the needs of the present, without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs.

Reflecting this spirit, UNICEF had taken the position at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, that: “We must protect the environment for our children, and we must protect our children so they can be the custodians of our environment”.

We now have further heightened awareness of the potentially devastating consequences of climate change and environmental degradation on children’s health and well-being, globally and in Nepal.

Recognizing this, Nepal has committed itself to a strategy of promoting environment-friendly ‘green economy’. However, global warming over which Nepal has very little control, is severely damaging our fragile mountain ecology with potentially disastrous consequences resulting from the melting of the world’s highest snow-capped Himalayan mountains and potential glacier bursts.

This is compounded in the immediate future by many of our priority development schemes, including those involving expansion of the road networks, industries, urban development and rural infrastructure some of which are effectively contrary to our professed strategy of green growth.

Some of our efforts to connect every far-flung VDCs and wards with road network – along with schools, health posts, and other service entities are inadvertently destroying our pristine environment, with potentially negative impact on tourism.

While a democratic society must try to provide basic services to all its people as close as possible to their domicile, this must be balanced with a pragmatic policy of encouraging people to voluntarily resettle in areas with easier access to services, through non-coercive but attractive incentives, as many countries have done.

Many districts headquarters of Nepal are in areas that are totally unsuited to be service centers for the people of surrounding villages,

and have no potential for becoming environment-friendly municipalities. Nepal needs to adopt a policy of developing several hundred green growth hubs or townships with modern amenities, including spacious parks, playgrounds and side-walks that are people-friendly.

For the sake of our children and future generations, we need eco-friendly development that maximizes opportunities for people to pursue their well-being while minimizing the damage to our pristine but fragile environment.

Urbanization and Child-Friendly Cities

The UN HLP report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda acknowledges that by the year 2030 almost two-thirds of the world's population will be urban. Nepal too will experience a major demographic transition from a predominantly rural population to half of its people living in urban areas.

Our post-2015 agenda must, therefore, be increasingly relevant for urban dwellers. Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost, says the HLP report. Inclusive growth must emanate from vibrant cities, the only locale where it is possible to generate the kind of good jobs that young people, including a large number of our migrant labourers returning home from abroad, will be seeking in the future.

We therefore need to vigorously develop "Child-friendly cities" as part of child-friendly local governance.

Child-Friendly Local Governance

Good governance has been clearly identified as a major theme of the post-2015 development agenda, as the experience of the MDGs has shown that poor governance is as much a contributor to inadequate progress in achieving these goals as lack of financial resources.

Nepal's experience confirms this.

Nepal enjoys great goodwill of the international community and it is not difficult to mobilize substantial donor support for its development. The fact that Nepal has a good track record of making substantial progress in a number of MDGs despite a prolonged conflict and political uncertainty, augurs well for garnering further international cooperation.

But Nepal has failed to attract much foreign direct investment for its infrastructure development, and its progress in MDGs has been inequitable. This is directly related to poor governance, and particularly to very weak rule of law bordering on massive impunity.

Since Nepal became party to many international conventions, it has adopted quite a few progressive laws that ban many discriminatory practices and uphold internationally agreed human rights standards. But weak implementation of these laws and policies is the main reason for the persistence of historical inequity, exclusion and discrimination.

Enacting more progressive laws or even a brand new national Constitution will not change this sad reality, if we do not develop a culture of citizens abiding by the rule of law.

In an atmosphere of lawlessness, the rich and powerful always find ways and means to protect their interests. It is the poor and the powerless who suffer the worst consequences of lawlessness or poor enforcement of laws.

Widespread corruption is a manifestation of poor rule of law. No country in the world has had sustained prosperity if the absence of rule of law becomes a norm rather than an exception. Ensuring 'good governance' must therefore be the mother of all our pro-poor development strategies.

Onemodest contribution to 'good governance' in Nepal could potentially be the "Child Friendly Local Governance" (CFLG) initiative which has recently been endorsed as part of Nepal's Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP).

Recognizing its value, CFLG is now supported by a dozen external development partners, including UNICEF and many INGOs.

The lead governmental entity for implementing CFLG is Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. It has developed very thoughtful guidelines for utilizing significant amount of national budget as "block grants" for villages, municipalities and district development entities. These guidelines mandate all local government bodies to allocate at least 35% of their block grants for such priority target groups as children (10%), women (10%) and other disadvantaged groups (15%).

Besides budget allocation, CFLG actively promotes participation of children, and women, in some of the decision-making processes in the very design and implementation of community development activities.

Meaningful participation of children – with equitable representation of boys and girls – is ensured through Nepal's extensive network of school and community-based child clubs; as is women's participation through para-legal women's groups, mother's clubs and local women's cooperatives.

Sometimes, traditional male leaders of our society, including politicians and bureaucrats, are cynical about the real value of such participation, seeing it as mere symbolism.

But those of us who have had the opportunity to witness the activism of some of these women's and children's groups are awed and inspired by their creativity, commitment and down-to-earth pragmatism.

We must support women's and children's participation, not only because it is their right as equal citizens under our national laws and international conventions, but also because they often bring fresh perspectives, real commitment and can help us hold some of our slippery male leaders to a higher degree of accountability.

One other distinct and practical merit of women's and children's participation in local governance is that in Nepal's highly divisive and partisan political context, they tend to be less partisan, and more focused on real issues of common concern to all in the community.

By involving children and youth in local governance, we inculcate in their growing minds and hearts, from an impressionable young age, the quality of good citizenship, the habit of listening to others, respecting other people's views while contributing their own ideas, and a sense of responsibility for finding win-win solutions.

Thus, child-friendly governance means both protecting and nurturing children's right for their own survival, development and protection as well as facilitating their participation to contribute to broader issues of governance for the common good of their community. Child-friendly local governance should therefore be promoted as an essential ingredient of good governance.

Next steps

Like other countries, Nepal must continue to focus on vigorously implementing the current MDGs as we approach the 2015 deadline. Much more can and must be achieved in the remaining one-and-half years.

Meanwhile, we must all participate actively in the shaping of the post-2015 global development agenda, and try to develop a corresponding agenda for Nepal's long-term development.

As advocates for children, we must do so with enthusiasm and optimism, with conviction and commitment that we will do our best to ensure that the well-being of children will figure prominently in the post-2015 SDG agenda.

We must celebrate that so many governments, international organizations, public-private partnerships national and local NGOs have now become champions of children's rights, and child-centric interventions are today the most popular and prominent among all MDGs and SDGs.

This is a huge contrast from two decades ago when UNICEF and Save the Children were the main and often the lone voices calling for children to be put at the centre of the world's development agenda.

The top political and business leaders of the world at that time would dismiss children's issues as matters of charity or social welfare, perhaps appropriate for the kind attention of their First Ladies and junior ministers, but certainly not worthy of Heads of State, Governments and CEOs.

We have come a long way since then.

We must take the opportunity presented to us today to influence the post-2015 global development agenda and capitalize it to the fullest both nationally here in Nepal and globally.

I wish all of us great success in doing so starting at this Round Table.

MDGs and Child health; Review and Post MDG vision

Dr. Suniti Acharya

1. Introduction

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership for development and setting out a series of time-bound and quantified targets with a deadline of 2015 that are known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Ten years later in September 2010, the MDG Summit was held to review progress, identify gaps and commit to a concrete agenda to achieve the MDGs. The outcome document of the Summit – Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals –re-affirms world leaders’ commitment to the MDGs and sets out a concrete action agenda for achieving the Goals by 2015. The Government of Nepal (GON) is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration, and is making efforts to achieve the targets by 2015 and is on track to Achieve MDG Goal 4 of reducing child Mortality

2. Review and Assessment of Progress in MDG related to Child Health

Global MDG progress report of 2013(Ref 1 .) shows globally, an estimated 101 million children under age five were underweight in 2011. This represents 16 percent of all children under five that year, or one in six. The number of underweight children in 2011 fell by 36 per cent from an estimated 159 million children in 1990. Still, this rate of progress is insufficient to meet the MDG target of halving the proportion

of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. Underweight prevalence in 2011 was highest in Southern Asia (31 per cent) and sub-Saharan Africa (21 per cent). This translates into 57 million and 30 million underweight children in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, respectively.

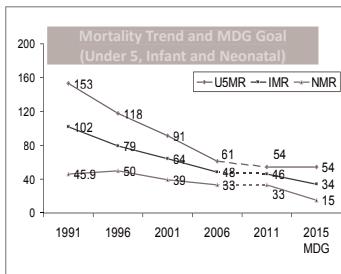
Similarly regarding the child mortality, the report highlights that worldwide, the mortality rate for children under five dropped by 41 per cent—from 87 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 51 in 2011. Despite this enormous accomplishment, more rapid progress is needed to meet the 2015 target of a two thirds reduction in child deaths. In 2011, an estimated 6.9 million children—19,000 a day—died from mostly preventable diseases. The overwhelming majority of these deaths occurred in the poorest regions and countries of the world, and in the most underprivileged areas within countries. Despite steep challenges, a number of countries with very high rates of child mortality in 1990 have defied the odds, showing that progress for all children is within our grasp. Bangladesh and Liberia, for example, have achieved reductions in under-five mortality of at least two thirds since 1990. Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda in sub-Saharan Africa, and Bhutan and Nepal in Southern Asia, have seen reductions of at least 60 per cent.

The report also emphasizes the fact that a growing proportion of child deaths occur at or around the time of birth, a clear sign that child survival efforts must focus on the precarious first month of life.() Over the past two decades, mortality in children under five has declined by 2.5 per cent a year, compared to the much slower rate of 1.8 per cent a year for newborns in their first month. As a result, the share of neonatal deaths among under-five mortality worldwide has grown from about 36 per cent in 1990 to 43 per cent in 2011 lives.

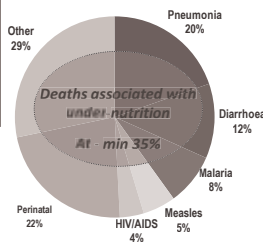
In addition, the report highlights that emerging evidence has shown alarming disparities in under-five mortality within countries, and these inequities must be addressed. Children born into the poorest households are almost twice as likely to die before age five as their wealthiest counterparts. Poverty is not the only divider, however. Children are also at greater risk of dying before age five if they are born in rural areas or to a mother denied basic education. Special measures must be taken to bridge the gaps and reduce inequities. The report emphasizes that that systematic action is required to target the main causes of child death (pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and under nutrition) and the most vulnerable children. This includes a stronger focus on neonatal mortality, which is now a driving factor in child mortality overall. Simple, cost-effective interventions such as postnatal home visits have proven effective in saving newborn.

According to MDG Needs Assessment carried out by NPC 2010,(Ref 2) Nepal has made significant progress in child health over the last decade. The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) has reduced from 91deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 61 in 2006 and 50 in 2009. Infant mortality rate (IMR) has reduced from 64 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 48 in 2006 and 41 in 2009 (NPC 2010). Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) has also been reduced from 39 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001 to 33 in 2006 and 20 in 2011 NFHS (Ref 3). The proportion of children immunized against measles has increased from 71 percent in 2000 to 85 percent in 2006 MOHP) this shows that Nepal is on right track to achieve MDG targets related to child health before 2015. 2007). However, achievements are not uniform across wealth quintiles and eco-geographical regions. There is an urgent need to identify groups who are excluded from access to child health services. Moreover, NMR has not fallen as much as U5MR; therefore, ways to decrease NMR need to be found so that MDG targets for U5MR and IMR can be achieved. However further reduction will be very difficult if some drastic efforts and policy shift(Ref 4) are not are not taken to reduce malnutrition which is still very high(REF 5)and is showing a very slow trend in reduction It is also known that malnutrition contributes to 35 percent of underfive mortality .(Ref 6)

Other indicators such as the percentage of women receiving appropriate antenatal and postnatal care (ANC/PNC) are equally important, and should be monitored closely in order to put the required measures in place that could contribute towards achievement of the desired results.

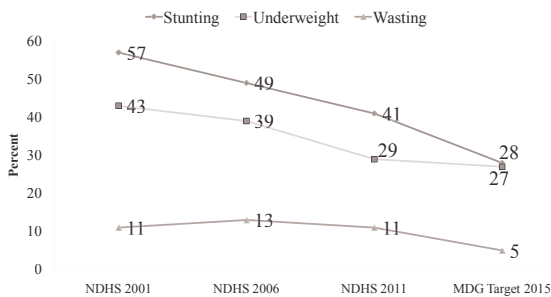


Without Improvement in Nutrition, Further **Child Mortality Reduction** is less likely



Sources:
EIP/WHO. Black et al, 2008. The Lancet Series on Maternal and Child Under-nutrition.

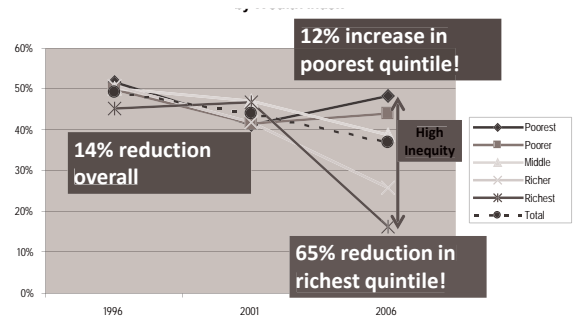
Trends in Malnutrition in Nepal



Source: NDHS 2011, Preliminary Report

MARKED INEQUITY: Wealth Quintiles, Ecology, Ethnicity

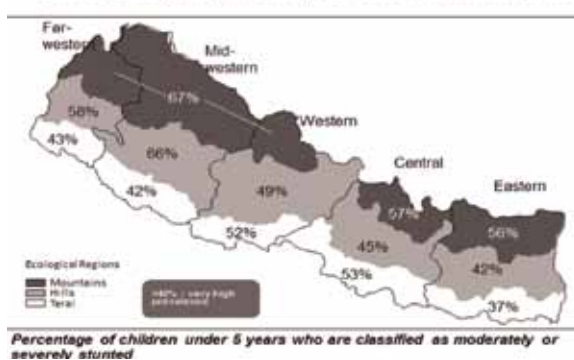
Nutrition context: trend in stunting prevalence by wealth index



Ref: DHS 2001 and 2006. Adapted from Ramu Bishwakarma. Social Inequalities in Child Nutrition in Nepal. August 2009 (Background paper for Nepal Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis, November 2009)

Marked Disparity Across the Regions

Child Stunting High in Mid/Far West Mountain/Hills



3. GONs Policies and plans to achieve MDG 4

Government of Nepal has given highest priority to Maternal and child health programmes from the beginning under first Health sector programme NHSP 1 2003 -2009(Ref 7) implemented under a Sector wide Approach in partnership with Government and Development partners. Free Essential package. The essential interventions prioritized on the basis of effectiveness. The criteria of prioritization were based on the cost of disease burden and the cost of deaths averted. Accordingly, IMCI, Immunization , vitamin A distribution were prioritized as most cost effective Child health intervention .Similarly other essential interventions were, Antenl care, Delivery care Post natal care ,Family planning Prevention and treatment of Malaria, Kalazar, leprosy, Tuberculosis, Limited outpatient care . There was no “Rights perspective” in NHSP 1.

The second health Sector programme NHSP 2010-2015 (Ref 8) has also given very high priority to achieve MDGs and is also influenced by inclusion of” Health as Human Right “in the interim constitution of Nepal 2006 Accordingly , the aim of the NHSP 2 is to increase access to quality essential health care services, reduce the social, cultural and economic barriers to accessing health care services, improve the health system to achieve universal coverage of essential health services Which includes all health care services provided at Pimary health centers(PHC-Cs,) health posts (HPs) and sub health posts(SHPs),E preventive care, clinical services, basic inpatient services, delivery services, and listed essential drugs given from these facilities.

4. Programmes which contributed to reduction of child mortality

These programmes include

- Community based integrated management of childhood illness (CB-IMCI), which has been expanded rapidly and now it is implemented in all 75 districts of the country. The most likely causes of the decline in child deaths are improvement in the management of childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection (ARI) through CB IMCI, (Ref 6)
- increased coverage of immunization with introduction of new vaccines such as JE, and The National Immunization Programme (NIP) is delivering routine and supplemental immunization services
- vitamin A and Albendazole distributions.
- To improve the neonatal deaths community based essential neonatal health care package has been launched and it is now launched in 27 districts.

5. Remaining Challenges

- **Though Nepal has done well at national level, the mortality figures are not equitable.** Achievements are not uniform across wealth quintiles and eco-geographical regions.

Table from DHS 11

Early childhood mortality rates by socioeconomic characteristics.

Neonatal post neonatal, infant, child and under-five mortality rates for the 10 year period preceding the survey, by background characteristics, Nepal 2011

Background characteristic	Neonatal mortality (NN)	Post neonatal mortality (PNN)	Infant mortality (1q0)	Child mortality (4q1)	Under-five mortality (5q0)
Residence					
Urban	25	13	38	7	45
Rural	36	19	55	10	64
Ecological Zone					
Mountain	46	27	73	16	87
Hill	33	17	50	8	58
Teraï	35	18	53	10	62
Mother's Education					
No education	40	22	62	12	73
Primary	34	19	53	9	62
Some secondary	27	10	37	4	41
SLC and above	(20)	(11)	(31)	(1)	(32)
Wealth quintile					
Lowest	37	25	61	15	75
Second	40	16	56	11	66
Middle	39	17	55	9	64
Fourth	37	16	53	6	59
Highest	19	13	32	4	36

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 250-499 unweighted exposed persons.

SLC= School Leaving Certificate

¹Computed as the difference between the infant and neonatal mortality rates

There is an urgent need to identify groups who are excluded from access to child health services. Moreover, NMR has not fallen as much as U5MR; therefore, ways to accelerate decrease in NMR need to be found so that MDG targets for U5MR and IMR can be achieved. Judging from human Rights perspectives, such inequities are the violation of human rights and must be addressed seriously from rights perspective.

Once a child has survived the neonatal period, he/she is likely to encounter anew range of threats to his/her survival. In Nepal, as elsewhere, diarrhoea, ARI and measles are responsible for the majority of under five deaths and disease burden .Diarrhea is the result of contamination of drinking water and poor personal hygiene and sanitation .Similarly ARI is caused by crowding, out door and indoor air pollution. Poor and children living remote area suffer from these problems and are likely to continue having diseases and as a consequence some of them will die despite effort to access care. There fore synergistic improvement in all these sectors and addressing underlying causes of morbidity and mortality are also equally necessary

Other challenges include poor quality of care, due to managerial, logistic and human resource problems. These problems can only be solved only when recruitment, deployment and retention is the responsibility of most Peripheral institution I,e VDC. This can be done through practical and functional decentralization with transfer of resources to VDCs and making them accountable. In the current uncertain political environment such decentralization is a huge challenge.

Though Nepal has achieved significant reduction in infant and child mortality and is likely achieve MDG targets, there is no room for complacency. The mortality figures are still very high compared to some other countries in the Region.

6. Comparison of under five mortality from SEAR countries

Country	Under-five mortality rate (U5MR) per 1000 live births 2010	Target U5MR MDG 4 per 1000 live births	Average annual rate of reduction (per cent) 1990-2010	Status MDG: Reduction of U5MR by two thirds	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births 2010	Measles immunization coverage %age of infant 2010
Bangladesh	46	46	5.3	ACHIEVED	37	94
Bhutan	54	46	4.5	ON TRACK	42	95
DPR Korea	33	15	1.4	SLOW	26	99
India	61	38	3.0	SLOW	47	74
Indonesia	32	27	4.5	ON TRACK	25	89
Maldives	11	35	10.9	ACHIEVED	9	97
Myanmar	62	36	2.6	SLOW	48	88
Nepal	48	45	4.9	ON TRACK	39	86
Sri Lanka	12	10	4.1	ON TRACK	11	99
Thailand	12	12	5.0	ACHIEVED	11	98
Timor-Leste	54	60	5.7	ACHIEVED	46	66

Sources: Mortality data: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, 2012 'On Track' indicates average annual rate of reduction (AAR) in U5 MR is at least 4% over 1990-2011.

7. Report of High level UN panel on Post MDG Framework

In July 2012 the UN secretary general appointed a twenty-seven person panel to make recommendations on the development agenda beyond 2015. These panels have consulted extensively, in every region and across many sectors, including listening to the voices and priorities of people living in poverty themselves. The panel in its report Ref 9) has outlined five transformational shifts, applicable to both developed and developing countries alike, including a new Global Partnership as the basis for a single, universal post-2015 agenda that will deliver this vision for the sake of humanity. The report provides an example of how new goals and measurable targets could be framed in the wake of these transformative shifts.

The proposed vision for post MDG development agenda are reflected in five big, transformative shifts which are as follows;

7.1. Leave No One Behind

The next development agenda must ensure that in the future neither income nor gender, nor will ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography; determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely, or whether her child has a fair chance in life. The MDGs aspired to halve poverty. After 2015 we should aspire to put an end to hunger and extreme poverty as well as addressing poverty in all its other forms. This is a major new commitment to everyone on the planet, who feels marginalized or excluded, and to the neediest and most vulnerable people, to make sure their concerns are addressed and that they can enjoy their human these are issues of basic social justice.

7.2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core

For twenty years, the international community has aspired to integrate the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability, but no country has yet achieved this. We must act now to halt the alarming pace of climate change and environmental degradation, which pose unprecedented threats to humanity. We must bring about more social inclusion. This is a universal challenge, for every country and every person on earth.

7.3. Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth

The panel calls for a quantum leap forward in economic opportunities and a profound economic transformation to end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods. This means a rapid shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production, diversified economies, with equal opportunities for all. This is a challenge for every country on earth: to ensure good job possibilities while moving to the sustainable patterns of work and life. It is necessary to ensure that everyone has what they need to grow and prosper, including access to quality education and skills, healthcare, clean water, electricity, telecommunications and transport.

7.4. Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Public Institutions

The panel also calls for a fundamental shift – to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of wellbeing and recommends that this should be a universal agenda, for all countries. Responsive and legitimate institutions should encourage the rule of law, property rights, and freedom of Speech and the media, open political choice, access to justice, and accountable government and public institutions. The panel mentions

about the need of a transparency revolution, so that citizens can see exactly where and how taxes, aid and revenues are spent.

7.5. Forge a new Global Partnership

A new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability must underpin the post-2015 agenda. This new partnership should be built on our shared humanity, and based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. This partnership should involve governments but also include others: people living in poverty, those with disabilities, women, civil society and indigenous and local communities, traditionally marginalized groups, multilateral institutions, local and national government, the business community, academia and private philanthropy

8. From vision to action; Post MDG Goals and Targets.

The panel also believed that these five transformative shifts and changes are the right, smart, and necessary thing to do. But their impact will depend on how they are translated into specific priorities and actions. They also realized that the vision would be incomplete unless they offered a set of illustrative goals and targets to show how these transformative changes could be expressed in precise and measurable terms. The Panel recommends that all these goals should be universal, in that they present a common aspiration for all countries. Almost all targets should be set at the national level or even local level, to account for different starting points and contexts.

The proposed 12 goals are as follows:

1. End Poverty
2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality
3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning
4. ; Ensure Healthy lives
5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition
6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation
7. Secure Sustainable Energy
8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth
9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably
10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions
11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies
12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance

The five transformative shift proposed in the report of high level panel are Leave No One Behind, Put Sustainable development at the Core,

Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth, Build Peace and effective, Open and Accountable Public Institutions and, Forge a new Global Partnership It also mentions that “The next development agenda must ensure that in the future neither income nor gender, nor ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography, will determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely, or whether her child has a fair chance in life “This indicates a very high emphasis on achieving equity and the commitment of the international community to achieve the same” These are revolutionary statements and they try to address the aspirations of lesser developed economies and expects a lot of adjustment of ways of working for both lesser as well as better developed economies .If these vision can be translated into sustainable action, in about 20 years they will be able to transform the world and create just society The 12 goals listed above propose broad strategies for translating the five broad visions into actions and propose indicative targets to be decided nationally

9. Implication of the POST MDG frame work for Child health

Goals 4 and 5 are related to child health and nutrition respectively. Goal 4 Ensure healthy lives iv is very broad and includes reduction of infant and under five mortality y, to end preventable infant and under five deaths and, increase the proportion of children and adolescent and adults at risk who are fully vaccinated. Similarly it has emphasizes on reducing maternal mortality, ensuring sexual and reproductive health rights and also include HIV AIDS as well as major communicable diseases well as non communicable diseases. Similarly, in goal 5, much greater emphasis has been give to improvement in child nutrition, access to sufficient safe and nutritious food has been addressed as basic human rights issue, food security, agricultural productivity, irrigation etc and other related issues.. Goals and indicators related to child health are as follows;

Goal 4	Indicative Targets
Ensure Healthy lives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End preventable infant and under deaths 2. Increase by X% the proportion of children, adolescents at risk adults and older people that are fully vaccinated. 3. Decrease the maternal mortality ratio to no more than x per 100,000 4. Ensure universal sexual and reproductive health and rights 5. Reduce the burden of disease from HIV/AIDS tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and priority non communicable diseases.

Goal 5	Indicative Targets
Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End hunger and protect the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food 2. Reduce stunting by x% with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation 3. Increase agricultural productivity by x% with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation 4. Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels 5. Reduce postharvest loss and food waste by x%

These are very well thought goals and tries to address the issue of inequity and achieving social justice in most aspects of aspects of human life which was the unfinished agenda pointed out by global and national review of MDGs. Malnutrition was the most critical issue pointed by the MDG review and was one of the major unfinished agenda. While malnutrition was tagged on component of broader agenda of reduction of poverty and hunger in MDG 2015 and did not get much attention, this issue has been give very high importance by making it a separate goal and one of the indicative target including ending hunger and protect the right of everyone to have access to have sufficient safe and nutritious food. This statement of food ad well as targets for reduction of malnutrition increase in agricultural productivity are very strong commitments which if agreed and passed by the UN will be put an end to hunger from this world.

The proposed framework gives greater flexibility to tailor goals and targets to regional, national and sub-national realities but ensuring that there is compliance with global targets and principles relating to sustainability, inclusion and equity. This gives greater responsibility to national governments, civil societies of countries including Nepal to set goals and indicators, develop effective strategies, forge partnerships and realize the vision

10. Recommendations for Post MDG Framework for child health Nepal

10.1. The review of progress of MDG 4 in Nepal and vision and proposed goals for post MDG development framework at UN level provide strong basis and direction for development of vision for post MDG Development of Child health in Nepal. The unfinished agenda of MDG I.e. further reduction of neonatal, infant and underfive mortality to an acceptable level, eradicating malnutrition

and achieving equity among rural urban, rich and poor and among various ethnic and other groups should still be the highest priority in Post MDG Child health in Nepal

- 10.2. Universal health coverage as proposed by WHO(Ref 10 a)s the most important focus on Post MDG development for health and already accepted by GON should be accelerated. In addition to securing financial coverage physical barriers to access should be removed. The commonly agreed norm of making one Basic Health facility within half an hour of walking distance should be achieved. This means having at least one sub health post per ward and similar increase of one FCHV per ward instead of current one Sub health post and one FCHV in 22 high mountains to reduce unacceptably high infant and child mortality in mountain district.
- 10.3. The review of MDG progress so far indicated that MDG2015 had goals and targets only for survival though reduction of under five mortality .Though those were the highest priority at that time, they did not address the right to protection and development of children in safe and supportive environment and did not address the concerns of children over the age of 5 years. In addition to further reducing mortality the proposed new agenda for post MDG framework includes the following;
- 10.4. The goal to Ensure Healthy lives as mentioned in Goal 4 proposed by high level UN panel is very broad. Reduction of infant and child mortality is the only proposed indicative target. Reduction of mortality alone could not be accepted as indicator of healthy lives for children for the coming next 15-20 years. Therefore it is necessary to work out an operational definition of what exactly is meant by Ensuring healthy lives in the context of Nepal as proposed in Goal 4 through a broad consultative process. the operational definition of Ensuring healthy lives for children as mentioned in Goal 4 should include the following;
 - Finishing the unfinished agenda of reducing mortality , malnutrition and achieving equity,
 - Child rights: The Framework should incorporate a rights-based focus to ensure protection of the most vulnerable and to ensure child-centered care
 - Older children and adolescents strategic attention should be paid to adolescent and reproductive health as a foundation and building blocks of survival and development of children
 - Life-cycle approach: The Framework should promote child health and development through interventions that act across the continuum of care from pre-conception to early childhood

- Care of the healthy child and promoting child development
- Appropriate feeding, prevention of sickness, including hygiene and sanitation and seeking health
- Early childhood development promotion of early childhood development by enhancing the skills of parents to provide age-appropriate and responsive stimulation to their children through play and communication activities starting from the first years of life
- Alternative care of the children and provision of safe and supportive environment for children in difficult circumstances and provision of enabling environment through
- Educating mothers and the community about appropriate care-seeking behavior and practices.
- Action beyond the health sector to address determinants Factors outside the health sector, such as social and economic policies child protection e.g. early marriage, and birth and death registration food security, investment in public services education, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, transport infrastructure etc.) have an important direct or indirect impact on child health and development.
- Integration and convergence: integration between health services and social and educational services to ensure continuity and coordination using all contact opportunities to promote health, nutrition and care for development and social protection
- Multisectoral action and cross-sector collaboration: multisectoral action to address the determinants of maternal health and child health and development, as well as coordination of activities between health and other development

10.5. Once the operational definition and the relevant interventions are decided they should retain a clear focus on expected outcomes and targets for 15 to 20 years which ever is decided nationally and internationally for each interventions. This exercise will be extremely for the success The MDGs were successful because they focused on human development outcomes within a framework of clear, concise and measurable objectives. The process of target setting and closely monitoring the progress should be maintained as was done pre 2015 MDG.

11. Conclusion

The proposed post-2015 development framework should be an opportunity to incorporate the children's issues that were not reflected in the MDGs, such as child rights, child development and protection peace and security, among others. Only Nation level targets do not reflect the progress of the

district, neither they reflect the inequity issues therefore targets should be set for national, regional/ provincial/state , and district realities but ensuring that there is compliance with global targets and principles relating to sustainability, inclusion and equity and fulfillment of child's rights . The frame work should facilitate looking at the linkages across the various goals, but further discussion is needed as to how this should be done effectively.

A comprehensive child hth and development strategy with a 15 to 20 year vision should be developed through a very broad consultative process incorporating the ideas included in the proposed UN Post MDG vision framework as well as incorporating the specific needs of children in Nepal which have been already expressed in the Rond Table held in SoS Village in Nepal in Jine 2012.

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Millennium Development Goals and Children's Education

Bimal Phnuyal

*I*n 2000, world leaders came together to agree on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since then, the United Nations, world governments, civil society, and the private sector have worked together to accomplish these goals. Two years to the deadline, we have achieved various milestones and attained certain targets. We have, however, fallen short on various promises.

Global Context

Financial crisis has been a global trend for the past couple of years. Certain governments are struggling to stay afloat economically, which essentially has affects on the development agenda. In terms of the MDGs, as Ban Ki Moon has highlighted, hunger remains a global challenge. Furthermore, ensuring that children are able to complete primary education remains a fundamental, but unfulfilled, target that has an impact on all the other MDGs. In this paper, we will address the right to education exclusively vis-à-vis the MDGs.

The world has achieved parity in primary education between girls and boys. Driven by national and international efforts and the MDG campaign, many more of the world's children are enrolled in school at the primary level, especially since 2000. Girls have benefited the most. The ratio between the enrolment rate of girls and that of boys grew from 91 in 1999 to 97 in 2010 for all developing regions. The gender parity index value of 97 falls within the plus-or-minus 3-point margin of 100 per cent, the accepted measure for parity.

National Context

Like other countries, Nepal also has committed to achieving universal primary education by 2015. These goals include 100 percent enrollment of 5-9 age group, 100 percent of completion of primary schooling of those who enroll and 100 percent adult literacy rate of 15-24 year olds. Being committed to achieve the MDGs, the government has incorporated the MDGs into its strategic framework of the country's Tenth Plan/Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (2002/03-2006/07). Nepal has made significant progress in primary education enrollment in the past decade nevertheless the data varies on different sources.

In the case of universal primary education, it is quite possible that the MDG will be met. The net enrollment rate is increasing which has reached 95.3 percent in 2013 from 63 percent in 2000 (Sharma, 2013). If present trend continues and the government is able to devise adequate policies and allocate sufficient resources to address the existing out of school children, it is very likely that Nepal will achieve UPE by 2015. However, the enrollment scenario alone would not be enough; the completion rate is also equally important including the quality achievement by these children. However, greater effort will be needed to meet the rate required for survival of students beyond Grade 5 since it is on the decreasing trend i.e. 84.2% at Grade 5 to 70% at Grade 8 (DoE, 2012). The target for literacy among the 15-24-years age group, although currently below the 100- per-cent target, is likely to be met. Overall literacy rate (for population aged 5 years and above) has increased from 54.1 percent in 2001 to 65.9 percent in 2011. Male literacy rate is 75.1% compared to female literacy rate of 57.4% (CBS, 2011). Gender equality in education has improved substantially over the past five years, and the 2015 target regarding equal access of girls and boys to primary education has already been achieved. It is likely to be achieved for secondary education as well. Nevertheless, the quality of education and learning achievements need to be further analysed and strengthened. Investment in education is paying off; therefore, efforts should be focused on consolidating these achievements and improving quality. Service delivery at the local level can be improved through innovative measures such as child centered learning approaches and by improving school governance and accountability. The government can identify such approaches and focus on the ones that are relevant and important to the weakest sections of the population.

Key Achievements and Trends in Universal Primary Education

Since the school year 2009, the government of Nepal has begun to implement the School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP), which aims at restructuring of school education with basic education (consisting of grades 1-8) and secondary education (consisting of grades 9- 12). Subsequently, in the school education system primary and lower secondary levels are under the basic education. Schools with primary level provide grade one to five years of education. Early childhood development (ECD)/pre-primary classes (PPCs) are offered as building foundation and preparation for grade one. Primary schooling is set for aged 5-9 age group. Almost 417 primary schools are established in last year. Of the total 34,782 schools, 34,298 are offering primary education in Nepal (33881 in 2011-2012) with more than 4.5 million children studying and more than one hundred thousand teachers, among them 94.5% are fully trained. The student teacher ratio in primary schools is 38:1 (40:1 in 2012).

Table 1: Primary school statistics

	Primary level (2012-2013)
Age group	5-9
Number of Schools	34298
Number of Students	4,576,693
Number of Teacher	178,534
Student Teacher Ration	38:1
Gender Parity Index (Girls and boys)	1.02
Gross Enrollment Rate (GER)	130.1
Net Enrollment Rate (NER)	95.3

Source: DoE, 2012

Both Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) and Net Enrollment Rate (NER) have been increased significantly. The primary enrollment rates have increased significantly in Nepal. Net enrollment rates in primary school increased from 81.0 in 2000 to 93.7 in 2010 (NPC, 2010). The overall enrolment at primary level in the school year 2012 reached 4.57 million from 4.51 million in the school year 2006. The average annual growth rate in enrolment at primary level is 0.2% point in this period (DoE, 2012).

Table: Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) and Net Enrolment Rate (NER) by levels- 2012-2013

Level	GER			NER		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary(1-5)	132.7	127.5	130.1	94.7	95.9	95.3
Lower secondary(6-8)	105.5	96.07	100.6	71.8	72.6	72.2
Basic(1-8)	123.5	116.7	120.1	87.0	87.9	87.5

Source: DoE, 2012

The above table shows that the overall GER at primary level is 130.1% with 132.7% for girls and 127.5% for boys. When these figures are compared with the figures of last year (135.9% total, 141.2% for girls and 131.0% for boys), the GERs in total as well as for both girls and boys have been reduced (by 4.8% in total) at primary level. The overall NER at primary level is 95.3% with 94.7% and 95.9% for girls and boys respectively. When compared with the status of the last year (95.1% total, 94.5% for girls and 95.6% for boys), the NERs for both girls and boys as well as the total have increased. It (decreasing GER and increased NER) indicates that the development towards achieving universal primary education is on track. The present status of NER also suggests that approximately 4.7% of 5-9 years' age group children are out of formal primary schooling, of them the majorities are girls (DoE, 2012).

The same report also indicates that amongst the ecological belts in Nepal, Mountain belt shows the highest GIR followed by Terai and Hill, whereas the Valley shows the lowest GIR. In terms of NIR, as compared to the national average there are 48 districts, mostly from the Hill eco-belt, with a high NIR and 27 districts (including 11 Terai districts) with a low NIR (less than 90%) in Grade One in the current school year. This phenomenon is directly linked with various socio-political factors.

The proximity to school (distance), parental unwillingness and in some cases children's unwillingness also have affected positively. Moreover the indirect cost associated with education is found major cause in these low-income groups. Although primary education is free, schools ask some money from parents to meet recurrent costs. Similarly, other costs associated with education are out of capacity of the parents. It was also found that households with easy access to schools are more likely to enroll their children at school. Children from higher income households and educated parents are more likely to attend schools. As compared to

the eastern region, children in the central region (low poverty) are less likely to be enrolled in primary school, while children in the western region (or high poverty) are more likely to be enrolled in primary school (Man P. Wagle, NRB, 2006).

There has been a gradual narrowing of the gender gap in NER at primary level: it decreased from 6.7 percentage points in 2005 to 1.0 percentage points in 2012 (Table below). However, the gender gap was particularly high in the Tarai (5.1 percentage points in 2008) compared to the Hills and Mountains.

Table 2: Gender and caste/ethnic gap in primary enrolment

Indicator	2005	2009	2012*
Gender gap in NER (percentage points)	6.7	2.1	1.0
Proportion of Janajati in total enrolment	35.6	38.6	35.4
Proportion of Dalit in total enrolment	21.5	20.0	20.3

Source: NPC, 2010

** DoE, 2012*

Overall, the shares of girls at all levels have slightly increased in 2012, which are 50.5% (50.4% in 2011) at primary level. But, the share of Janajati and Dalit enrolment is on decreasing trend. The share of Janajati enrolment in the total enrolment has slightly decreased from 37.6% in 2011 to 35.4%. Similarly, at the primary level the enrolment share of Dalit is 20.3% (21.7% in 2011), which is a decrease of 0.4%.

Likewise, the enrollment of children with disabilities constitutes only 1.03% of the total enrollment (DOE, 2012) which was 1.1 per cent in 2009, that has remained unchanged since 2007. However, it is likely that there is a large number of over- age children from these groups (as indicated by the high gross enrolment ratio of 141.4 per cent in 2009), whereas a large number of 5–9-year-old children are still out of school (NPC, 2010). Based on progress in the NER, and disparity in caste/ethnicity as presented above, it may be difficult for Nepal to meet the MDG target on NER, as it becomes more difficult to reach the remaining out-of-school children from various marginalized communities and bring them into the formal education system.

The survival rate to Grade 5 has been calculated using the internationally acceptable ‘reconstructive cohort model’ since 2008, though the model does not take into account repeaters. The survival rate in 2008 was 73.4 per cent which was increased by 4.5 percent in 2009 (NPC,

2010). The recent data also depicts that the survival rate is gradually increasing. The overall survival rate to grade five is 84.1% in 2012 (82.8% in the last school year) with 83.0% (81.7% in the last school year) for boys and 85.0% (84.3% in the last school year) for girls. Likewise, the Cohort Graduation rates at Primary level is 75%, however the promotion and repetition rates in Grade One are 72.5% and 19.9% (21.3% in the last school year) respectively (DoE, 2012). Evidently, the survival rate is slightly lower than the government target of 85 per cent. Even if the survival rate continues to grow at this pace, it is potentially likely that Nepal will meet the target for this indicator by 2015. This will, however, depend very much on whether the high dropout and repetition rates at primary level can be reduced.

Overall literacy rate (for population aged 5 years and above) has increased from 54.1 percent in 2001 to 65.9 percent in 2011. Male literacy rate is 75.1% compared to female literacy rate of 57.4%. The highest literacy rate is reported in Kathmandu district (86.3 %) and lowest in Rautahat (41.7%) (Source: CBS, 2011, Census Major Findings). Similarly, Nepal Labor Force Survey 2008 shows that the literacy rate for 15–24 year olds was 86.5 per cent in 2008 (CBS 2009).

With a slightly greater increase in the annual growth rate, Nepal will probably be able to meet the target for this indicator too by 2015. However, there are massive inequalities in literacy rates across different social groups (MOHP et al. 2007; UNDP 2009). Literacy data for various social groups reveal substantial disparities among Hill and Tarai Dalits, Madhesi Brahmins and Madhesi Dalits and advanced and marginalized Janajati groups (UNDP 2009). Moreover, there are significant gender inequalities within all social groups, particularly among Tarai Dalits and the Muslim community.

Celebratory Initiatives Towards up

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has been implementing various educational programs to achieve national and international commitments, such as; Education for All: Dkar Framework of Action (2000-2015) and Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), emphasizing equitable access to education for all.

Universal primary education has been explicitly prioritized agenda of the government following to its EFA and MDGs commitment. After the World Conference on Education for All, Nepal adopted a National Plan of Action, focusing to achieve the six EFA goals by 2015. In 2004, the Government of Nepal (GON) also established the Flash reporting

System to monitor progress towards these goals. The subsequent reports and data shows that there has been more involvement of the Government for the provision of ECD/PPCs programs for children from age 4 to primary school age 5-9 years. In all districts, the district education office oversees the national provision of pre-primary education.

Overall, the number of children enrolled in ECD and pre-primary classes has increased by 10.9 % between 2004 and 2013, due to the wide expansion of ECD/PPCs to meet the high demand of community for the betterment of primary education; the number of children in ECD/PPCs has increased significantly. The World Education Forum at Dakar also marked a turning point in the quick expansion of primary education in Nepal. The primary school enrolment increased from 4.030 million to 4.782 million with an annual average growth rate 2.5% between 2004 and 2011. Likewise, the share of girls has increased from 45.4% to 50.4 during the period of 2003-2011. Compared to the shares of Dalit enrolment in 2004 the share of Dalit enrolment in 2011 is higher in all eco-belts. In the school year 2011, the highest share (22.3%) is noted in the Terai belt. The same encouraging trend is noted in the shares of Janajati students as well. For instance, the share (25%) of the Janajati enrolment in 2004 reached to 38.5% in the school year 2011 (DoE, 2012: School Level Educational Statistics of Nepal), Consolidated Report 2011).

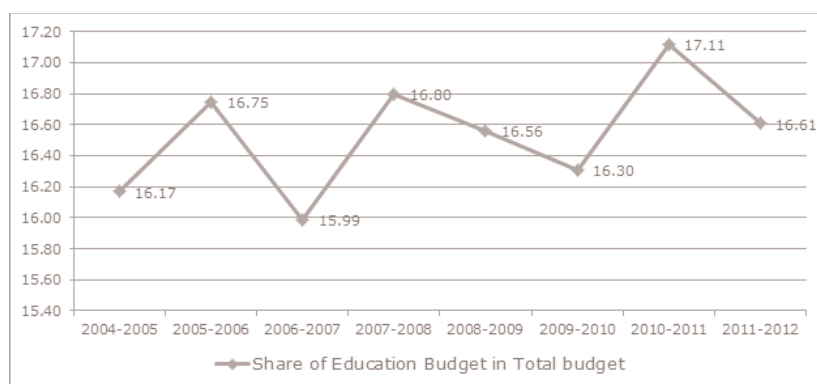
In order to remove physical barriers to access, the government has adopted policies to establish more schools and upgrade existing ones. Nepal has made impressive progress in increasing access of all school age children to schooling. The number of schools, started 321 primary and 11 secondary schools in 1951, there were 34,298 reported primary, 14,447 are lower secondary,, 34, 486 are basic, 8,416 are secondary schools in 2012 (DoE, 2012). Reports further indicate that since 2005, the number of registered primary schools has increased by 15 per cent and the number of primary students by nine per cent (DoE, 2012: School Level Educational Statistics of Nepal), Consolidated Report 2011). The government has also implemented policies to mainstream religious educational institutions. Out of the total 34,782 schools, 818 are religious schools (Madarasa, Gumba/Vihar and Ashram/Gurukul) (DoE, 2012).

For ensuring access to quality basic education MoE/DoE has focused on improving physical facilities of the schools and to provide scholarships and management cost to the schools through different directives, planning and funding mechanisms. Since 2008, a policy of free education up to Grade 8 has been implemented, and provisions are in place for gradual implementation of compulsory primary educa-

tion. There has been significant achievement in school physical facility improvement; construction of new classrooms; construction of girls' toilet; rehabilitation of classrooms /schools; improvement of school's external environment; school safety (Retrofitting); construction of DEO building; scholarship (per unit NRs. 400) for dalit students (Grade 1-8); scholarship for girls including Students from Karnali zone etc. There are also a significant number of targeted scholarships for Janajati groups, and children with disabilities. Introducing the scholarship provisions the MOES also has shown its commitments to reduce dropouts and repetition rates in the disadvantaged sections.

In addition, incentives such as midday meals, cooking oil and take-home rations have been implemented by the government and the WFP in areas with low enrolment and low attendance, particularly of girls. Studies have indicated that the impact of these incentives has been generally positive, although both the quotas and the amount available for scholarships are not enough for all needy students (NPC, 2010).

The investment on education is also on increasing trend in order to reduce dropouts and repetition rates and by increasing the promotion rates through a mechanism of Continuous Assessment System (CAS). A significant policy has sought through Education Act to enhance the role of local communities and parents in school management by transferring responsibilities to locally elected School Management Committees. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in enrolment of children from Dalit and other marginalized communities in public primary schools (NPC, 2010).



Source: DoE Presentation on the program: MDG and Children: Post 2015 Development Agenda, July 2013 in Kathmandu

Government of Nepal also brought Teacher Service Commission amended regulation (2059) into effect in order to implement teachers' licensing policy for quality education. Prior to appearing in the licensing examination training has been made mandatory. Government policy has also focused on increasing the recruitment of teachers from underrepresented sections such as women, Dalit and Janajati groups and people with disabilities. There has been a gradual increase in the number of female teachers and teachers from Dalit and Janajati groups. In 2012-13, 27.4 % of teachers are female at primary level which is on increasing trend compared to last couple of years. Similarly, 4.5 % and 29.4% teachers are Dalit and Janajati at primary level (DoE, 2012) which stands at 4.2% and 23.4 percent respectively in 2009 (NPC, 2010).

Teacher training has been intensified in an effort to improve the quality of education, with a focus on child-friendly, student-centred teaching-learning, and gender and cultural sensitization. 94.5% primary level teachers in 2012-2013 are noted to be fully-trained in all community schools (DoE, 2012) which stands at 87 per cent in 2009 (NPC, 2010).

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) has been introduced as an overarching framework for setting learning standards and providing guidelines for pedagogical practices. The government has also focused on a continuous assessment system and liberal promotion policy; and mother-tongue/multi-lingual education and transitional language support. The number of schools using these approaches is increasing but their impact on classroom processes and student learning outcomes is as yet unknown (NPC, 2010).

Likewise, the School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) 2009–2015 is a key to improve access, equity and quality with a focus on meeting the diverse learning needs of children in different social and cultural contexts. It provisioned free education to cover most of the direct costs of schooling (e.g., free textbooks, and no fees for admission, tuition and examinations). Further, through the 7th amendment in Education Act, the government has shown its commitment of national liability in primary education.

The government also introduced the concept of 'entitlement' to support the education of children from marginalized communities, and affirmative action policies for recruitment of teachers from marginalized groups (NPC, 2010). Now, the Department of Education (DoE) is tracking schools through Prioritized Minimum Enabling Condition (PMEC) system for ranking the neediest schools that requires more attention to ensure quality education.

Critical Issues on UPE

There have been several attempts made by the government in order to make education accessible to all children aged 5-9. Education Act, Education Regulations, Tenth Plan, Medium Term Expenditure Framework, EFA National Plan of Action are all the efforts towards this endeavor. Since the 1980s, huge investments have been made in basic education with the aim to increase enrolment. Quantitative growth in primary enrolment has reached an impressive level with GER for 2010 recorded at approximately 107%. However, there are high incidences of grade repetition and dropping out of schools, especially in early grades. The disadvantaged population groups such as girls, the poor and lower castes are still lagging behind. For example, participation in primary education by children from the disadvantaged minorities and Dalits are very low. Social, economic and educational constraints rather than lack of physical access to school are the reasons of low access to primary education in Nepal. The government has committed to provide primary education totally free including the textbooks. However, there are cases where schools levy money from parents to meet their recurrent costs. Categorically, the critical issues on universal primary education are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

Quality Education

In Nepal, learning outcomes are assessed through the percentage of students passing the School Leaving Certificate examination; the percentage of students passing the examination has been decreasing, from 68.5 per cent in 2008 to 55.5 per cent in 2010 (UNESCO- EFA Decade Report). The Government of Nepal acknowledges the need to tackle the low quality of basic education in the country. Both primary and secondary education sub-sectors are characterized by low quality of education mainly due to shortage of committed teachers and lack of instructional materials especially in rural areas. At the secondary education level, there are issues of poor quality and relevance of school curricula.

Equity

According to the Economic Report 2012, literacy rate of the population over 15 years of age is 56.5 per cent. Though reports show that 94.5 per cent girls and 95.6 per cent boys are enrolled at the primary level, the high dropout and repetition rates ensure that the maximum number of children do not enter the secondary level. Among grade one students in 2011-2012, 21.3 per cent repeated the same grade and 7.9 per cent dropped out from the school education system. Another interesting fact that shows the glaring disparity in terms of education opportunity is that Dalit and Janajati

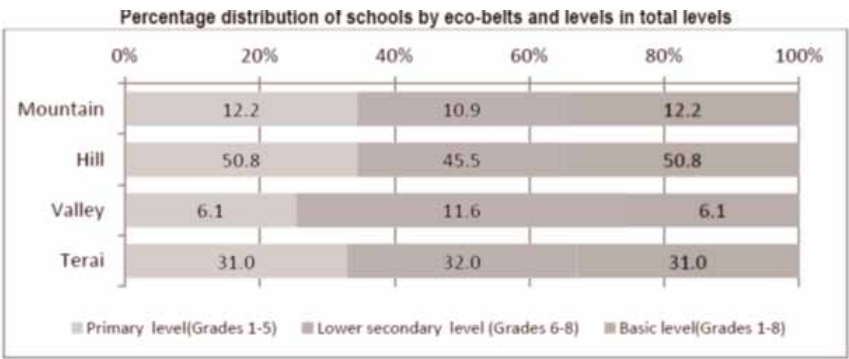
students comprise only 19.7 and 38.5 per cent respectively.

Large gender gaps also persist in the literacy status of 15–24 year olds. For example, in 2006, 21.3 per cent of females aged 15–19 years and 11.3 per cent of females aged 10–14 years were illiterate compared to 4.5 per cent and 4.0 per cent of males, respectively (MOHP et al. 2007). Literacy data for various social groups also reveal substantial disparities among Hill and Tarai Dalits, Tarai Brahmin and Terai Dalits, and advanced and marginalized Janajati groups (UNDP 2009). The government data shows that still there are more than 3 million people are illiterate in Nepal. There are also significant gender inequalities within all social groups, particularly among Tarai Dalits and Muslim communities. One of the main challenges to improving literacy rates has been the inability to reach these low-literacy groups through locally appropriate literacy programmes. In addition, retaining newly acquired literacy skills and linking them with income-generation activities has long been a challenge.

Privatization in education resulted into the class division of children contributing on their access to quality education. It is further aggravated by the challenges lies on the absence of strong overall school governance, legal framework, accountability measures and performance based management (NCE Nepal, 2013).

Distribution of resources

National data show that access to primary education has improved significantly in recent years. However, there is still considerable variation in the level of accessibility to school by region. For instance, the Tarai, which accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the country's population, has only 31 per cent of total schools (below figure). As a result, there is considerable overcrowding in Tarai schools, which negatively affects the attendance of girls in a culture characterized by significant gender discriminatory practices. Moreover, in the Tarai, many schools are temporarily inaccessible due



Source: DoE, 2012

to flooding in the rainy season. Such inaccessibility has a more enduring dimension in remote hilly and mountainous regions (particularly in the mid- and far western regions) where students face significant risks, for instance, while crossing rivers every day.

Given that the most excluded communities reside in the most marginal geographical areas, it is very likely the case that the quality of educational infrastructure is poorest for such groups. With more than 80 per cent of the educational budget spent on salaries and other recurrent costs, there is little left over for investment in improving classroom conditions and teaching–learning activities.

Reliability of Data

A major issue is the coverage and quality of data reported by the MOE. There are often differences in NER data reported by the DOE and other sources (e.g., CBS 2009; UNESCO 2008). Although the government's Education Management Information System (EMIS) has been improved, there are still widespread inconsistencies in data-reporting. There is also a lack of adequate reporting on quality related indicators such as teachers' performance, learning materials, student and teacher attendance, school health and sanitation conditions, and student learning (NPC, 2010). It has been often claimed that there is an over-reporting of student numbers by schools because of the tying of school grants to the number of enrolled students through per child funding (PCF). Schools are more likely to over-report the number of girls and Dalit students because additional grants are associated with the number of such children in each school. This situation has been further aggravated by lack of monitoring mechanisms to check the actual numbers of students in school.

Out of School Children

According to the MOE, more than 218,000 primary-school-aged children (6.3 per cent) are still out of school (DOE, 2009). Though the government data indicates the decreasing order of percentages of out-of-school children at both primary and lower secondary levels during the period 2004–011. It needs to be calculated with caution since current classification of student enrolment by various social groups is not adequate to identify who these out-of-school children are and where they are from because: (i) there are no data related to the NER for marginalized groups; and (ii) categories are not disaggregated and thus disparities within groups cannot be ascertained.

Retention and Dropout

Although the government has introduced scholarships and other incentives to encourage the participation of marginalized children in basic education, these schemes are inadequate, both in their coverage and in the amounts distributed to individual students. Continuation of scholarships is necessary to retain individuals in the system. Moreover, there is need to sustain these mechanisms. Programmes should be strengthened to provide basic education to special needs children (e.g., conflict-affected, trafficked, working, and street children).

Teacher's Professionalism

Teacher training is getting high preference from the government as well as from donor agencies nevertheless, teacher recruitment and management is under heavy political influence. The percentage of fully-trained teachers in all community schools is 94.5 % at primary level (Flash I Report, 2011-12). However, effectiveness of teacher training is always in question. Last three national achievement assessment study of teacher training could not show the positive relationship between children achievement and teacher training. Teacher absenteeism is a significant problem in Nepal like other developing countries due to several seasonal factors. Apart from that, teachers professionalism are affected due to poor management of teachers in schools, with no DEO nor SMC mechanism to regulate teacher absences; involvement in secondary occupation such as trade or business, causing teachers to miss classes; and engagement in activities for Teachers' Union, political parties, or NGOs.

Availability of textbooks

Textbooks are not delivered on time. Although the Ministry of Education and Department have taken initiative for supplying books before the start of the session in the third week of April, there is always crisis of books in many districts, as coordination is lacking among stakeholders, thus affecting the regularity of teaching– learning in school. At the same time, although primary school textbooks have been published in various languages to facilitate mother-tongue/multi-lingual education, there are serious setbacks in using them, including resistance from parents and lack of qualified and trained teachers.

Way Forward

The macro-analysis shows that there is not a problem in 'Access' though government data and independent researches show that considerable efforts

should be made on some specific districts and VDCs in order to reduce the enrollment gap by identifying local problems and to devise planned activities in coming days. In the well functioning schools as well, students have to face with many problems including lack of trained and qualified teachers, child centered learning approaches, lack of text-books, and in many instances the unnecessary burden of fees. Thus attention needs to be paid before the problem encounters. Similarly, identification of the socio-economic status of the districts having low NER is crucial. The successful primary education and/or NFE programs run by other agencies (GO, NGO, INGO) can be scaled up by aligning government's and CSOs efforts for widening and deepening efforts towards universal primary education.

The government must enforce the mechanisms for controlling over-reporting. The EMIS needs to be expanded to include the systematic collection of school-level data on quality-related indicators as well. Availability of such information will enable policy-makers to categorize schools on the basis of performance and develop more targeted approaches for school improvement. SIP development process should be informed by the tested methodologies and accountability tools with greater community participation (PRS Framework promoted by ActionAid International Nepal can be the best examples for this purpose). Most of the problem districts are either Terai belt or remote hill and mountain districts. Thus a study of the social structure of those areas needs to be carried out to design special packages for girls' education.

There is an urgent need to reduce repetition and dropout rates, especially in Grade 1, by making the school environment more child friendly and conducive to learning. In addition, there is a need for a comprehensive mapping study of out-of-school children to identify who they are and where they are residing. The reasons for dropouts and repeating classes need to be studied very carefully to provide viable opportunities to the students to complete their primary education cycle. This should be followed up by special educational programmes focused on these specific children. This calls for a further elaboration of the 'entitlement' concept in the SSRP. This will also require more localized and inter-sectoral planning and implementation. Out-of-school children can be integrated into basic education through such kinds of special educational programs for instance the government can devise policies regarding the rehabilitation of dropouts and also make provisions that the repeaters rate be decreased with all the repeaters complete their respective grades.

In order to improve the participation of girls in the Tarai, the physical capacity of schools should be expanded to address the specific needs

of girl child such as increase in female teachers, latrines for girls at school premises, eliminating gender negative stereotypes in curriculum revision and making curriculum relevant to girls' life may help boost girls' enrollment. At the same time, the coverage of incentives to enhance participation and retention should be expanded, particularly for girls from Madhesi, Muslim and Dalit communities. The government must address the output of the PMEC system for good quality education in every school with adequate budget allocations to classroom improvement along with adequate quality teaching– learning materials.

Greater emphasis should be placed on improving the literacy status of youth, specially females aged 15–24 years old from marginalized groups, and monitoring the impact of relevant interventions. Improving learning materials within the literacy programme, by including vocational skills and micro-enterprise activities, can be helpful for retaining newly acquired skills.

Key Priority Areas for Post 2015: Education Agenda

1. Make a mandatory provision for public servants to send their children in public schools
2. Quality of Education should be enhanced by promoting rights in schools, derived from core human rights treaties and conventions and echoed in national constitution.
3. Basic education is basic rights that should not be regulated by profit-making private institutions.
4. School social audit should be promoted to bring the integrity on data system.
5. SMCs and HMCs should be accountable
6. Equitable and inclusive access to quality learning should be ensured for all (children, youth and adults). Attention should be paid to mainstream the education of children with special needs. Policies guaranteeing educational provision need to begin with early childhood care and education and go beyond primary schooling.
7. Education reforms should aim to transform schools into learning hubs. This requires the education sector to engage and work with other sectors.
8. Education systems should reflect and welcome the diversity of the social fabric and aim to achieve social cohesion by doing so. Therefore, education systems should be able to cater to multiple needs and circumstances by promoting flexibility and respect for diversity so as to achieve minimum, essential core standards of quality and achievement and a maximum level of inclusiveness.

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Child Protection System in Nepal

In Relation to MDGs

Gauri Pradhan

Introduction

1.1 Background

*I*n 2000, the world's leaders met and signed the Millennium Declaration, pledging 'to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty'. Soon after, they also committed themselves to a series of targets that came to be known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), all of which involve the rights of the world's children. Many years have passed since then. We are approaching the target year 2015 very soon and the world has much appreciated Nepal for achieving most of its targeted MDGs. Nepal has made a good progress despite a decade long armed conflict followed by ongoing transitional period. Being one of the least-developed countries, Nepal could confront a number of challenges for attaining some of the MDGs. However, the country has made significant progress in the field of poverty reduction and human development despite the difficult situation prevailing in the country since the last few years. Still, the reduction in poverty has not been evenly distributed across all classes of the society. Moreover, inequality and social exclusion have continued to remain as one of the daunting challenges of this country. Thanks to Government, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, Development Agencies, Business Communities, and all concerned who have in one way or other contributed for helping achieve most of the goals, particularly related to the survival and development of children. However, much more has to be done in order to relieve our country from poverty, exploitation, discrimination and injustice. For this, we need to consolidate much of our efforts and investments effectively for people in need, particularly for children living and working in the most difficult circumstances.

1.2 Issues and Concerns

Children below 18 years of age in Nepal consist of almost 44.42% of total population according to the National Population Census of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 2011. They are the source of hope and inspiration for the country. Hence, children's upbringing and protection are the most important things for all of us. If we fail to respond to the issues and challenges related to children's protection, the country would suffer from obstructed development. Therefore, timely recognition and response to help protect children at risks is a serious matter of responsibility of the family, community, society and the state as a whole. For this, a child-friendly and progressive child protection system should be explored, established and mobilized for the best interest of children.

Quite a big majority of children in Nepal is under risk of protection. Children throughout Nepal are at risk of abuse and exploitation. Recorded data illustrates that children living in poverty are at the greatest risk of a wide range of abuse and exploitation. These forms of abuse and exploitation include, but are not limited to, child prostitution, child trafficking, domestic violence, and the absence of a juvenile justice system. Children in emergency situations are especially susceptible to abuse and exploitation when they become part of a displaced or traumatised population.

Protection of children begins from womb and particularly becomes very challenging from zero to five years of age. Each stage of childhood (from infant to adolescent) has both opportunity and challenge in terms of protection and development of the child. In the early stage of childhood, there is a problem of malnutrition that is chronic and severe enough to cause growth stunting, inadequate stimulation or learning opportunities, iodine deficiency and iron deficiency anemia. Early childhood is the most important phase for overall development throughout the lifespan. Early experiences determine health, education and economic participation for the rest of life. Likewise, in the middle stage of childhood, (this is the developmental stage between early childhood and adolescence), children move into ever-widening social environments -- school, neighbourhood, peers -- that strongly influence their development. Middle childhood also is a time of significant emotional, social, cognitive and physical development. Children in middle childhood learn new skills, make independent decisions, and increasingly control their own behaviour and emotions.

The final stage of childhood is an adolescence which is the time period between 11 and 18 years of life (WHO definition), character-

ized by critical physical and psychological changes leading to adulthood. On the one hand young people in modern societies are forced to come through the significant stages of adolescence, while living in a rapidly changing and unstable world. On the other hand, they are forced to be a means of family subsistence, sacrificing their very dreams for future, due to the poverty at home. Both push and pull factors of the market economy compel them to compromise with time. Due to increasing globalization, Aggressive marketing targeted at this age group, combined with risk-romancing behaviours that youngsters may normally develop as they struggle towards independence, lead to the emergence of difficult circumstances, this includes problems of the worst forms of labour, human trafficking, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), early marriage, unwanted pregnancies, substance abuse, HIV AIDS and mental health issues. It is because of their risk taking behaviours, problems like road accidents, gang-fights, and involvement in criminal and violent activities are also increasing with the day-by-day. Besides, use of internet has poured too many things in their minds and made their lives very confused sometimes. As revealed by a CWIN survey of 1,430 children showed 66.6 per cent were exposed to erotic materials and 36 per cent admitted watching sexual materials on purpose. Around 15.5 per cent said they felt uncomfortable on first encountering pornography on the internet.

1.3 State Response

As one of the state parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (UN CRC) and other related international instruments; Nepal has been trying its best to domesticate its commitment in action. A number of national laws, bi-laws, policies, programmes of actions and required mechanisms have been established from central to the Village Development Committee (VDC) level by the Government of Nepal. Besides, it has also tried its best to meet national target goals related to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Significant achievements have been made in the areas of child rights, including child survival, child development, child protection and child participation in the last few years. The Government of Nepal has also established both national and local mechanisms to deliver its services for the protection of children. Nepal has set up its long-term development targets in line with the MDGs. The MDG programs are linked with the programs of the ongoing 10th Plan (2002-2007). The achievements attained by the end of the final year of the 12th Plan (2016/17) will be assessed with the achievements of the

MDGs (NPC, 2002). According to the UNDP, the data from MDG Progress Report for Nepal 2010, prepared in partnership between the Government of Nepal and the UN Country Team, indicate that potentially Nepal will be able to achieve most of its MDG targets by 2015, ... While the progress till date has not been sufficient to meet the targets on hunger, achieving universal primary education, eliminating gender disparity in secondary education and tertiary level of education, achieving universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it, Nepal, however, is likely to achieve 2015 targets in these areas too with some additional efforts

1.4 Change and Challenges

Provisions of child protection have been there, in one way or other, in laws and regulations for years however, they are not guided by the rights based approach. Changes in national laws, policies and programmes of action took place particularly after the ratification of the UN CRC by the parliament established after the popular people's movement of 1989/90. A number of research and studies undertaken after this historical political change in the country revealed a gloomy and sorrowful picture of children living and working at risk condition. In order to address the issues and concerns related to the child protection, Nepal government introduced and amended national instruments and mechanisms on the protection of children.

Nepal actively participated in the "World Summit for Children, 1990" and it developed "National Plans of Action for Children for 1990s". The decade of 1990s was an instrumental period for the rights of children in Nepal. A number of national instruments including Children's Act 1992, Children's Regulations 1995, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regularisations), 1999 and plans of action related to child labour, trafficking in children, and in other related issues were formulated during the period. The Programme of Action ensures that children are given a special focus in the national agenda. The programme covers different aspects related to child development such as nutrition, health, education, children in especially difficult circumstances, poverty alleviation, food security and communications (the goals for children and development in the 1990s).

Nepal actively participated in the UN Special Session for Children 2002 and approved the outcome documents entitled "A World fit for children", 2002 and joined the global campaign to "Say Yes for Children". Before this, Nepal joined the world community of 189 nations of

UN Members and at least 23 International Organizations for Millennium Goals to be achieved by the year 2015. Each of the eight goals has specific stated targets and dates for achieving those targets. Likewise, all these goals are related to the survival, development and protection of children in the world. In background, the aim of the MDGs is to encourage development by improving social and economic conditions of the people in the world, particularly in the poorest countries. The MDGs also emphasize the role of developed countries in aiding developing countries, as outlined in Goal Eight.

As clearly mentioned by the UNICEF, a close look at the MDGs shows that not a single Goal can be achieved unless the protection of children is an integral part of programming strategies and plans. Failing to protect children from such issues as violence in schools, child labour, harmful traditional practices, and the absence of parental care or commercial sexual exploitation squanders the world's most precious resource. Reaching the most vulnerable and isolated populations helps ensure the health and well-being of all and is indispensable to achieve the MDGs.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) and UNDP through their joint press release have stated that most of MDGs, particularly concerning the development and protection of children have been fulfilled even before the targeted year of 2015. Nepal has made an incredible progress in this field even after the decade long violent conflict in the country. During the period, Nepal has ratified the Optional Protocols on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of Children on 25 May 2000 by a UN resolution no. 54/263. As the follow-up of this, Nepal declared to end the use of children in Armed Conflict as per the historical Comprehensive Peace Accord, 2006. It has also successfully campaigned to declare children as "Zone of Peace".

In recent years, there has been a wide range of discussion taken place about the situation, problem and challenges on child protection of Nepal in local, national and international level. Issues related to children at risk and their protection are being raised and discussed almost every day in different quarters of society. Role of government, political parties and civil society organizations and community organizations for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child has been critically reviewed and the society has called for a consolidated and joint action for change. Despite the achievement of the most of MDGs related to the rights of children, effectiveness of the established mechanisms and quality of services for the child protection are under the question mark. Despite significant achievements and progress made in past decades, Nepal yet has

to do lot more to make our children free from all forms of exploitation, discrimination and injustice.

1.5 About the Paper

The objective of this paper is to review and assess the effectiveness of the existing child protection system of Nepal in the background of the declared MDGs by 2015 and to make appropriate recommendations for change in the background of the Post MDGs for next decade and so. For this purpose, I went through several literatures and reference materials on Nepal's progress report on MDGs and particularly MDGs concerning the child protection system in the country. This paper is mainly focused on reviewing the efficacy and usefulness of the instruments and mechanisms established for the protection of children in our country. This paper reviews and assesses the achievements and challenges of the existing child protection system including the gaps and constraints of the national policy and plans of action. It puts forward some recommendations and suggestions to overcome the challenges of child protection by restructuring the existing instruments and mechanisms of child protection in the country.

2.0

Patterns of Child Rights Violations and Child Protection Issues

Looking at the historical perspectives and present scenario, there are basically three different kinds of human rights violations in Nepal. The first of them is traditional and discriminatory practices in society followed by the armed conflict related human rights violations and marginalization of people by uneven development practices. All these three different patterns of human rights violations have made the lives of children a hell.

As a conventional and caste based society, most of children are brought up under the belief of traditions and superstitious norms and values. In consequence, many children die before the age of five due to malnutrition and preventive diseases and those who survive also have to come across with different types of exploitation and discrimination in their everyday lives. This is particularly very serious among the children of the marginalized and Dalit Communities of society.

The second serious form of child rights violations are related to the armed conflict that turned out from 1996 to 2005. During the period nearly 40,000 children were directly affected by killing, enforced dis-

appearance and abduction, internal displacement and association with the war. After the signing of the CPA, whenever we talked about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) the issues and concerns of the violation of the rights of the child are also seriously raised time and again. In this regard, the UN CRC Committee stated, “the extremely negative impact of the armed conflict between the State party and the Communist Party of Nepal (the Maoists) on children in Nepal, and that it has created conditions in which even minimal implementation of the Convention is difficult.

Likewise, the third form of child rights violation is the lack of social inclusion and mainstreaming of the issues and concerns of children at risk to the development planning and practice in the country. Despite a good progress in the areas of health, education, poverty reduction and participation, children of poor and marginalized groups of society including children at risk hardly could make any difference in their lives at the time crisis. Mainly, the worst forms of child labour, street children, children in prison, victims of trafficking, children with disabilities, particularly children with mental health problems, sexually and physically abused children, abandoned and orphan children are the one who are deprived and denied from the mainstreaming development in the country.

In relation to the aforementioned patterns of child rights violations, the specific areas of children at risk and their challenges for protection are mentioned as follows:

a. Child Labour and the state of economic exploitation of children

According to ILO and the fact sheet of CWIN, there are 1.7 million working children in the country. Despite the reduction of child labour in Nepal by nearly 1.0 million, there has been increasing trend of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) of children in-between 15-17 years of age. According to CWIN there has been about 500 children added on the street of Kathmandu and there are maximum 5000 children who are living and working on the street of urban Nepal. A number of children are also found trapped into the domestic services, circus, brick-kilns, embroideries, and scavenging for family subsistence.

b. Children in Prison and Children in Conflict with Laws

There are mainly two types of children in prisons, one category of chil-

dren are living with their parents in prison as they are very young and have no other means of survival outside. The second category of children is those who are in conflict with the laws and the court has referred them to the Reformation Centres for their socialization.

A number of children who are living in adult prisons with their parents, often in poor conditions that fall short of international standards, need an urgent action for their protection. As stated by the CRC Committee in its recommendations to the government of Nepal in 2005, "that it reviews the current practice of children living with their parents in prison, with a view to limiting the stay to instances in which it is in his/her best interest, and to ensuring that the living conditions are suitable for his/her needs for the harmonious development of his/her personality."

Likewise, there are reports and complaints about the maltreatment and torture of children who are arrested and detained by Police for petty crimes. A number of children who are arrested by Nepal Police for petty crimes are tortured in their custody and detention centres. Over 90% of detained juveniles known to Advocacy Forum are male, and they report a higher torture percentage (23.1%) than female (10%). Their age groups range from 7 to 17 years old. In order to make child-friendly juvenile justice into the track, the government of Nepal in collaboration with the Supreme Court has formulated the "Juvenile Justice (Procedures) Rules, 2006" to prevent and control children in conflict with the laws and help them for their socialization.

c. Child Marriage

Despite the prohibition of child marriage by law, it still exists in different forms in different parts of the country in one way or other. However, the constant efforts of the government, civil society and community, the trend of child marriage has been decreasing as compared to the past decade according to the statistics of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 2011. In order to prevent and control child marriage in society, it needs to strengthen the enforcement of the existing legislation and develop sensitization programmes, involving community and religious leaders and society at large, including children themselves. Thanks to those who have contributed to prevent child marriage and help empower the adolescent and young people for their development and protection.

d. Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment was a part and partial of the traditional school system in Nepal. Children are used to be punished for disciplinary action and for failing of submitting home work and class work as instructed by the teachers. After a series of social campaigns against the corporal punishment in schools by human rights and child rights defenders, the government has outlawed the corporal punishment against students in school. Teachers Unions have also developed their codes of conducts to end corporal punishment and several trainings have been provided to the teachers on child rights and child-friendly education in school.

In consequence, the trend of corporal punishment has been massively decreased in recent years. However, some of the cases of corporal punishment held recently in different parts of the country including in the capital city Kathmandu, has shocked many people in society. It has raised a serious question to all of us what has gone wrong in the school teaching and learning system in the country. It means, corporal punishment still stays alive in our society and both enforcement of laws and regulations and social sensitization, particularly sensitization of teachers is not effective as expected. For this, we need to strengthen the awareness-raising campaigns to inform parents, teachers and professionals working with children, particularly in institutions. Likewise, we need to make public at large aware about the negative impact of corporal punishment and ill-treatment on children. Every child has the right to a safe school environment. In the teaching learning system of Nepal, we need to ensure child-friendly education that positive, participatory, non-violent forms of discipline are administrated in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the Convention, in particular article 28 (2) as an alternative to corporal punishment at all levels of society. We need to influence the government to outlaw all forms of corporal punishment, to enforce laws in action and to explore alternative discipline methods to corporal punishment.

e. Children with Disabilities:

As a part of the national commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs), Nepal has signed and ratified both UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 2006 and its Optional Protocols. Nepal has also introduced Childhood Disability Management Strategy, 2064, Community Rehabilitation Guidelines (CBR), 2066, National Policy and Plans of Action on Persons with Disabilities, 2063,

Disability Identity Card Distribution Guidelines, 2065. However, there is no national system for early detection and intervention with regard to children with disabilities. Insufficient efforts have been made to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities into the educational system and society in general, including efforts to change traditional attitudes towards persons with disabilities and improve the access to information, medical facilities and education.

f. Children without family or abandoned children:

Separation of children from parents or children deprived of a family environment and alternative care is a very serious matter in our society. People are deeply concerned that an increasing number of families and children are facing the risks of family disintegration and separation as a consequence of the armed conflict, natural disasters and traffic accidents. Government has been undertaking different measures for the reunification of separated families, by implementing programmes for the reinforcement of existing structures such as the extended family, and for the introduction of a foster care system as a part of the alternative care to the residential institutions. It has been also undertaking a regular monitoring so that residential care facilities meet quality standards in conformity with the National Minimum Standards.

g. Inter-country adoption of children:

The 2008 study by UNICEF and Terradeshommes Foundation entitled "Adopting the Rights of the Child" found that around 60 percent of the children up for adoption were not actually orphans but were separated from their families and that a culture of child abuse including the abduction, trafficking and sale of children had flourished due to poor controls. In the background of national and international campaign against the "Paper Orphans", the Government of Nepal suspended inter-country adoptions in 2007 and 2008 due to a range of concerns, they lifted the suspension in late 2008 and adoptions began again in 2009. A little progress has been undertaken to put up the inter-country adoption a transparent process for the best interest of children. UNICEF Nepal Representative in 2008 Gillian Mellso clearly stated, "When basic safeguards are in place abuses are avoided and adoption is available to the children who need it. Implementation of the Hague Adoption Convention is the best way to prevent abuses and allow safe inter-country adoptions to continue." In this context, the government of Nepal has adopted the

Terms and Condition for the Inter-country Adoption of Nepali Children, 2008 and necessary monitoring is being undertaken for making the Inter-country adoption transparent.

h. Harmful Traditions and Practices:

As a conservative and caste based society, Nepal has been practicing different kinds of harmful traditions as most notably the caste system and traditions such as the Deuki, Jhuma, Badi, Kamlari and Chaupadi, causing extreme insecurity, health hazards and cruelty to girl children. Sometimes, young women and girls are also attacked and tortured for practicing so called witch-craft. There has been massive social campaign in order to prevent and control many of these traditional practices which are not in favour of the best interest and the protection of girl children. It is noted that most of the time, the victims of such harmful traditions and practices are young women and girls belonging to the so called Dalit and low caste community

i. Sale, Trafficking and Abduction of Children:

Nepal has been recognized as one of the problem countries of human trafficking in the world, where almost 20% of young women below 18 years of age are put into its trap. They are the victims of sale, trafficking and abduction for the commercial sexual exploitation and other hazardous forms of works. Despite continuous efforts and action to combat human trafficking, Nepal's progress is not satisfactory and it falls on the tier two categories in the world map of human trafficking. Nepal has a tough law against human trafficking, however, sufficient efforts and actions are not taken by the government to prevent and control on it. Political protection of perpetrators, an ineffective crime investigation system and low rate of prosecutions by the court have downed the morale of victims and encourage the crime world to continue their evils against the humanity. However, some of the action against the human traffickers by the Nepal Police and the Court has put extra energy to the movement against human trafficking in society. The District Court of Sindhupalchowk has slapped on Bajir a whopping fine of Rs 1.3 million including 170 years of prisons. The court has also ordered Bajir to provide Rs 150,000 to each of the six teenage girls sold by him in India. Human trafficking in Nepal is not only connected to the international crime, a number of crime reports of Nepal Police and studies undertaken in this field also revealed the fact that the increasing intra-country human traf-

ficking has been also contributing to the increasing commercial-sexual exploitation in the country.

j. HIV AIDS:

Unsafe sex, drugs addiction and use of contaminated needle cause HIV AIDS to a number of young people in Nepali society. There is a serious impact of HIV/AIDS on the socio-cultural, economic, civil and political rights and freedoms of children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. It has been reported in the media time and again that these children come across different types of discrimination including in health care, education, food and housing. Some of them are even denied to School admission.

Violence against children can have serious implication on child rights and child development, in both short term and long term. It can affect children's health, ability to learn and willingness to go to school at all. It may also lead to children to run away from home, exposing them to further risks. Yet violence against children in Nepal remains a largely hidden problem, since much of it occurs within the privacy of the family and institutions such as schools and children's homes.

3.0

An Assessment of MDGs in relation to Child Protection

As an active member of UN, Nepal has set up its long-term development targets in line with the MDGs. The MDG programs are linked with the programs of the 10th Plan (2002-2007), and three-year interim plans (2007/8-2009/10, 2010/11-2012/13). A joint statement issued, on September 07, 2010, by NPC and the UN said Nepal is likely to achieve many MDGs targets such as reducing the proportion of people below national poverty line, achieving 100 per cent enrollment in primary education, reducing child and maternal mortality, and access to improved drinking water facilities. According to the country's third MDG Report, absolute poverty came down to 25% (which now is reduced to 23.0%) in 20013 from 42 percent in 1996. However, according to UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) 2013, 44% of the population in Nepal is still under the poverty line. As far as the MDGs related to the child is concerned, most of the national target goals are about to be achieved by 2015. However, Nepal has a long way to go in order to ensure every child with a full-fledged protection and development. If issues and concerns of children are not well addressed by the government and society, no MDG will be materialized in action.

MDG 1 'Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger',

This is one of the most important national target goals and directly related to the protection of children. If this does not happen in due course of time, this will cause violence, abuse, discrimination, exploitation, malnutrition, abandonment, and neglect to children. Moreover, this will create an adverse situation for the development and protection of children in society. Looking at the progress of MDGs, this goal has been already achieved in time and now we should be prepared for ending poverty and hunger from our country forever.

MDG 2 Achieve Universal Primary Education:

Achieving Universal Primary Education not only contributes for development and protection of children, but also helps prohibit and prevent child labour exploitation, child trafficking, child soldiers, and children with disabilities and children in conflict with the laws. This will also help to bring down the level of child marriage, corporal punishment and so on. Nepal has more or less achieved this goal in time; however, quality of education and students' retention has been a big challenge for the educational sustainability.

MDG 3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women:

One of the major contradictions of our society is the existing practice of gender discrimination and slow pace of women's empowerment in society. Lack of promotion of gender equality and empowerment of young women and girls may lead to the problem of child marriage, school drop-outs, and troubled childhood in society. Ultimately this will cause an imbalanced development in society. There has been a good progress to achieve this goal; however, it is not up to the expectation.

MDG 4 Reduce Child Mortality:

Nepal has made an incredible progress in reducing IMR and U5R. If we could continue present pace of progress or bring progressive change in the behavior and attitude of people, we can make exemplary action in society. However, issue of mal-nutrition of children is still a big challenge, which also effect adversely to the survival of children.

MDG 5 Improve Maternal Health:

There has been also a progressive change being taken place in reducing maternal mortality rate in our country. This has also contributed to prevent and control early marriage, birth of children in young age and

family planning. Further, improvement in maternal health also has an affirmative impact in reducing the IMR and U5R. Death of mothers, particularly at the time of delivery of baby may invite various types of protection challenges in the life of children. In most of cases, children without mothers after the birth generally come across with different types of abuse and neglect in family and outside.

MDG 6 Combat HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases

As mentioned earlier, children living HIV AIDS in family are encountering different types of discrimination and negligence in their lives. Many young people, both male and female, are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and STDs due to unsafe sex, sexual abuse, use of contaminated needles, drug addiction and so on. Most of young women who are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation or working as commercial sex workers (CSWs) or visitors to CSWs are mostly subjected to contraction of HIV/AIDS and STDs. If the government and society don't take concerted effort to prevent and control HIV AIDS and STDs, the problem will become much complex. Nepal has also made a good progress in prevention and control of HIV AIDS.

MDG 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability:

Every action of human beings needs to be environmentally friendly and sustainable. Otherwise, any development work no matter whether big or small will make an adverse effect to society. Environment sustainability will ultimately help reduce the problems like internal conflict, internal displacement, child labour, street children, children in conflict with the laws, sexual exploitation, child trafficking and forced migration. Nepal has integrated the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs into to the national development planning and reversed the loss of environmental resources.

MDG 8 Develop Global Partnership for Development:

Strengthening state capacity for making child friendly laws, policies and programmes of action; for establishing effective mechanisms for their implementation and enforcement and for independent, impartial and effective monitoring is must, and there is a considerable progress. For this, international co-operation and global partnership need to be extended and donor countries need to fulfill its commitment to extend human rights friendly aid as per the Paris Principles and Accra Declaration.

4.0 Child Protection System:

An Assessment on Effectiveness of Instruments and Mechanisms

As a state party to the UN CRC, Nepal has its first and foremost duty to help protect the children who are living at risk condition due to various socio-economic, cultural and political reasons. Ignorance, illiteracy, poverty-stricken situation, armed conflict, natural calamities, and different types of violence in society including harmful traditional practices cause a serious threat to the protection of children. Since the ratification of UN CRC, Nepal has introduced and established a number of national instruments and mechanisms to strengthen the child protection system in the country. These instruments in the forms of national laws, regulations, policies and guidelines have provided basic norms and standards for the protection of children. In order to carry out the policy, guidelines and plans of action, Nepal has also established a number of mechanisms for the protection of children in national, regional and local levels.

In the national level, various mechanisms are in place for policy making and dialogue, for enforcement of laws and implementation of the plans of action and for monitoring of child protection system in the country. This includes the bodies of executives, legislature-parliament and judiciary as well as National Human Rights Commission and other NHRIs like National Women's Commission, National Dalit Commission and so on. As the national constitutional body, NHRC has been also actively engaged in the promotion and protection of the rights of the children especially on the child protection. It has made a number of recommendations to the Government of Nepal on child protection issues including prohibition and control of child labour including Kamlari practice, prohibition to recruit child soldiers, care and protection of dependent children in adult prisons, prohibition and control of corporal punishment in schools and institutions, guidelines for school child protection policy and so on. NHRC has made remarkable recommendations for the benefit of the child considering their best interest whenever they were affected by other incidents and violence. Effectiveness of the national instruments and mechanisms very much depends on mutual co-operation and mutual understanding on the issues of protection of children. If role of these institutions are contradictory to each other, it may lead to non-cooperation and hamper the process of children's protection in the long run. Hence, mutual co-operation and basic understanding of these institutions towards child protection laws, policies and programmes of action must be coherent and directed towards the rights based action.

For a simple reference, a present scenario of child protection mechanism in Nepal is mentioned below:

National Child Protection Mechanisms

	Subjects of Works	National Mechanisms	Other Agencies
1.	National Policy Bodies which formulate laws, policies, guidelines and national plans of action	Executives, Legislature Parliament, Judiciary, NHRC and Other NHRIs, National Planning Commission (NPA)	NEFEJ, NBA, NFN and Other CSOs, Alliance of HRDs
2.	National Law Enforcing and Implementation Bodies	Office of the Prime Minister, Ministries, Office of Attorney General, Nepal Police, Armed Police, Nepali Army and other national wings of the government and CCWB, Child Lost and Found Co-ordination Centre, Child Helplines (1098)	NEFEJ, NBA, NFN and Other CSOs, Alliance of HRDs
3.	National Monitoring Bodies	NHRC and Other NHRIs	NEFEJ, NBA, NFN and Other CSOs, Alliance of HRDs

Regional Child Protection Mechanisms

	Subjects of Works	Regional Mechanisms	Other Agencies
1.	Regional Law Enforcing and Implementation Bodies	Appellate Court, Attorney General's Representatives, Regional Administrator, Nepal Police and Other Security Agencies	NEFEJ, NBA, NFN and Other CSOs, Alliance of HRDs
2.	Regional Monitoring Bodies	NHRC	CSOs

District Child Protection Mechanisms

	Subjects of Works	District Mechanisms	Other Agencies
1.	District Policy Bodies and Law Enforcing and Implementation Agencies	DAO, District Court, DCWB, Nepal Police and Other security agencies, District Child Protection Committee	CSOs
2.	District Monitoring Bodies	National Human rights Commission	CSOs

Village Child Protection Mechanism

	Subjects of Works	Village Mechanisms	Other Agencies
1.	Village Law Enforcing and Implementation Bodies	VDC, Nepal Police, Social Mobilisers, Para- Legal, Health Mobilisers	CSOs and Mediation Groups
2.	Village Monitoring Bodies	NHRC	CSOs, Children's Clubs Community Groups, etc.

In addition to above-mentioned mechanisms, there are various civil society interventions that provide response to child protection needs and provide direct services for child protection. Similarly, there have been good examples of collaborative work between the government and NGOs. One such example is the operation of Child Helpline 1098, which is a national mechanism owned by the Government of Nepal, being run by NGOs in various districts.

Abuse of children may happen everywhere. It may occur at home, in schools, at work place, care institutions, sports, art and music coach centers, etc. According to Child Helpline (1098) most child abuse occurs within families and communities, children also experience abuse and exploitation in institutions, which provide them with care, support and services. Therefore, families, communities and institutions all need to be aware and sensitize about the protection of children. That is why, every organization no matter whether it is government, semi-Government, NGO/INGOs, Business and Industry, Training or Coach Centers, Employers' Organizations all need to formulate and adopt their own child protection policy (CPP) on the basis of national child protection policy and international standards of child protection policy. It is good to know that most of the UN Agencies, INGO and National NGOs have developed their own CPP and have implemented into action. However, most of the political and professional organizations including women's organizations yet have to make and adopt the CPP in their organizations.

So far about the efficacy of the national instruments and mechanisms from the central to the VDC level, no information have been found regarding the evaluation and assessment of the CPP from the central level to VDC level. At the same time existing mechanisms and components do not comprehensively respond to child protection issues at all levels and does not amount to a comprehensive national system. There is a need for wider assessment and to device a sustainable national system that will respond to all issues of child protection throughout the country.

Social Security for Children

Social security is just not for adults who have been put out of job. It applies to all citizens including children who are living and working in the most difficult. There are hundreds of thousands of children who are at risk due to various socio-economic and political reasons. Those children whose parents are in lower scale of income and cannot maintain their everyday livelihood well or those children who are abandoned, neglected, abused and exploited within and outside family are in dire need of social from the state system. Likewise, children with disability and prolonged-illness also may need social security.

The right to social security is recognized as a human right. It establishes the right to social security assistance for those unable to work due to sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment or old age. Social security system consists of social insurance programs which provide earned benefits for workers and their families by employment contributions, and/or social assistance programs which provide non-contributory benefits designed to provide minimum levels of social security to persons unable to access social insurance. In human rights perspective, social security is recognized as old age benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, adequate health service, work injury insurance, family and child support, maternity benefits, disability protections, and provisions for survivors and children without family. Many countries have also incorporated individuals and families who are living and working in marginalized conditions.

Adopted in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in its article 22 mentions, "Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality." Likewise, Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) also acknowledges "the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance." The right to social security is also further recognized in Article 10, which states that "special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth. During such period working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits." State parties to the ICESCR have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the right to social security. In the General Comment no 19 (2007) On the Right to Social Security the UN Committee on

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC) clarified that the right to social security as enshrined in the ICESCR encompasses: "the right to access and maintain benefits, whether in cash or in kind, from (a) lack of work-related income caused by sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age, or death of a family member; (b) unaffordable access to health care; (c) insufficient family support, particularly children and adult dependents"

In the beginning, the concept of social security was guided by a welfare-state approach in the world. History of social security scheme dates back to more than 100 years. Germany became the first nation in the world to adopt an old-age social insurance program in 1889, designed by Germany's Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The German system provided contributory retirement benefits and disability benefits as well. This approach was followed by a number of European countries and USA particularly after the World War I (WWI) and World War II (WWII). "The Industrial Revolution transformed the majority of working people from self-employed agricultural workers into wage earners working for large industrial concerns. In an agricultural society, prosperity could be easily seen to be linked to one's labor, and anyone willing to work could usually provide at least a bare subsistence for themselves and their family. But when economic income is primarily from wages, one's economic security can be threatened by factors outside one's control--such as recessions, layoffs, failed businesses, etc" The industrialization and urbanization process in Europe and USA had not only transformed the economic system but also effect the life-style and livelihood patterns of people. A traditional extended family structure was gradually vanished and replaced by nuclear family and life-expectancy of people was also increased than before. More or less, a similar development pattern has been evolving in most of the countries in the world today and they are living and working in "a global village" in globalization. This has created a growing pace of economic globalization and history has observed that the movement of migrant workers in the world today is more than ever before. According to ILO, "there are approximately 175 million migrants around the world, roughly half of the workers (of these, around 15%) are estimated to have an irregular status."

History has revealed the fact that children are the most victims of any catastrophe (natural or human made) including economic crisis in the world. No matter whether it is natural disasters or war or epidemics or economic crisis, it hits the children the most. We have observed such upheavals many times in different occasions in the past. In order to

protect children from such harms and risks, different countries individually or in collaboration have worked together to help protect children through social security schemes (SSS) in the world. Now-a-days, most of the countries in the world have introduced social security scheme for children. Article No. 4 of Universal Declaration of Child Rights (UDCR), 1959 clearly states, "The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow and develop in health; to this end, special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate pre-natal and post-natal care. The child shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services." Despite the clear provision of social security scheme for children, many countries in the world, particularly the developing world have hardly introduced SSS for children in their countries. As a consequence, millions of children become victims of poor health, nutrition and preventative diseases. However, situation of children has been improving gradually in most countries of the world, particularly after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), 1989. Since then, the world has invested billions of dollars for the child development. As a result, we could save millions of children from death (IMR and U5R), illness and disability and different forms of exploitation and abuse. However, millions of other children, who are still living in vulnerable situations, must be protected and SSS could be one of the best options for this. For this, the UN CRC has provided a clear provision for child protection which should be respected by the states parties by introducing national laws, policies and schemes for social security for children. The articles no. 26 and 27 of UN CRC states about the social security including social insurance of children and maintain a standard of living for the overall development of children including their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

In Nepal, social security scheme for children is introduced very late but are present in different forms. It was particularly after the Treaty of Sugauli, 1816, the government of Nepal accepted the recruitment of its youth for the East-India Company, which deployed tens of thousands of Nepali youth for the interest of expansion of British Colony in South and South-East Asia. In order to help support the family of Gurkha soldiers, the government of Nepal first introduced "Sainik Drabya Kosh, (Military Money Fund 1934) as a part of social welfare scheme for family and children of soldiers. Likewise, government established Sanchaya Kosh Bhimbhag (Providend Fund Department, 1944), Karmachari Sanchaya Kosh (Civil Servant Providend Fund, 1959), Rastriya Bima San-

stha, 1967, Yatayat Majdoor Kalyan Kosh, 1972, Sainik Kalyan Kosh (Military Welfare Fund), Prahari Kalyan Kosh (Police Welfare Fund) for the benefit of government staff and security personnel and their family. With the help of these funds and insurance schemes, people usually receive provident, gratitude, health insurance, compensation at the time of injury and disability. After the democratic change in the country in 1990, Nepal has introduced a number of laws, policies and programmes for protection and best interest of senior citizens, persons with disability, children without family, single women, and people from Dalit and marginalized communities of society.

The universal flat pension of Rs. 100 to all the elderly above 75 years was first announced in Nepal by the government on December 26, 1994. In 1996-97, the government also introduced two additional social security programs, namely the Helpless Widows Allowance to widow-women above 60 years of age and the disabled pension of Rs. 100 per month. After the political change of 2005/2006, Nepal government has also decided to provide social allowances to the persons belonging dalit, endangered ethnic minority and persons above 60 years of Karnali in the spirit of Interim Constitution of Nepa, 2007 and ILO Convention No. 169.

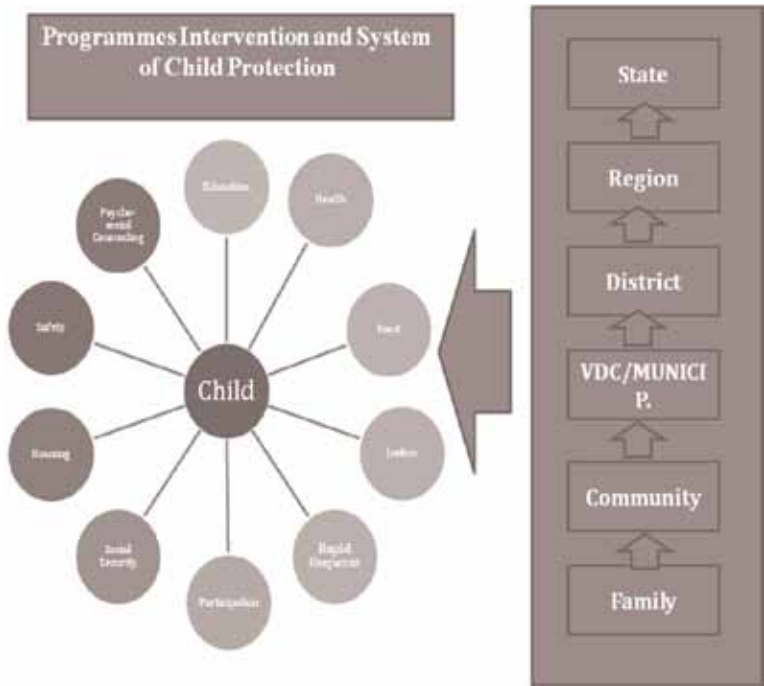
“In Section 35 of the Constitution, the State policy has included the provision of social security. In section 35 (9), it is stated that the State will follow a policy of paying special attention to protect the interest of women, orphans, children, old aged people, the disabled, incapable and endangered race. Section 35 (19) has clearly provisioned that a policy to provide allowances to the old aged, incapable, women and unemployed would be adopted. In Nepal, social security programs are in operation in line with various security-related acts and regulations. The Government of Nepal has developed an operational modality for the social security programs, and also addresses policy measures related to social security programs for single women, incapable and disabled citizens in the annual budget. With the notion of expanding the social security right of citizens, the Social Security Program Operation Procedure 2065 has been formulated and implemented under the Local Self-Governance Act 2055, Section 236 (2).”

In Nepal, social security scheme (SSS) has been integrated as an important part of allowance to the target groups, the government of Nepal has formulated an operational modality for the Social Security Programs Operation Procedure 2065. It has clearly mentioned the objectives of the programs including target groups, procedures for receiving identity cards and formation of committee to monitor it in local level. Likewise, to operate the social security program effectively, a social security coordination committee is formed at the district level. According

to the “Assessment of Social Security Allowance in Nepal“ by National Planning Commission in May 2012, “there has been a gradual rise in the total number of beneficiaries over time.”

Nepal has not yet adopted any particular national policy on social security of children. However, the government has introduced a number of schemes for social security allowances for different target groups. The allowance amount for the target groups is as follows: (a) Senior citizen Rs. 500 per month, (b) Single women Rs. 500 per month, (c) Fully Disabled Rs. 1,000 per month, (d) Partial Disabled Rs. 300 per month and (e) Endangered ethnic minority Rs. 500 per month. It is believed that the children belonging to these groups, one way or other, get some benefit for their education, health, nutrition and other necessary things. Since the amount of allowance money is very small, children of particularly vulnerable groups are not well supported by this. Keeping this in mind, the government of Nepal has introduced a number of programmes to support on health, education, nutrition, shelter, rescue and social reintegration of children in need. This includes nutritional allowance for Dalit Children (Duiji VDC, Ward No. 9, Kanchanpur), food for education, social reintegration of children in the worst forms of child labour including kamlahari, street children, children living with HIV, children associated and affected by the armed conflict (1996-2006). In order to formulate a concrete national policy and programmes for children, the government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW) has given a task to Mr. Gauri Pradhan to formulate a concept paper on social welfare scheme for children. He has submitted a report entitled “Children and Social Security: A Concept Paper” to the MWCSW in 2006.

Despite the existence of social security schemes in many countries in the world, their effectiveness has been seriously questioned by different quarters of societies. Learning from the past experiences of SSS of over hundred years, the value and success of the social security scheme very much rely on rights based approach rather than the conventional welfare based approach to development. For this, the national instruments and mechanisms should be guided by principles and values of equal access and opportunity to all. Right to education, health and employment should be guaranteed to all as guaranteed in the fundamental rights of the “Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007”. Only economic growth is not adequate to address the question of poverty, unemployment and inequality unless there is fair distribution of wealth to the people. As far as social security of children is concerned, it is directly related to the empowerment of family. Hence, government of Nepal should focus on a systematic approach to SSS which will ultimately help strengthen the family system responsible for children and rest of the family members.



5.0 Post MDGs: Systems Approach to Child Protection

In the national perspectives of the child rights, the achievement of the MDGs are remarkable, however, it is not yet satisfactory. There are failures and successes, best practices and lessons learned of MDGs in our context as well. So far about the achievement of MDGs in relation to the child protection is concerned, lives of millions of children have been saved from the IMR, U5R and other preventable diseases. Burden of child labour, child marriage and children in armed conflict have been also gradually being reduced. Social awareness on the rights of children and children's own participation in their issues and concerns has been raised immensely in our society during the period of last 13 and half years. The national provisions for child clubs and child participation in decision making are extremely progressive and reflect the value given by the government to a child's rights to self-determination. The strategic review of child clubs in Nepal, 2011-2012 reveals, "Nepal is home for approximately 13,000 child clubs across its 52 districts" out of 75 districts. However, child protection is yet an unfinished agenda in our coun-

try. On the one hand, we need to reach many more outreach children in order to prevent all forms of violence against them. Quality of our child protection services are not as to the national minimum standards and sustainable. Hence, learning from our experiences and practices, we need to bring radical changes in nature, process and system of child protection in the country. There are still many children who are hard to reach, extremely poor, marginalized and socially excluded in the society. Priority should be given to help protect the lives of these children and ensure their basic human rights.

Nepal is now in a painful transition of social transformation. There are both opportunities and challenges for making Nepal a better place to live. Nepal has so many challenging issues and concerns to be settled down in near future in the process of building a new Nepal. The forthcoming Constituent Assembly Election Part II, making of new constitution of the country and settle-down the issues of state-restructure, forms of governance and mode of elections and so on are major national political agendas in the country, however, they are also interlinked with the rights of protection of children. After all, children are the future of nation, so we need to protect them today.

Globally, post MDGs agenda are focused on 12 major areas including 1) End poverty 2) Empower girls and women to achieve gender equality 3) Provide quality education and life-long learning 4) Ensure healthy lives 5) Ensure food security and good nutrition 6) Achieve universal access to water and sanitation 7) secure sustainable energy 8) Create jobs, sustainable livelihood and equitable growth 9) Manage natural resource assets sustainability 10) Ensure good governance and effective institutions 11) Ensure stable and peaceful societies and 12) Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance as decided by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons.

The afore-mentioned post MDGs development agendas by 2030 are on the one hand a continuation of MDGs for meeting the unfinished tasks and on the other hand it is an enhanced commitment for making this world safe, sound and a better place to live. In the context of Nepal, all these 12 goals are of equal importance in order to meet the problems and challenges of people in need. Likewise, they are very close to the issues and concerns of child protection and the rights of the child in Nepal. Since almost all new development agendas are directly concerning to the rights of the children, its high to time for us to review and reassess the child protection system of the country so that we can rightly deliver appropriate services for children in need and empower them for their sustainability.

Protection is an important right of children. It is essential for realization of rights and for achieving potential in a child. Protection issue of children should also become as important as education and health and investing in children protection will have longer term benefits not only for the family but for the whole nation. By ensuring child protection we will be able to ensure a safe environment for children and for the whole society.

For years, we have been dealing the issue of child protection in a welfare-based approach which is guided by very traditional and conservative ideas and focus on fragmented (single thematic issue such as HIV and AIDS, Person with Disability, Trafficking in Children) areas of child protection. In absence of integrated and rights based approach to deal with abuse, exploitation and violence against children, the child protection approach and practices we have been exercising for years have put children sometimes in more vulnerable conditions. In recent years, there has been a wide range of discussion taken place worldwide to rethink and revisit the traditional form of child protection and apply the “System Approach to Child Protection” in practice. A systems approach to child protection requires a considerable conceptual shift from the traditional stand-alone programming focus on particular groups of children in need of protection, to the achievement of more sustainable, comprehensive and long-term responses to child protection issues.

Violence against children, no matter whatever in the form and nature, is a gross violation of the rights of children. Though it may be targeted against a child or a group of children, it is, in fact, an offence against the whole society and world. Therefore, in order to fight against violence against children, we need to formulate and understand a right based approach to child protection in all phase of development, from the beginning of planning, to implementation and enforcement, to monitoring and evaluation. Child protection cannot be seen in isolation but requires a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach which involves a wide range of stakeholders including government, multilateral agencies, donors, communities, caregivers, families and – very importantly – children.

A comprehensive system is required to guarantee that children are protected from all kinds of harm, abuse and exploitation. There is a need to ensure that the government becomes more accountable towards translating its commitments for children’s protection into action. It would make necessary arrangements to put mechanisms in place for implementation of laws and regulations. A systems approach will ensure holistic and effective system by bringing together all related sectors to re-

spond efficiently to child protection issues. Continuous monitoring and evaluation is desired through out the process and should become an integral part of a system. What is more an effective system will build linkages in relevant policies and services thereby ensuring protection of children.

Current child protection system is neither effective nor productive in order to meet the growing challenges of children in need. There is lack of conceptual clarity, co-ordination and resources (both financial and trained human resources) in the systems in order to implement and monitor the plans of action in the ground level. Hence, this is an opportunity to the country like Nepal to rightly reflect and unify the Global goals into the national development plans of action. So, it is a high to time properly review and assess the achievements of MDGs and prepared for the next long term National Development Goals (NDGs) in line with the Global Development Goals (GDGs).

Learning from the past experiences and present challenges, we need to consider following points for action to make child protection system of the country effective and action-oriented in line with the new GDGs:

- 5.1 Develop a comprehensive rights based National Child Protection Policy and amend National Laws related to children to respond to child protection issues
- 5.2 Restructure and strengthen national mechanisms to create a National Child Protection System and Set National Minimum Standards on child protection
- 5.3 Develop infrastructure for creating child-friendly environment everywhere in all sectors related to children
- 5.4 Promote accountability of the government authorities and line agencies and to discourage practice of impunity
- 5.5 Strengthen inter-agency co-operation
- 5.6 Strengthen capacity of concerned stakeholders and service providers to ensure better response to children's protection
- 5.7 Strengthen community and school based child protection mechanisms
- 5.8 Increase investment for implementing child laws, child protection policies and plans of action on children's overall development
- 5.9 Strengthen children's meaningful participation to protect the rights of children, particularly from abuse and exploitation.
- 5.10 Strengthen national mechanisms for effective and systematic monitoring and evaluation of National Child Protection System.

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Investment in Children

Dr. Bal Gopal Vaidya

MDGs in Nepal

Achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) makes significant contribution towards ensuring survival, development and protection rights of children, the rights guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, 1989. Of course, MDGs scope goes beyond children and covers the whole population.

Nepal is one of the countries where MDGs are well integrated in the country's development plans. This is probably one of the reasons behind Nepal's relatively satisfactory performance in achieving MDG targets. Out of 29 MDG indicators reviewed there were specific targets for 24 (Table 1). Among these 24 indicators the targets for 2015 had already been achieved by 2011 for 9 (37%); indicators likely to be achieved at the present rate of progress were 6 (25%); and possible to achieve targets with some additional efforts were 4 (17%). Only in 5 (21%) of 24 indicators Nepal was unlikely to attain targets set for 2015 as the progress so far was far too slow (Table 1).

Given Nepal's context in the recent past (armed conflict from 1996-2006, prolonged political transition period and ensuing weakening of state institutions, sluggish economic performance, absence of elected local bodies, etc.), the performance in MDGs comes as a bit of a surprise. What explains Nepal's relative success in achieving MDGs despite such an adverse context of the country?

There are several reasons for Nepal's relatively satisfactory performance some important reasons include:

Supportive Environment

MDG progress reviews indicated that Nepal had maintained favorable policy environment for meeting most of the MDG targets. There were appropriate strategies, plans and programs backed up by resources to attain most of the targets. A recent review of MDG progress indicated that except for Goal 7 targets the policy environments were conducive for all other MDG targets (Table 1).

Goal/Target	Sup- portive Envi- ronment	Indicators	Progress			Remarks
			1990	2013 or Latest	2015	
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Strong	Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	162	54 (11)	54	Achieved
		Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	108	46 (11)	36	Unlikely
		Immunization measles (% of children under 12 months)	42	88 (11)	90	Likely
5. Improve maternal health						
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	Strong	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	850	229 (08)	213	Likely
		Birth attended by skilled health staff (%)	7	36 (11)	100	Unlikely
		Antenatal care >1 visit (%)	15.4 (91)	84.8 (11)	100	Unlikely
		Contraceptive prevalence rate (%)	24	43.2 (11)	67	Unlikely
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases						
Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Strong	HIV prevalence among 15-49 year population (%)	0.29	0.3 (11)	Halt & re-verse	Achieved
Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Strong	Annual parasite incidence of malaria (per 100,000 people)	119	16 (10)	Halt & re-verse	Achieved
		Prevalence rate of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)	460	238 (11)	210	Likely
		Deaths due to tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)	43	21 (11)	20	Achieved
7. Ensure environmental sustainability						
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Weak but improv- ing	CO ₂ emissions (metric ton per capita)	0.03	0.12 (10)	NA	-
		Energy use per unit of GDP	34.8	24.8 (10)	NA	-
		Proportion of people using wood as main fuel	75	68.4 (10)	NA	-

Goal/Target	Supportive Environment	Indicators	Progress			Remarks
			1990	2013 or Latest	2015	
Target 10: Halve, by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Fair	Proportion of population using improved drinking water source	46	83 (11)	73	Achieved
		Proportion of population using improved sanitation facility	6	62 (11)	53	Achieved
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Weak	Achieved by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers	11,850 (00)	50,000 (10)	NA	-

Source: World Bank, 2013. Nepal Development Update: Poverty Reduction and Economic Management. World Bank, Kathmandu; and draft working papers prepared by MDG progress report team of NPC/UNDP and shared with stakeholders in a workshop on 16 July 2013 at Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu.

Note: Figures within parentheses indicate the year of the data.

Table 2: Public Expenditure Ratios on Human Priorities (%)

Indicators	2002/03	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	International Norms
Public Expenditure Ratio (PE/GDP)	17.1	19.8	22.2	21.8	21.5	22.1	23.8	25
Social Sector Expenditure Ratio (SSE/PE)	24.3	27.1	25.0	26.6	27.1	26.8	24.6	40
Education	16.3	16.9	16.2	17.9	18.8	18.3	16.2	
Health	4.6	6.6	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.2	
Drinking Water	3.3	3.7	2.8	2.3	1.9	1.8	2.2	
Social Priority Ratio (BSSE/SSE)	69.3	70.7	72.0					
Education	69.1	67.1	70.0					50
Health	76.9	77.7	82.0					
Drinking Water	58.8	74.9	68.0					
Human Expenditure Ratio (BSSE/GDP)	2.9	3.8	4.0					5
Education	1.9	2.9	2.5					
Health	0.6	1.0	1.1					
Drinking Water	0.3	0.5	0.4					
20/20	16.8	19.2	17.5					20

Source: Shrestha, B.R., 2009. Study of Basic Social Services: Updated Version (submitted to UNICEF Nepal Country Office); Ministry of Finance, 2013. Public Statement on Income and Expenditure of F.Y. 2013/14. MOF, Kathmandu.

Table 3: Some Selected Indicators (%)

Indicators	2002/03	2007/08	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13*
Total Revenue (% of GDP)	11.4	13.2	14.7	15.9	17.0
Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	8.3	10.4	12.9	13.8	14.8
Non-Tax Revenue (% of GDP)	3.1	2.8	1.8	2.1	2.2
Total Government Expenditure (% of GDP)	17.1	19.8	21.5	22.1	23.8
Revenue Growth Rate (%)	11.5	22.7	11.4	23.2	18.5
Total Expenditure Growth Rate (%)	4.9	20.8	13.7	14.8	19.4
Remittance Growth Rate (%)	14.0	42.5	9.4	41.8	19.6
Remittance as % of GDP	11.0	17.5	18.5	23.1	22.4
% of Households Receiving Remittances	31.9 (2003/04)		55.8 (2010/11)		
Average Nominal Remittance Received by Receiving Households (Rs.)	34,698 (2003/04)		80,436 (2010/11)		
Share of Remittance in Total Household Income of Receiving Households (%)	35.4 (2003/04)		30.9 (2010/11)		

Source: Ministry of Finance, 2013. Economic Survey, F.Y. 2012/13. MOF, Kathmandu; Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Nepal Living Standards Survey, 2010/11. CBS, Kathmandu.

* Estimates based on 10 month data.

Increased Investment for Human Development Expenditures

The social sector expenditures which are important human development expenditures increased over the years. Even during the height of conflict years public investment in health and education sectors were protected. The proportion of national budget spent on social sector slightly increased after the cessation of armed conflict. However, Nepal's social sector expenditure is still below 40 percent norm sought by 20/20 compact. The proportion of social sector expenditure spent on basic social services (e.g., expenditure for rural areas, basic education, essential health services, etc.) is relatively high in Nepal in fact higher than 50 percent norm envisioned by 20/20 compact.

Increased Remittance Flow

Increasing remittance flow sent by Nepalese working abroad to Nepal has been identified as one of the main reason behind significant poverty reduction in Nepal. Increasing number of Nepalese are going abroad for work and send money to their families. Between 2003/04 and 2010/11 the proportion of households receiving remittance income increased dramatically from 32 percent of the total households to 56 percent. Average remittance amount for receiving households also increased significantly. For remittance receiving households it constitutes almost one-third of the total household income.

Although growth rate of remittance has been erratic over the years the total volume has increased dramatically. In 2002/03 remittance was only one-tenth (11%) of Nepal's total GDP but by 2012/13 had increased to nearly one-fourth (22%) of the GDP (Table 3).

Remittances are mainly utilized to meet household consumption expenditures such as food, health and education expenditures. As such remittances have significantly contributed in Nepal's progress towards MDGs.

Implementation of Targeted Programs

Significant number of poor and marginalized households are covered by targeted programs such as the Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF), the Karmali Employment Program, Food-for-Work program. PAF alone covers more than 500,000 poor households. Similarly, food-for-work programs have generated significant number of remunerative employments for poor and marginalized. These programs have also improved rural life by creation of rural infrastructures like rural roads, flood embankments, irrigation facilities, etc.

Increasing Coverage of Social Security and Social Protection Programs

A number of social security and social protection programs have been implemented in Nepal. Although these programs remain fragmented, they have also contributed to some extent in alleviation of poverty or in improving access to education or health care services.

Open Society and Vibrant Press

After the restoration of multi-party democracy in 1990 Nepalese society became more open where hitherto suppressed issues could be openly reported or discussed. This environment helped in fostering vibrant press in Nepal which took up many issues covered by MDGs. This has helped to a certain extent in improving accountability.

Increased Access to Basic Education

Increasing access to education is one of the MDG targets. But education at the same time helps attain several other MDGs. Adult literacy rate, especially that of women, and access to basic education has significantly increased (Table 1). Moreover, gender parity in primary and secondary levels have been achieved. These developments have helped in the progress of other MDGs.

Support of Development Partners

Nepal's development partners have also supported Nepal in her efforts towards MDGs. They have provided financial and technical support in all areas of MDGs. In F.Y. 2011/12 the support of development partners in the form of grants and loans slightly exceeded the entire capital expenditure. The revised expenditure estimates for F.Y. 2012/13 also shows a similar situation, i.e., grants and loans exceeding the capital expenditures. Most of the capital expenditure in virtually all of the programs is financed through financial support of development partners.

Notwithstanding Nepal's commitment to MDGs and increasing allocation of resources, the progress is still constrained by lack of resources. A 2010 study¹ on needs assessment for MDG estimated a total resource requirement of Rs. 1,396 billion for 2011-2015 at 2010 constant prices. The total availability of resources for the same period was Rs. 944 billion leaving a resource gap of about Rs. 452 billion. The largest resources gaps were for MDG 1 (Rs. 103 billion), MDG 2 (Rs. 177 billion) and Goal 7 (Rs. 115 billion). Resource gap for other MDGs were relatively small.

Why Invest in Children

The discussion on public investment for MDGs in preceding section has also covered a lot of ground for investing in children. Several of MDGs are directly related with children (MDG 1,2,3 and 4 and 6). Other MDGs too have implications for children. Therefore, discussing investment in children in a way is quite akin to discussing investment for MDGs. Nonetheless, children have a special place in the hearts of people in general and decision makers in particular and therefore, it is a bit easier to draw their attention when investment discussion is on children rather than MDGs.

The argument for investing in children is bolstered by Nepal's own constitution and the fact that Nepal is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC). According to Article 4 of UNCRC the Government of Nepal is obliged to.

1 *National Planning Commission and UNDP, 2011. Millennium Development Goals: Needs Assessment for Nepal 2010. NPC/UNDP, Kathmandu.*

“.... undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation.”

Although Article 4 of UNCRC is a legally binding obligation for states it does recognize the fact that lack of resources can constrain state's ability to fully implement economic, social and cultural rights and as such, may need to seek international support in the form of financial and technical support. Ratification of UNCRC obligates developed countries not only to fulfill rights of their own children but also to support in the realization of the rights of children in developing countries.

There is also the economic argument for investing in children. This argument is basically in line with the human capital approach. Public investment in social sectors (health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation, etc.) is considered as an investment to increase the individual's productive capacities and their potential income which ultimately will improve their well-being.

Finally there is the political and social argument for investing in children. Lack of public investment in children may deprive children from poorer section of the society from the ability to break the vicious cycle of poverty and thus remain in severe poverty. Such a situation will result in high levels of inequality weakening the social cohesion and nation's stability. This can eventually undermine the process of consolidation of democracy.

How Much to Investment

In the absence of specific goals and targets beyond 2015, it is not possible to come up with specific resource requirements. However, in the Nepalese context it can be said that the resource needs will be greater in future for following reasons:

- Unlike pre 2015 MDG the focus of education in post 2015 period will be on higher level of education and skill training. Definitely, the cost implications are going to be much higher than the cost of basic education which was the focus of pre 2015 MDG.
- Similarly, the health challenges in post 2015 period will require much more expensive interventions. The health issues in pre-2015 period could be addressed with less expensive interventions such as mass immunization, safe birthing kits, sanitary practices, relatively cheap drugs etc. The health improvements that could be attained with simple and relatively less expensive interventions is largely exhausted and next generation interventions will require much more resources.

- Addressing the challenges of climate change will be an expensive proposition. Nepal is one of the vulnerable countries and the need to be prepared to respond to climate change impacts is urgent. The cost implications of preparedness, mitigation measures and rehabilitation of those affected will be quite significant.

Currently Nepal is investing about 25 percent of the national budget for social sector which includes education, health and drinking water. The international norm as per the 20/20 initiative² is 40. The 20/20 initiative also recommends that at least 50 percent of the social sector expenditure be spent for rural areas and basic social services. Although more recent figures are yet to be estimated, Nepal was indeed devoting much higher proportion than 50 percent in basic social services activities (Table 2). Thus Nepal was already close to spending about 20 percent of the national budget to basic social services. In total the donors in Nepal were already spending 20 percent or more for basic social services as of 2008/09.

Given Nepal's largely rural population and low level of educational attainment and health indicators Nepal needs to devote much more than the recommended 20/20 norm. In Nepal's case it should be at least 25/25 or higher.

Mobilizing Resources for Children

A nation's commitment to realization of child rights is reflected in the national budget. It is also the main source of funding for children. Aside from government funding Nepalese households also devote substantial amount of resources for children. A recent study of community schools shows that Nepalese households sending their children to community schools spend as much as what the government spends on these schools. Similarly, Nepalese households spend more for their health care than what the government does.

Despite above facts the government budget is the most important source of investment for children, especially for those from poor households. But further investment will be possible only if there is a fiscal space. Some of the potential ways for creating fiscal space is discussed below.

2 *The 20/20 Initiative was adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 and the "Oslo Consensus" in 1996 adopted it as an strategy to eradicate poverty. The initiative calls for 20 percent of national budget be devoted to basic social services. It also calls on donor countries to spend 20 percent of their aid on basic social services.*

Increasing the Size of Budget

Nepal's budget size has hovered around 20 to 22 percent. With some additional efforts in revenue mobilization and effective implementation the budget size should be increased to 25-30 percent of the GDP. Looking at the past performance of the government and international experiences of other countries this should be very much possible.

Increasing the size of the budget would require greater mobilization of domestic revenues. Nepal has gradually increased its revenue effort from 11 percent of GDP in 2002/03 to 17 percent of GDP in 2012/13. Developed countries mobilize revenues as much as one-third of the GDP and even our South Asian neighbors have higher revenue effort. Given still limited coverage of income tax and VAT there should be significant room for attaining higher revenue effort. Similarly, customs revenue can be significantly increased through better compliance and reduction of leakages.

Nepal should also be able to mobilize higher level of aid than what has been possible so far. The constraining factors seem to be slow implementation, lack of accountability and transparency, and proper and timely reporting. These are factors which can be dramatically improved through greater commitment and accountability of leadership and implementing officials.

The budget also needs to be carefully analyzed to reduce wasteful expenditures. In this period of political transition of the country it is reported that such expenses have substantially increased due to political expediency. This should be checked and such savings should be allocated to areas of real need.

Restructuring of the Budget

Careful analysis of budget can reveal areas where resources need not be allocated. This can be the case with infrastructure projects where public private partnership model or build-own--operate-transfer (BOOT) models can be adopted. Nepal can also attract private resources in large scale hydropower generation. This can free-up substantial resources in the national budget for reallocation. These infrastructures will also be a source for future revenues in the form of taxes and royalties.

Child Sensitive Budgeting

A system of analyzing national budget to make it more sensitive to the needs of children should be institutionalized. The program to be funded by the national budget should be scrutinized to see how they can contribute more in the realization of child rights.

MDGs and South Asian Experiences

Marc Vincent

*T*hank you for the invitation and the opportunity to present UNICEF's regional perspective and experience with the Millennium Development Goals. I would like to start my remarks by highlighting, some areas where I think we have made significant progress in achieving targets that benefit children and some areas where challenges remain. I would also like to comment on the new set of goals that are proposed to replace the MDGs after 2015. I will then conclude by looking at some of UNICEF's other emerging priorities for the wellbeing of children in the region.

There is no doubt that much has been achieved since the General Assembly endorsed the MDGs in 2000. Many indicators show a positive global trend, particularly in the health sector including the decline of child deaths. But national and regional averages, hide tremendous disparities not only between countries, but within countries, at the provincial, state or district level.

Unfortunately there are many indicators for which we don't have comparable data for all countries in South Asia. Where such data is available however, it quickly becomes evident that progress has not been sufficient for the poorest and most vulnerable children. For this reason, UNICEF has adopted an equity-based approach that seeks to understand and address the root causes of inequity so that all children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations, have access to education, healthcare, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development.

Let's look at progress for children according to MDG targets. Income poverty rates have come down in South Asia. (MDG1) Largely as a result of strong economic growth, we have seen the proportion of people living on less than US\$1.25 a day fall from 51% in 1990 to 30% in 2010.¹ However in terms of nutrition, South Asia remains the region with the highest proportion of underweight children under five. In 6 out of the 8 countries, a third or more children are stunted. There are huge disparities within countries among children. In Nepal, the greatest disparities are between castes and ethnic groups.² Addressing malnutrition is an on-going challenge which requires better synergies between the health, nutrition and WASH sectors. It especially requires work to change behaviours and social norms. In universal primary education, the region is on track, but a large number of children remain out of school. (MDG2) The adjusted net enrolment rate for primary education in South Asia has risen from 74% in 1990 to 93% in 2011.³ However, national studies from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, indicate that an estimated total of 23.8 million primary and 15.6 million secondary school-age children – more than half of whom are girls – are out-of-school.

In gender equality the region continues to be characterized by significant challenges. Despite the good news on enrolment, South Asia remains one of the most gender insensitive regions in the world. Discrimination against girls begins with sex selection and female foeticide, and continues throughout their lives. Often gender discrimination is exacerbated by caste, class, religious and ethnic divisions. Harmful practices persist including child marriage, child labour, child trafficking and widespread violence against children and women. Addressing deeply ingrained norms which stand in the way of gender equality and women's empowerment is an on-going priority for UNICEF in all countries.

Despite impressive global reductions in child mortality, the pace of progress must increase in South Asia to meet the targets for MDG4. South Asia has achieved a reduction in under-five mortality of 47% since the adoption of the MDGs however 1 in 16 children still die before their first birthday.⁴ If the target is to be met, the pace of progress must increase significantly. In June 2012, all countries in South Asia signed the

¹United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

²Nepal DHS 2011

³United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

⁴Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, 2012, Estimates Developed by the UN Interagency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

Call to Action committing themselves to focus on preventing diarrhoea, pneumonia and newborn mortality.

In terms of improving maternal health some countries have already achieved the target. (MDG5) The maternal mortality rate in the region has fallen from 590 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 220 in 2010.⁵ Further reductions are possible. To date only half of the births in the region are assisted by a skilled attendant and South Asia still accounts for 29% of the global burden of maternal deaths.⁶ South Asia is on track in terms of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. (MDG 6) The other good news is that on January 13 2012, India completed one year without recording a case of wild polio virus and stands close to eradicating polio. This is particularly impressive considering that in 2009, the country accounted for nearly half of all polio cases in the world. However polio eradication remains a challenge in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The region is not on track in terms of sanitation. (MDG7) In 2012, it was reported that the proportion of people in South Asia using improved sanitation increased by 16%. Impressive! Yet the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Report shows a staggering 692 million people in South Asia practice open defecation; with 626 million people in India alone. Poor sanitation has a significant effect on stunting – which underlines the importance of addressing sanitation for better health outcomes.

It is now acknowledged by many, that the MDGs were too narrow in scope, and left out many priorities, such as employment, climate change and reducing inequality and discrimination, all of which are among today's challenges. Despite their limitations, the MDGs did provide a clear guiding framework for donors and developing country governments to pull together towards agreed upon outcomes. As 2015, is fast approaching, I would now like to turn to the set of goals that will likely replace the MDGs. These goals haven't been officially named nor endorsed yet – at the moment most people are referring to them as Sustainable Development Goals. These goals were suggested by the Secretary General's High Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, which is chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia, and the British Prime Minister. The Panel's report, published at the end of May, proposes a set of 12 goals to guide development efforts after 2015. The proposals are ambitious. In a number of areas we see targets that don't merely call for

⁵United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013

⁶Ibid

reductions but put the target at zero. For example, bring the number of people living under US\$ 1.25 per day to zero or end preventable infant and under-five deaths, end hunger or end open defecation. Whether these aspirations can be made realistic, remain to be seen.

Based on experience with the MDGs we can see a number of shifts that will be important to South Asia. The first is that gender empowerment and equality is more prominent. The targets call for the elimination of all forms of violence against girls and women, as well as the end of child marriage – both of which are critical issues for the region. There is also a target to eliminate gender discrimination against women in political, economic and public life. It is worthwhile noting that the elimination of all forms of violence against children was not a target in the MDGs.

Political strife, civil unrest and violence has a tremendous toll on children. Targeted attacks and deaths of polio and NGO workers in Pakistan in late 2012 forced UNICEF and partners to temporarily suspend polio eradication activities. So it is good to see a new goal related to ensuring stable and peaceful societies. This monsoon season we also saw tremendous devastation across Northern India and parts of Nepal as a result of flooding and landslides. As one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, the emphasis on resilience in the new goals should strengthen efforts towards disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.

There is also a new goal related to good governance and effective institutions. One of the targets is on birth registration which is of vital importance for children. Another target calls for a reduction of corruption. Many of the countries in the region rank among the bottom of Transparency International's corruption ratings.⁷ Corruption and misuse of funds is a critical bottleneck that we need to address to achieve more and better quality services for children.

While these goals need further negotiations and national targets remain to be defined, it is clear that we have a lot of work to do together including improving our monitoring systems to measure progress. Coming back to my earlier point on the fact that national and regional averages hide tremendous disparities, it is important to note that the Report contains a strong call to "leave no one behind" as one of five transformative shifts. This further illustrates the recognition that it is crucial to address inequalities.

In addition, to the shifts included in the Report of the High Level

⁷Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2012, Report published 5 December 2012

Panel, UNICEF has also identified two issues which we think are of critical importance to the region: adolescents and urbanization. Adolescents are important because of their sheer numbers: they total more than 330 million in the region. Adolescents can bring tremendous opportunities as agents of change as they grow up and enter the labour force. But reaping this dividend depends on investments made today. We need to ensure that adolescents, and girls especially, are protected from violence and other harmful cultural practices and that they acquire the skills and quality education for the jobs of tomorrow.

Urbanization is also critical to the region. Cities have been the engines of growth over the last decade. They are melting pots of people in search of employment and better lives. While for some the promise is fulfilled, many end up in slums. In South Asia, 35% of the urban population live in slums. Over the coming years urbanization in South Asia is set to accelerate. Already, the region is home to many of the world's megacities: Mumbai, Kolkata, Dhaka and Karachi. But the fastest growth before 2025, will occur in medium sized cities, like Kathmandu which is set to grow by more than 80%. While we cannot stop urbanization, we must become better at planning and managing it to ensure adequate housing for all and improved water supply and sanitation. Quality and inclusive services are also essential to ensure that all children grow up healthy and free from harm.

I hope I have presented an objective overview of progress in the region. I look forward to the discussion and wish you a good and fruitful debate on these important topics.

Millennium Development Goals and Children

Post 2015 Development Agenda

Keshav Mathema

MDG goals for children in Nepal, as in most countries, seem to be on track and it is likely that most of them will be achieved on time. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has added that, “The MDG’s have proven that focused global development objectives can make a profound difference. Success in the next 1,000 days will not only improve the lives of millions, it will add momentum as we plan for beyond 2015 and the challenges of sustainable development”. While reviewing the impressive MDG’s progress in Nepal, save the problems of inequity, it was noted that none of the current Millennium Development Goals highlight civil and political rights and by default the protection of children’s rights specifically. The discussion, however, noted that there is no disagreement about the salutary effect the success of MDG’s would have on the protection of children in general. A series of discussions are underway at a global level to strategize actions beyond 2015, consolidating the gains of MDG’s. One of the most elaborate consultation on post-2015 development goals in Bellagio, Italy (“Towards a Post-2015 Development Paradigm II”) identified 11 goals of which two important goals are perhaps worth taking note of. They are (a) security for ensuring freedom from violence and (b) empowering people to realize their civil and political rights. In the same vein, Action Aid and SOS Children’s Village have also praised the vision of the High Level Panel on the post-2015 Development Agenda ‘to reach the most vulnerable and to eliminate violence against children’. Nepal must try

to participate actively, perhaps through its mission in New York, in the post-2015 global development discourse, a sequel to MDG's. The Child Protection System in Nepal was discussed against this backdrop.

Children in Nepal, which represents more than 44 per cent of the total population (CBS 2011) below 18 years of age, face many challenges such as child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, largely exacerbated by high rates of illiteracy and continued social and economic exclusion. Recently, the ten-year armed conflict rendered nearly 40,000 children either homeless, displaced, disappeared or abducted. Since 'Children in emergency situations are especially susceptible to abuse and exploitation when they become part of a displaced or traumatized population' (Gauri Pradhan, National Human Rights Commissioner), it was felt important to address these issues more seriously now and beyond-2015. It is noted that the children in Nepal, particularly those in poverty, armed conflict, illiteracy, social exclusion and natural calamities seem to suffer more. Nepal as a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, has made some legal provisions to guarantee the fundamental rights of the children articulated in the Convention and partly in the interim Constitution, regardless of caste, creed and social standing. However, they may not all be based on rights based approach. In March, 2008, major political parties in Nepal have even made a commitment to protect the rights of the child, when they signed a Child Rights Commitment. As a State, in response to meet the commitments it has made to ensure the rights of the child, Nepal has taken a number of initiatives through laws/bi-laws and policies involving as far down as the Village Development Committees. It is noted that the existing child protection system, which includes various paralegal committees, women's federations and child clubs need to be augmented to meet the growing challenges of 'children in need'. Moreover, due to lack of proper juvenile justice provisions in the Interim Constitution though partly addressed by the new Child Act, the implementation mechanisms seem to have been hindered. It was felt that a creation of an independent statutory body, such as Child Rights Commissioner, preferably attached to Human Rights Commission, with an oversight authority and function, is necessary to monitor child rights violation at all levels including those by the State. Monitoring mechanisms that are in place at regional, district and village levels as Child Protection Committees, should be activated more vigorously so that the social audit of child rights can be conducted regularly and implementation of integrated child protection policies can be implemented, abuse reported and immediate actions taken. In this respect, several credible initiatives of

civil society such as Child Helpline 1098 are noted and appreciated. But, the necessity of monitoring and evaluation of child protection policy are yet to be carried out systematically. Child abuse, which happens more within families and communities, also takes place in institutions such as schools and work places. It should be monitored closely. It is, therefore, urgent to raise the awareness and conscience of the society in general about the need to protect the rights of the children. It is important that established institutions such as schools, community centers, business and industry enterprises should adopt policies in support of child protection. Teachers, health workers and social workers in the field should be able to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse against children. The session on Child Protection system also reviewed the ramifications of child protection issues, which need more serious attention. Mr. Gauri Pradhan (of Nepal Human Rights Commission) has highlighted the following issues for discussion and recommendation. They are: (a) child labour (economic exploitation of children), (b) children in prison and children in conflict with laws, (c) child marriage, (d) corporal punishment (in school system), (e) children with disabilities, (f) abandoned children (including street children), (g) inter-country adoption of children, (h) harmful traditions and practices (caste system and traditions prevailing in certain ethnic minorities), (i) sale, trafficking and abduction of children and (j) HIV/AIDS. It was noted that this list is not at all exhaustive.

The session concluded with a note that while MDG's progress has immensely helped reduce IMR, U5M and the burden of child labour, child marriage and even the children affected by war, there are still many other unfinished agendas with regard to protection. The positive progress must be complemented by a strong constitutional guarantee of child rights and protection. The new Constitution under consideration must incorporate comprehensively the child rights regime.

Post MDGs & Children

Nupur Bhattacharya

*I*t had been an invaluable opportunity to get involved in the Round Table discussion of Post MDG Development agenda for children and specifically as a Panelist in the concurrent session on Child Protection.

In my observation, the Plenary discussion on the papers presented by highly professional experts were very analytical to opening up the debate for identifying the gaps/ still prevailing issues of children which MDG could not address ; then the Concurrent sessions , focusing on specific serious issues of children, concentrated to come up with the strategic Post-MDG goals for children.

World Leaders made a commitment to meet children's rights to survival, health, education, protection and participation- among others-in Millennium Summit in September 2000; from which the Millennium Declaration and subsequently Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emerged.

The Millennium Declaration addresses Child Protection explicitly. In my view, Children's Protection Right and Right to participation are the fundamental basis of all the other provisions the UNCRC has covered; and thus if we take a closer look at the MDGs, it shows that not a single Goal can be achieved unless the Protection of Children is made to be the integral part of each programming strategies and plans. Failing to protect children from such issues as violence in school, violence at home, harmful traditional practices, child labor, sexual abuses/harassments, sexual exploitation torture, absence of parental love & care, dis-

crimination, neglect, isolation (it's a never ending list in fact of children's plights) squanders world's most precious resource – CHILDREN—the spring of human life.

As such, reaching the most vulnerable children, protecting them from all forms of abuses, ill treatment, torture and exploitations, protecting their health and overall development, ensuring their wellbeing in a protective positive environment are indispensable to achieve MDGs.

In the concurrent session of Child Protection 2 major issues were focused for Post MDGs Priorities: Child Marriage and Child abuse/violence against children. The discussion among the members of the big group in this session was quite fruitful—where each participant of the group shared own views and opinion about child protection based on their experiences, which varied quite a lot. In my observation, a common understanding with a wider perspective about Children's Right to Protection is needed to be established among the key actors/ stakeholders to take the lead for achieving Nepal's commitments for MDG, Post MDG Goals on the one hand and for realizing UNCRC Practice Standards creating a safe, secured, positive child friendly environment for the children of Nepal to grow up and develop happily enjoying their childhood in full of joy.

The issues were discussed, dissected to unfold the other issues within these broad issues, & development which are actually surface issues damaging a child's life & development; whereas the real issues, as the underlying ROOT CAUSES of these issues are deeper—linked to traditional/religious beliefs and culture and rigid mind set, socio-cultural discriminations/stigma against specific groups of children, e.g., a girl child, a child with any disability, wide range child abuses-physical, psychological, family violence and violence against children, high mortality and morbidity of children below 5 years of age and of the new-born, a vicious circle of malnourished childhood, perspectives/attitude of adults about children, varied childhood experiences of children; again going deeper in search of root causes led us to think about the discriminations against a girl child since birth, or even earlier while in their malnourished mother's womb, eventual low status of women in the Nepali society, ignorance and illiteracy among women depriving them from achieving information, independence, leadership role, self-confidence and financial independence which puts her in a vicious circle encircling her girl child in the same never ending vicious circle.

Lots were discussed about various forms of child abuses and violence children experience every day in the households, schools, work

places, Child Homes and in the communities and about the weak implementation of Government policy, rules and regulations and absence of strong law against such gross violation of child rights to stop such violence against children of which Adults in their various role as care givers with around children are responsible.

It was also realized during the discussion that the terms “Child Protection” and “Child Abuse” are interpreted in various different ways and there is an absence of a common understanding. It was felt that there is need for Mass Awareness raising the consciousness about Child Rights Protection as such and about the roles of a family, a society, a school, a community itself to protect any number of children from any sorts of violence and mal treatment which causes serious damages to a child physical and psycho-social development.

It was also debated that Ignorance and insufficient knowledge among children about the protection issues, about self-protection measures absence of confidence and courage to raise their voices/report against any form of such ill treatment/ abuses are the serious gaps to protect children’s rights; so an effective plan for Empowering children & adolescents and child/ youth-led organizations (child clubs/ youth clubs to be specific), building up their skills and capacities, is a must-to-be included in Post MDG; in addition, capacitating adolescent girls & boys with knowledge and skills/technical skills is to be importantly included in the plans to empower them as the catalysts for change ,in taking the lead role to address the issues affecting their quality of life’s development to usher social changes ,in the family/ social value system.

They must be knowledgeable in re-productive system, sex and sexuality to protect their life and to take right decisions by protecting themselves and their siblings from all harms. Negative abusive environment in the household and ignorance/absence of adequate knowledge & information among the parents/primary duty bearers about consequences of child marriage were identified as the pushing factors for the child marriages; as such the need of sensitization, knowledge & capacity building of parents/families as primary care givers ,strategies to increase their accountability to create a non-violent child rearing environment is to be planned for Post MDG; in addition, programming should include the sensitization ,knowledge, skills & capacity building of school teachers/staff with whole school approach to ensure a child friendly non-violent teaching –learning system, a Positive Disciplining mechanism in every schools.

The BIG question and challenge is to identify the strategies to combat / UPROOT such complex causes of children’s sufferings!

Many years have passed away, many children have reached their youth/ adulthood experiencing a life with such plights—some resilient children might have coped with, some could not endure—where they are, and how they are, and anybody might not bother!!

Planners, responsible for national plans, tend to forget the huge number of individual child waiting for positive changes to take care of them for days, weeks. Months and years..... each of them is to be considered by the state and the society as the 100%, for any child withering away due to absence of adequate care is a loss to the country.

Post MDG must prioritize CHILDREN as the FIRST whose development process cannot wait for any body's any decision; child's growth & development passes on in deprivation in a colorless way if nobody attends to the child, leading to an adulthood with complexities and limitations to face or to give up.

Post MDG has to take care so that no childhood is lost and child is the first priority for the Nation, the State, Society and the Family.

Because, Child's Name is TODAY!!

Thank you.

Resume

Nupur Bhattacharya

Director , Hatemalo Sanchar- a Resource Organization for Child Rights
Member SOS

A Child Rights Activist, A Consultant Child Development/ Child Rights Expert involved in the promotion of children's rights since 1975.

A Broadcaster and a national Singer of Nepal

An advocate for Child Rights raising her voices to protest against violations of child rights; to raise public concerns about issues through mass awareness programs and community based programs.

A Researcher and a Master Trainer in the arena of Women's, Children's Rights & Development

Designer/ developer of several National & International Training Manuals on several UNCRC/ child rights based issues/ topic as well as designing the Policy and Guidelines for the Government.

Pioneer in introducing Child-to-child Program in Nepal and Child-to-child Radio program on the promotion of rights of children with a special focus on children with disabilities (1982), first ever in South East Asia.

Pioneer in introducing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme for

Children with Disabilities in Nepal (1985); advocated /influenced the government to replicate and as a result Government has CBR Program in all the 75 districts of Nepal.

Initiator and promoter of Child Rights Based Situation Analysis (CRSA) to bring out reality situation of children for effective intervention plans.

Work experience

1973-1989—Senior Program Producer- Radio Nepal Broadcasting Services, Government of Nepal (Women/Children's issues, Health awareness , Environmental protection)

1981-1989 -- UNICEF Consultant for Childhood Disability (Pilot Research,Child-to-child Radio Program Hatemalo, CBR Implementation)

1990-2007- Director CRC Programming, Disability, Advocacy- Save the Children Norway

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Millennium Development Goals and Nepal' Experiences

Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya

*R*ight at the outset, let me take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers of this Round Table for inviting me as Chief Guest in this Inaugural Ceremony. It is an honor as well as a pleasure for me to be here to-day.

Needless to say, children are the future of any community, society and nation. With this consideration in view, Nepal has been according due priority in the development of an environment where the children have the best prospects for their growth and development.

According to the National Population census 2011, Children under 14 years of age constitute around 34 percent of the total population while those under 18 years of age are 47 percent. Keeping in view their role in the task of national building, the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 explicitly lays down rights of the Child- the right to his/her identity and name, the right to nurture, basic health and social security, the right against physical, mental or any other form of exploitation, the right to get special facilities from the state in case of special categories of children such conflict victim, mentally retarded, displaced and vulnerable, and right against employment in any hazardous work. In order to protect these rights, Nepal has enacted several laws and regulations, expressed commitments to be abide by international agreements and has developed plans, policies and strategies for the promotion of child rights.

The legal instruments for the protection of Child Rights are the Children's Act 1992 and its regulation 1995. Child Labor Act 1999, and its regulation, 2005. Anti Human Trafficking Act 2006 and National pro-

gram of Action for children (2004-2014) are also in effect. There are a number of other protection rules on child home operation and management guideline and so on. The current budget proposes to establish juvenile courts in 48 districts. In addition, higher budgetary allocations have been made for programs such as Child Welfare, Child welfare Committee, and National Initiative for the Elimination of Violence against Children which taken together constitutes around 7 percent of the total budget of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.

Nepal has also shown unflinching faith in several international commitments. Nepal ratified Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Children (CEDAW) 1979 and UN Child Rights Convention, 1989. Similarly, Nepal has signed the Hague Convention on child adaptation. Nepal has also been taking a lead role in SARRC forum for the protection and promotion of the child right.

Nepal has plans, policies, strategies and operational policies regarding the overall development of the children. The current Thirteenth Plan Approach Paper contains a special section on children and adolescents. The Paper has set three objectives –protecting and promoting fundamental rights of children, eliminating all kinds of discrimination and maltreatment, and eliminating all kinds of child labor. In order to attain these objectives, strategies and operational policies have also been included in the Paper.

Similarly, the government is aware of the need to coordinate and collaborate among different agencies and stakeholders working for the overall development of the children. With this end in view, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare works as a coordinating agency as well as it formulates and executes child welfare policies and programs. In addition, various ongoing activities are child care centers, Central Emergency Child Relief Fund and conflict affected child protection within district Child Protection committees. A special Central Child Welfare Board under Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has also been constituted with a view to proving due attention to child welfare measures.

Several of MDGs such as 2, 3 and 4 are directly inter-related with development and rights of the children. Nepal has achieved good progress in meeting several targets such as increase in net enrolment ratio (95.3%) of children, decrease in child mortality rate (50 in thousand live births), decrease in infant mortality rate (41 in thousand live births) and the ratio of enrolment of girls and boys in primary education. All these trends show that Nepal is in the process of achieving MDGs.

There are however many problems with regard to the development of children. Limited resource is the most pressing problem. Despite its intention to invest increasing resources for the welfare of children, the government is not able to do so. Other problems are lack of quality education in the school level especially in the community schools, increasing number of child labor and street children etc.

Even though there are problems these need to be addressed in the days to come. We are confident that with consistent and well coordinated efforts most of these problems can be resolved.

Nepal has decided to strive hard for graduating from the current status of a LDC to that of a developing country by the end of 2022. This long term vision is reflected in the Current Thirteenth Plan Approach Paper brought out by National Planning Commission. Nepal's post-2015 development agenda obviously be guided by this long term vision. The concern of child issues in all its ramifications would have to be an integral part of such a strategy.

To conclude I would like to thank different partner agencies, NGOs and other organizations for their efforts made to protect and promote child rights which I hope will be continued in future as well. I also hope that this Round Table will be successful to come up with suggestions that are relevant and implementable. I wish you all the success in your endeavors.

Thank you all

ADDRESS

South Asian Perspectives on Millennium Development Goals

H.E. Mr. Ahamad Saleem

I take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to the Ministry of Women, Child and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, Action Aid International Nepal and SOS Children's Village Nepal for holding this Meeting to share the experiences and ideas to identify issues, challenges and opportunities for the children's program in Nepal.

The presence of many high dignitaries bears testimony to the importance of and commitment of the Government of Nepal in improving the welfare of children.

I also note the presence of distinguished representatives of the policy makers of the Government, international organizations, institutions working on the child rights and welfare, representatives of the civil society, academics and experts.

My statement focuses on SAARC initiatives and activates concerning children.

SAARC has attached high priority to the development and well-being of children. Successive SAARC Summits and Ministerial meetings have time and again reiterated the need to promote the well-being of children and to protect their rights. Going by the important initiatives taken in the past, I am happy to mention that SAARC has not only created a solid foundation for regional cooperation, but has also adopted a number of instruments for the promotion of child rights in the region.

The Rawalpindi Resolution on Children of South Asia, arising from the Third Ministerial Conference on Children in 1996, reaffirmed

SAARC's adherence to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international commitments. The Ministerial Conference also endorsed 2001-2010 as the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child.

Since celebration of the SAARC Decade for Girl Child (1991–2000) with a Plan of Action for the Girl Child, SAARC countries have taken a number of steps to grant high visibility to health and nutrition; universal access to basic education; and marriage and motherhood. Special efforts have been made to decrease gender disparity in education, with particular provisions for girls. As a result, girls' initial enrolment in primary school has increased. New mechanisms introduced during the Decade have also focused on promoting education for marginalized and vulnerable children.

The SAARC Social Charter, signed in January 2004, addresses the issue of promotion of the Rights and well-being of the Child, and categorically states that children should be entitled to grow and develop with due protection. The Charter advocates special services to be provided for children and their mothers. Most importantly, the Charter highlights the need for education, literacy and skill development amongst adolescents and youth, especially of girls.

The SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia and the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution are other important regional instruments. These instruments complement the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and SAARC Development Goals.

Going beyond the regional instruments that are in place, I am also happy to share that SAARC has begun implementation of regional projects for child rights, such as the one on Maternal and Child Health. This year, SAARC will initiate dedicated regional Toll-free Helplines Project for Children to provide a common number for victims and survivors of human trafficking.

I would like to mention that regional initiatives have made notable impact in our efforts to improve the lives of the Children in the region. In this regard, the Assessment Report of SAARC Decade of the Rights of Child, which was launched during the 17th SAARC Summit in November 2011 highlighted that during the Decade, South Asia has made impressive efforts in terms of child rights. The Report finds that SAARC Countries have achieved substantial progress through adoption and implementation of comprehensive, innovative and forward-looking approaches, policies and programmes in all countries.

While the countries in the SAARC region have made progress, more

needs to be done at country level as well as at regional level. I am confident that the experts present here today would focus on objectives and make realistic recommendations to identify best feasible approach, methodology, mechanism and instrument for mainstreaming children's rights and programs into national development agenda and priorities including periodic plans and sectoral policies to achieve the (post) MDGs.

I wish the Round Table successful deliberations and outcome.

*Statement by Singye Dorjee, Director, SAARC Secretariat on behalf of Secretary General of SAARC

ADDRESS

Millennium Development Goals and Children

Ms. Hanaa Singer

I cannot tell you how delighted I am to be in Sanothimi in the SOS Village. This couldn't have been a better venue for a Roundtable discussion on Children in the Context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Post 2015 Agenda. As you all are aware, the SOS Children's Village was born out of the need to take care and nurture children smarting from World War II -- children who had lost their homes, their security and their families. The 1st SOS Village was established in 1949, three years following the birth of UNICEF which had also been established to take care of children in crisis in a post-war world.

Ladies and gentlemen, the MDGs were also born due to necessity as well. It was when the leaders of the 189 member states met at the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000, to reflect on their common destiny, they noticed that not all of them were progressing at the same pace. Some were rolling in prosperity, some reeling in deprivation. That was when the leaders realized and agreed to invest in human development and sustain social and economic progress in all countries. The Millennium Declaration and the Goals that they later drafted, was a blueprint for peace and security, poverty reduction, the environment and human rights, as the essential steps for the advancement of humankind everywhere. The world leaders pledged that by 2015 the world would achieve measurable improvements in the most critical areas of human development.

When you examine the MDGs you realize that the Goals maybedrafted for all humankind, but in essence they are primarily about

children. First of all, six of the eight goals relate directly to children, and the final two also could make critical improvements in children's lives. Secondly, meeting the Goals is most critical for children, as they are most vulnerable and are also the first to succumb when basic needs like food, water, sanitation and health care are not met. Thirdly, because children have rights -- the right to survival, food and nutrition, health and shelter, an education, and to participation, equality and protection -- the MDGs have to be met for these basic human rights to be realized. And fourthly, because reducing poverty starts with children. Helping children reach their full potential is also investing in the very progress of humanity. For it is in the crucial first years that interventions make the biggest difference in a child's physical, intellectual and emotional development. And investing in children means achieving development goals faster, as children constitute a large percentage of the world's poor.

So that is why, UNICEF took upon the MDGs as part of its mandates, as does the SOS, which works in the spirit of the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child. From working with local policymakers toward health care and education reform to delivering vaccines, each UNICEF action is a step toward a Millennium Development Goal.

Ladies and gentlemen, today we are exactly 888 days away from 1 January 2016, (17 Poos 2072) when the MDGs are supposed to be met. In the 13 years since the turn of the century, much progress has been made in reducing preventable child deaths, getting more children into schools (including girls), reducing extreme poverty and in ensuring more people have access to safe water. Across the globe, hundreds of millions of people are no longer living in extreme poverty. Over 2 million fewer children are dying every year from preventable causes before reaching their fifth birthdays, and the number of children out of school has dropped by more than 77 million.

Here in Nepal we have seen magnificent strides being made in the MDGs and has been singled out as one of the low-income countries on the way to reaching the targets. For example, Nepal has succeeded in eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. In 2000, there were 79 girls for every 100 boys in primary school, but parity was achieved in 2010. And we had as many girls attending secondary education as boys in 2013. Of course we still need to work on the parity indicator at the higher levels, where still there are just about 7 girls enrolled compared to 10 boys. But, what an achievement!

We also need to pat ourselves in our backs and say *kyabaat* ! (what a feat!) to the significant progress we have made in Nepal in reducing under-5 mortality and maternal mortality which has made it possible to be on track to meet MDGs 4 and 5. The maternal mortality decreased substantially between 1996 and 2006 from 539 to 281 deaths per 100,000 live births and the under-5 mortality rate similarly fell from 118 to 54 per 1000 live births respectively (NDHS 1996, 2006). What fantastic progress in health indicators, despite the low levels of economic growth, a difficult geographical terrain, the decade long conflict and a prolonged political transition! We all should say *badhaai* to ourselves! But are we going to rest? No!

Across the globe, although the advancement in MDGs are very heartening, it is worrying that the progress we made was not universal, not equitable. The MDGs did not focus enough on reaching the very poorest and most excluded people. They were silent on the devastating effects of conflict and violence on development. They were mum about good governance or the need for inclusive growth to provide jobs. And neither did the MDGs integrate economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

If you look at the figures in Nepal, we still have a long way to go to realize the rights of every child, yes, every child, when it comes to achieving MDGs for children. For example, Nepal may be close to achieving universal primary enrolment target by 2015, but not completion. There is still a wide disparity in progress in terms of geography and ethnicity. While the country has made remarkable progress in advancing education indicators, we still face enormous challenges to ensure access to the remaining children out of school, and to ensure children complete primary schooling. Whether the children are in the mountains of Mugu, or the plains of Parsa.

Similarly in the health sector, despite notable achievements in the overall health of children and women, serious challenges remain across the continuum of care from pregnancy till early childhood. Neonatal mortality has been stagnant at 33 per 1,000 live births since 2006 and most of under-five deaths occur in the first month of life (61 %), many within 24 hours of birth. Furthermore only 36% of births are assisted by skilled providers at the health facility, the remaining 64% of the deliveries are happening at home. If you analyse these averages, then the stark disparities between regions, and between wealth quintiles, across ethnicities, become even more pronounced. We still need to work on the issues of equity and social inclusion.

And so, across the world, just like we are doing here, people are now gearing to work on *the unfinished and continuing agenda of the MDGs* and in addressing critical *issues not adequately covered* by the MDGs. A recent report Secretary-General's High-Level Panel Of Eminent Persons On The Post-2015 Development Agenda concluded that the post-2015 agenda is a universal agenda that needs to be driven by five big, transformative shifts. They specified that we needed to: ensure no one is left behind; put sustainable development at the core; transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and forge a new global partnerships.

We in UNICEF are firmly committed to ensuring that children remain at the centre of the next development agenda, the Sustainable development Goals (the SDGs) as they have been with the MDGs. Furthermore, UNICEF believes that an equity-based approach is essential to ensure that the most disadvantaged children and families are fully included in future development progress.

The post-2015 development agenda will need to integrate the three core dimensions of sustainable development – the social, the economic and the environmental – the central message must be that *sustainable development starts with safe, healthy and well-educated children*.

But most of all, for us, who are working for children, we should be working more with children and adolescents for they have a perspective that is different to ours, and they can point out their needs and gaps, more clearly than us adults. UNICEF jointly with UNFPA, recently, with our partner Restless Development Nepal, have been undertaking consultations with young people in setting up Post 2015 development agendas in 15 districts across the country. Five of these in the eastern and central regions, have already been completed. The issues prioritised by the young people in these 5 districts are quite interesting. In two of the districts they put unemployment at the top of the agenda, two others placed it second on the list and the other district as their third priority! Gender based violence, gender and caste discrimination, quality education and health services, good governance as well as corruption and are other common themes across all districts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we close in on 2015, let us take tips from our *balbalika* and our *kishorkishoris* and start bridging the gaps of inequality and inequities, the gaps between the haves and have nots. Let us keep

a sharp focus on gender, equity and social inclusion is required at policy, system, community and family level to make sure no child is left behind. Every child counts! Let us not, as the Nepali saying goes do *kasailaai kaa-kha, kasailaipaa-kha!* (some in the lap, some on the hillside)

So, thank you once again to Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, ActionAid International Nepal, and the SOS Children's Villages Nepal for organizing this much needed forward thinking event and including me too to be part of it. I wish all of you a very very fruitful two days of brainstorming on what we can do best for each and every child of Nepal in the days leading upto 2015 and beyond.

ADDRESS

Millennium Development Goals and Children

The Agenda Ahead

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada

The Round Table on MDG and Children being organized here in Kathmandu for two-days was very timely as MDG the dateline for MDGs coming to close and United Nations and member nations are currently engaged on designing a comprehensive global development framework for post-2015 period. Also here in Nepal, the Government has introduced the approach paper for the next Three Year Plan (thirteen plan) and would soon be completing a complete programming of the various development activities for the next three years. In these respects, a critical assessments of MDG achievements in general and Nepal's development performance within the MDGs in particular and in relation to children's overall well-being in very praiseworthy.

Under the various themes, various dimensions for child's rights, protection and welfare were highlighted along with needs for concrete program implementation with adequate investment both from public and private sources. It was well emphasized that the state should play major role for improving the action of education and health as critical factors in various stages of child and youth development as they contribute the important force and input for national development.

It should however be taken into account that family's and community's efforts in getting the children and youth educated and kept healthy is equally important and public policies and institutional mechanism must be designed to encourage and facilitate those efforts. Nevertheless the state and the government's role from central level to local community and family levels remain very critical.

As pointed out during presentation, neglect of child's appropriate care, protection of their rights and welfare and supportive measures for empowering and strengthening opportunities for child's cognitive and other kinds of skills in adult stage should be primary concern of state, community and parents. In these respects, it was heartening to note that Nepal was one of the signatory to the UNCRC (1990) and has now enacted national policy along with establishment of institutional facilities. However, they remain to be further strengthened. Policy measures on child rights for education, health needs to be effectively implemented protection to prevent child labor positioning trafficking and other kinds of exploitation must be implemented effectively while there are institutions at the central level but effective community level arrangements need to be further created. The state should also continuously oversee and monitor child abuse and exploitation.

Nepal's achievements in MDGs has been well recorded and internationally , while national averages have been encouraging, yet these are wide divergence among region, ethnic communities and income groups. This needs to be addressed through policy measures and program support, Nepal also needs to expedite health related MDGs achievements.

Efforts are currently underway to design post-2015 (post-MDG) development framework. While MDGs had basically focused on social development aspect, Post-2015 framework is expected to focus both on social development and specific thrust towards creating productive capacity and job opportunities, keeping the outcome of Rio+20 Conference and other international forums outcome into perspectives, the new framework is likely to be much comprehensive and developing countries priority needs focused.

It was also noted during the deliberation that environment related goal under MDGs were not fully taken into account and achievements remain rather unsatisfactory. It was stressed that Post-2015 development framework would adequately incorporate all aspects of sustainable development particularly preservations of environmental concerns, conservations of non-renewable natural resources as well as dealing with adverse effects of climate change would be taken into account.

Nepal on its past should undertake necessary initiatives to project national needs and priorities and purpose MDG cause at Global forum.

ADDRESS

Millennium Development Goals and Children

Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal

*T*his session was devoted to review and analyze on regional dimension and perspectives of MDGs achievements related to education for child in Asian countries with particular focus on Nepal.

It was pointed out that most of the countries of Asia and the Pacific achieved remarkable progress under MDGs. While the progress at regional level was remarkable. However these were divergencies at country levels and several LDCs and other disadvantaged countries had limited successes. Reduction of poverty under MDG I was achievable within MDG time frame, yet quite a significant number of people still suffer from hunger, child malnourishment and food insecurity. Similarly health related MDGs achievements also need to be expedited. In weaker economies, of he regional still a large number health, reproductive mothers, child birth cases, immunization programmes, other preventive primary care opportunities remain inadequate safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation facilities remain outside the reach of many families, particularly in rural areas.

Similarly inequalities remains a major problem in Asia and the Pacific countries. Both among nations and within nations, inequalities, differences in empowerment, access to pacific social services In education and health facilities remain asymmetric. Such a situation needs to be properly addressed.

It was pointed out that Asia and the Pacific has remarkably dem-

onstrated its dynamism through unleashing of growth forces and have achieved remarkable progress. Both in economic areas and social development field progress were most visible in East Asia and South East Asian countries. However progress remained limited in South and South-West Asia and also was lopsided among countries and within countries. While enrolments at primary education were close to universality but a lot of drop-outs were visible as they approach secondary levels. Even at primary level. Quality of education teaching skills, school management, remain at unsatisfactory levels. Therefore there was an urgent need to constitute measures for improvements, if appropriate development of children's education and skill development capabilities were to be improved. There still remains a lot of work for encouraging girl-child education and retention till secondary levels.

Environmental concerns remain to be properly addressed. Those emerging economies of the region which have achieved rapid growth should pay adequate attention to environmental and sustainable measures for mitigation of CO₂ emission and take necessary adaptation measures.

Also, as some of the countries have progressed quite well and are in close to achieve advanced country level. There was great opportunity for promoting regional cooperation. South-South Cooperation and mutual assistance for expediting MDGs achievements.

With respect to Post-MDGs development framework, it was stressed that the new approach should be both economic and social development and should concentrate on building national capacity. Also support from advanced countries especially for disadvantaged and weaker economies like LDCs should be scaled up.

The Round Table had strongly emphasized at the session that a holistic strategy comprising economic, social and environmental aspects should be evolved and with cooperation from all sources should be launched. In this respect the recently submitted report of High Level Panel to Secretary General of the United Nations would be of immense help in designing Post-MDG development framework and strategy.

ADDRESS

Nepal's Experiences on Millennium Development Goals and Children

Upendra Adhikary

*F*irst of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers for inviting me to participate and chair the inaugural session of this very timely Round Table of “MDG and Children in Nepal” You have just listened to very enlightening address from eminent scholars makers and representative from international organizations on different aspects of Millennium Development Goals, their achievements and the need for a concrete follow-up to MDG and children welfare. As we all currently engaged in devising the post-2015 development agenda after completion of MDG period, we need to further strengthen ongoing efforts and initiatives on children rights for development through quality education and health facilities and other child centered activities for acquiring knowledge, skills for national development and international understanding. As pointed out by the Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal has attached priority attention to such activities and have launched special programs. Government of Nepal, particularly Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare attaches significant importance to this Round Table and would be looking forward to its recommendations.

Implementation of activities aimed at meeting MDG have helped Nepal to make significant progress towards bettering life and welfare of our children. Collective efforts of the Government of Nepal, donor partners, civil society groups, NGOs and families who have made

relentless efforts in meeting the MDGs have made large contribution. As a result, Nepal achievements on Goals, 2,3 and 4 all related to child welfare and children rights are highly appreciated. However it is also true that those achievements are not evenly shared within regions, ethnic groups and families with different income levels. Large sections of Nepalese population remains vulnerable, marginalized and excluded, when it comes to benefitting from child centered development activities. Sections of child population particularly in rural areas remain outside the development stream and are deprived of public services related to quality education, healthy nutrition and social protection. Inequitable norms and disparities still prevail in many sections of our society when it comes to treating the girl-child. We need to strengthen our focus and programs of achieving greater, fairness and balance in protecting children's rights and address critical challenges that breeds inequality, disparities and exclusion in our society by investing in child development activities. We need to enact policy reforms, institutional capabilities building and initiate new and innovative programs for addressing these challenges.

The various speakers, earlier in their addresses highlighted on all those child-related issue. I would like to join with them in re-emphasizing that those matters must be further reviewed and must be underpinned through global programs to assist national government and other national stakeholder involved child-centric activities. While the global and national economies have undergone tremendous challenges over last few decades and over the 12 years of MDG implementation and calls for new global initiatives in enhancing productive activities, but adequate provision of social services particularly good and quality primary and secondary education, primary health care services, adequate facilities for maternal and reproductive health care better nutrition and appropriate sanitation facilities are all basic prerequisites for the emergence of resourceful human capital so much needed for larger production and higher productivity. We hope that these matters would be looked at carefully and adequately incorporated in the new global framework that would be designed and approved for post-2015 development agenda. Nepal government strongly recommends that social development issues particularly child-centric challenges be adequately reflected in the new global framework and we will submit our position soon.

Government of Nepal would be looking forward to the recommendations of this Round Table and message indicated by Hon. Minister to the Round Table and Chief Guest. Vice-chairman of National Planning Commission. Minister for appropriate actions for implementation.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare is happy to join with ActionAid International Nepal and SOS Children's Villages in organizing this Round Table. We would like to thank Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay, who is the chairman of organizing committee for initiating the Round Table and member of organizing committee, participating contributors, resource persons and other individuals for their valuable insights and contribution who had worked hard and supported in different capacities in organizing this Round Table.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Millennium Development Goals Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay

*I*t is both my pleasure and privilege to welcome in this Round Table on MDG and Children. Honble. Minister, distinguished guests, resource persons, panelists and participants on behalf of the organizers of the Round Table, Ministry of Women, Child and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, Action Aid International Nepal and SOS Children's Villages Nepal.

The presence of Honble Minister, Riddhi Baba Pradhan, as Chief Guest shows the commitment of the Government in the making of Post 2015 Development Agenda of MDG with a special focus on children. The presence of Hon'ble Dr. Rabind Kumar Shakya, Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission shows the solidarity of our work in identifying the focus and priorities in the next phase of Millennium Development Goals. The presence of His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Saleem, Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation SAARC and Ms. Hanna Singer, Country Representative, UNICEF Nepal equally demonstrates the solidarity of our work and commitment for the cause and focusing the children in the post 2015 Development Agenda. Mr. Dinesh Hari Adhikari, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Child and Social Welfare who is also presiding the ceremony. Mr. Bimal Phnuyal, Country Director, Action Aid International Nepal shows not only their commitment for the dignified life and secured future of children but also as solidarity in travelling together in our path ahead. We are equally delighted to have Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, Former Executive Director of UNICEF and Former Deputy Secretary General of United Nations

as keynote speaker for the Policy Dialogue who unfortunately could not be present in person due to our postponement of Round Table by three weeks and his prior commitments to International community. This event demonstrates the evolving partnership among government, international non-government organizations and civil society and their commitment to Millennium Development Goals and future of children.

As we approach 2015 and the Millennium Development Goals, one of the most significant and unifying global agreements of our times, come to an end, now is the time for change. It is the time to evaluate and learn from our challenges, while looking towards the future, building on our successes. Now is the time to coordinate efforts to achieve an equitable society, where no child is born condemned to a lifetime of poverty, discrimination and exclusion. It is the time to work together to build a world where each and every child is provided the care and protection they are entitled to, so that they can thrive.

We are convinced that to make this a reality, the Post 2015 development agenda should be firmly rooted in the basic principles of human rights, placing children at its core and addressing the needs and rights of children, especially those most disadvantaged and marginalised such as children without parental care. This will secure the healthy personal development of all children, thus creating an equitable society that can achieve sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

We firmly believe that children and young people should be at the core of the new development agenda. Children are highly vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the problems afflicting society; therefore, not only will they be the most influenced by the agenda today, but they will ultimately benefit from or pay the consequences of resulting policies in the future.

Moreover, when the needs of the children are met—including access to health care, education, and nutrition—and their families are able to provide care and protection, children grow into confident adults and contributing members of society, breaking the cycle of poverty and inequity and avoiding its social and financial burden. By investing in the wellbeing of children and establishing policies and measures that support them to develop to their full potential, society as a whole will benefit.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the Round Table are to analyze Nepal's experience in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, especially as

they relate to the development and well-being of children; to identify issues, challenges and opportunities for further progress in promoting child rights and well-being; and to propose a set of new or revised goals and targets as successors to current MDGs in the post-2015 period. These new goals and targets, while being relevant to Nepal, will also be Nepal's contribution to the international community. The Round Table will be a forum where policy makers of the Government, international organizations like UNICEF and Regional Organisation like SAARC, representatives of the civil society, academics and experts from various institutions working on issues of child rights and development will share their experiences, ideas and vision to build a better world for children through our post 2015 development agenda of MDG

The health, education and well-being of children were at the heart of the current MDGs. But the global development agenda is becoming very crowded, and there is a risk that the central place of children in the MDGs might get lost or become diluted in the post 2015 Development agenda. Recognizing this, the Round Table will explore ways to ensure that creative strategies are identified to ensure continuing focus on children and human development in the post MDG agenda. Moreover, the MDGs did not always follow a rights-based approach to development, and issues of child protection did not figure much in the MDGs. Innovative ways will be explored to ensure that the post-2015 global development agenda overcomes these shortcomings. Besides advocating for child-specific goals and targets, there will be an effort to ensure that the well-being of children becomes a central concern in such issues as global warming and climate change; poverty reduction strategies and promotion of human security. Discussions at the Round Table will include policy formulation, implementation strategies, coordination mechanisms, networking and collaboration. The Round Table will also assess, document and analyze existing policies, plans, priorities, and progress made and challenges remaining in Nepal's development efforts to achieve MDGs in Nepal from a child rights perspectives. The Round Table is expected to recommend the best feasible approaches and instruments for mainstreaming children's rights and programs into Nepal's national development agenda and in various sectoral policies and programmes to achieve the (post) MDGs.

The Round Table is being participated by 120 persons representing government, international organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, I/NGOs and senior politicians. Several prominent national leaders, academicians and experts have expressed their interest

to contribute as resource persons, contribute resource papers and lead the discussions on various sessions.

The two day Round Table discussion around MDGs and children is the first kind itself in Nepal. It will apply the following methodologies for its ownership; impact and effectiveness with strong commitment from the key stakeholders:

The Round Table will include:

- Inaugural session with addresses by high level Government Officials, representative of the International Agencies and keynote address by an International Child Rights Expert. The first plenary session on experiences and way forward will have five technical presentations on Policy Planning and Strategies for MDG and Children for MDG and Child Health, MDG and Children's Education, Child Protection in Nepal and Investment in Children .
- The second plenary Sessions will have the Representation from International Organizations and Representatives and Officials of the International Non-governmental organizations working in Asia Pacific Region.
- The third plenary Session will be in the form of panel discussion with participation of politicians working on the child rights and child development from political parties in the Constituent Assembly and Government for solidarity and political support.
- There will be three concurrent sessions on the themes of five technical papers to formulate concrete recommendations respectively for each of the five thematic areas introduced in the first plenary session. Each group will bring 3-5 key challenges and 5 priority action points for the coming 10 to 15 years in each theme.
- The fourth plenary session will have the presentation of recommendation of three concurrent sessions and synthesize the recommendations.
- A valedictory session will have the presentation of the synthesis, adoptions of the conclusions and recommendations of the Round Table and addresses by high level Officials with commitment of working in future

We also hope that the Round Table will identify the areas of Policy improvements, new and innovations program and the various forms and modalities of partnership especially networking, cooperation, collaboration and alliances in the areas of Millennium Development Goals and Children. We hope the Round Table will also identify the gaps, issues and emerging opportunities and recommendations on health care, education-

al quality and standards. It will also share the promoting approaches for appropriate priorities and criteria in investment in children . The Round Table will enhance the understanding of appropriate and adequate key components of national child protection systems.

The Round Table will raise awareness about the possible program and projects, seek implementation modalities, approaches and mechanisms for collective action in implementation of MDG. We hope we will be able to identify the roadmap/framework for effective networking and alliances in policy mechanisms amongst the State and non-state actors and international organizations and community organizations to accelerate efforts in improving and delivering the post 2015 Development Agenda.

Now different institutions are providing programs in MDG in absence of effective guidelines. The Round Table will define our understanding of the child rights to quality education and health care as a holistic way for government and non state actors to think about their duties to children, parents and vulnerable families. We believe we will call for Action to reform education and health care systems to secure the promising future of child rights to quality care.

We are resourceful Institutions and we stand at a defining moment. Collectively we have expertise and experiences. Although so many organizations and institutions are acting almost independently we need sharing our collective vision of our journey for promising future for our children.

The Round Table is being possible with the unique commitments of the leaders of organizing institutions and conviction of the resource person and our colleagues in the Organizing Committee and enthusiastic volunteers taking different responsibility with much enthusiasm.

We hope to work again with you and interface in future in more constructive and proactive ways. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those actors, resource persons who have made this Round Table possible. We hope, in the process, we will strengthen our partnership with organizing institutions – Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women Child and Social Welfare, Action Aid International Nepal and SOS Children's Villages Nepal, that we worked and jointly organizing this Round Table to become more responsive to new demands and emerging opportunities. We also hope to have fellowship, partnerships with the participating institutions, organizations, resource persons, experts, academicians and participants in future.

Overview of the Concurrent Sessions

Dr. Biniv K Maskay

The three concurrent sessions, (i) the post-2015 MDG, child health and education, (ii) child protection system in Nepal (iii) investment in children, examined different aspects of the same goal - to improve future earning and well-being of today's children. These sessions deliberated on issues and challenges that lie in not only attaining current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but also how the post-2015 goals should be set-up such that they address children's deeper problems. The session-participants focused on the role of public policy and the need of collaboration in efforts of both the private and public parties including the multilateral organizations in attaining the post-2015 development goals.

The common theme of these three sessions relates to the underlying question of what the policymakers and private sector can do improve children's well-being. Based on a simple model as shown in Figure 1, the level of human capital one possesses influences future income. Individual internal traits such as intelligence, motivation and dedication, etc., and external environment such family background, neighborhood and societal factors affect human capital. The three thematic sessions deliberated policy actions that affect children's external environment and human capital.

Session I discussed the human capital aspect of the simple model. The basic way of accumulating human capital is through better health and education. Many studies have shown a positive relationship between the education level of a country and its income and economic growth measures. [citation needed] Education is highly correlated with skill level; low skilled workers find it harder to adapt in the marketplace. Moreover, studies have pointed out that technology is the major source of income gap between countries. [citation needed] As technology is rapidly evolving, a country needs educated workers to adapt to technological changes. Countries that experience slow rate of technological change fall behind. Educated workers are required to create new technologies or adopt technology of a technological leader. For all of these reasons, much of cross-country variation in income is explain by differences in education level of the countries. Human capital also comes in the form of health. Healthy workers can

work harder and can be more productive at work. Hence, both health and education are important factors that contribute to the quality of labor; an improvement in these fronts lead to higher income.

Moreover, health and education are not only independently important for improving human capital but they can complement each other in having higher human capital. Todaro and Smith () points out several linkages between health and education. Better health raises return on education as healthier children learn more efficiently and are more successful in school. They are more able to productively use education at any point in life, and their longer life spans raise the return to investment in education. A UN study finds that the probability of attending school among nutritionally stunted children in Nepal is far lower than for non-stunted children.[citation needed] These rationales suggest that a child's health has significant effect on her education. Similarly, better-educated children have better chance of being healthier as many health programs rely on basic skills learnt in school such as personal hygiene and sanitation. In addition, education is needed for training health personnel which also suggests that a country's education level can have significant effect on a child's health status.

Session I considered policies to improve a child's health and education given the way they affect human capital that is necessary to have better income potential in the future. Some of the main things that came of the session are that

Session III discussed how to effectively invest in children such that they have better chance of performing well in the market place. Some of the main things that came of the session are that

One of the most critical pronouncement of this session is the need for government and other organizations to step in to invest in child health and education. The market fails to provide a socially optimal level of child health and education as they generate considerable amount of spillover effects.....

The issue of child protection is consequential; a proper system of child protection allows for a stable external environment for children to prosper and accumulate human capital that is necessary to do well in the market place. Thus, as shown in Figure 1, child protection directly and indirectly contributes to well-being of children. Child protection encompasses multitude of matter pertaining to a child's family, society and country level issues.. . The multitude of issues encompassed by child protection not only child health and education are important, but perhaps equally important is child's external environment. They can range from family's income and education background to society-level and country-level characteristics that can have significant effect on a child's human capital and subsequently her income. The second session discusses these issues.

The participants contend that it is vital to protect gender equality. Gender discrimination is a common problem in Nepal. Girls in Nepal face discrimination in education, health and labor market. Countless an-

ecdotal evidence suggests that boys are picked over girls on margin if a choice had to be made by parents in educating their children. Statistical evidences are overwhelming as well. In all of the years for which data is available, primary education completion rate for boys has always exceeded the completion rate for girls. The need for gender parity in education is further exasperated by the fact that education of girls earns among the very highest rate of return of any investment, which tends to be much larger than most public infrastructure projects. In addition, education of girls has also been shown to be one of the most cost-effective ways of improving local health standards. The discrimination against girls in education, hence, is not just inequitable but also costly.

Similarly, general spending on men's health tend to be significantly higher than health spending on women. Anecdotal evidences suggest that families in developing countries are more likely to take an ill boy than an ill girl to a health center. Although the gender gap in health and education has closed over the years, the participants suggest that the post-2015 national development agenda should make the issue of gender discrimination a priority. The policy actions are

As pointed out by the participants in the session, Nepal has made significant progress achieving MDGs. A study by regards Nepal as one of trailblazers in terms of success in meeting the goals. These progresses have been in health, education, gender disparity and areas. However, it is important to note that one of the flaws of the current goals lies in which the goals are developed. Take for instance the goal of halving the number of people under poverty. The easiest course of action to attain this goal would be to focus on those for whom the least effort is required, neglecting groups that are difficult to tend. Such actions would increase inequity. Various such issues of inequity arise when goals target attainment of minimum standard such as education, maternal or child survival. The unintended consequences of such goals are that the needs of the most marginalized children and families are least tended to. Recognizing this glaring flaw in the set-up of goals, all three sessions argues for the need of providing special treatment to the most marginalized children in both the provision of health and education.

Child labor is a problem for the most marginalized children.

The other issue this session touched on what the importance of providing secure safety net to the most marginalized children in the country....

Some of the common themes that featured in all of the session are the need for ownership of goals and accountability of various organizations that are at play in devising policies and enacting them. Other things such as focusing on the marginalized children were also discussed in all the sessions.

What the issue is (explained by the figure) and why are they issues?

What are the possible ways of getting them?

Synthesis of The Round Table

Dr. Bhavani Prasad Dhungana

The Round Table on “Millennium Development Goals and Children in Nepal” had extensively deliberated on MDG’s achievements related to children’s rights and welfare and had emphasized on focusing children’s concerns in Post 2015 Development Agenda. The two-day interactions participated by 120 participants covered five major themes as (i) Policy and Planning for MDG and Children (ii) MDG and Children Health (iii) MDG and Children’s education (iv) Child Protection system and (v) investment in children. Apart from various plenary sessions that participants were divided into three groups and held in-depth discussions in three concurrent sessions, covering areas such as (i) Post MDG: Child education and health (ii) Children protection system and (iii) investment in children. Representatives of UNICEF and Government of Nepal had also presented regional and national perspectives on MDGs achievements and Post-MDG priority focus.

Right from the beginning the Round Table the participants had emphasized that Children constitute an important future resources for any nation’s development and should be appropriately developed. Investment in education, health and proper care of children is not only necessary for their welfare but should be treated as necessary investment for building human capital and overall national capacity for development of the country.

It had further highlighted on the various laws, acts and recently enacted national policy on child development as major efforts initiated by Nepal to protect children’s rights for development and welfare. The RT expressed the hope that at the global level the good work accomplished

under MDGs would be further continued within the new development framework to be adapted in post MDG 2015 development strategy. Representatives of United Nations offices and other international organizations appreciated Nepal's achievements in meeting various goals under MDGs, particularly goals that related to child's welfare and development as well as maternal and reproductive health of women. It was pointed out that international bodies were vigorously pursuing for inclusion of child related focus in the post MDGs strategy. Mr. Nepal's achievements regarding MDGs as they relate to children welfare were remarkable, yet not evenly shared within regions, ethnic groups and communities. Views were expressed that the Round Table would discuss elaborately on Post MDGs agenda and recommend concrete measure focusing on children's rights and welfare. It was emphasized that the Round Table would evolve pragmatic recommendations for national actions as well as for global agenda.

The Round Table had very lively and fruitful deliberations of major aspects of child rights, protection, development issues and overall children's welfare and associated policies, acts, laws and bylaws enacted in Nepal. As expected discussion were focused on MDGs' achievements and issues geared towards suggestions for inclusion in Post-MDG development framework related to child welfare. Participants expressed their satisfaction that in recent years Nepal Government had initiated several measures that generated tremendous interests from different stakeholders in supporting the survival of infants and child and uplifting the quality living for children as a whole. Furthermore, efforts towards protection of the rights of children, along with the enactment of a comprehensive "National Policy on Children" are in place. The RT noted with appreciated that all these actions reflects Nepal Government's firm commitments towards the terms of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to support and protect the life of children and promote their welfare. Nepal's achievements on MDGs to reduce child mortality, reduction in absolute poverty and hunger and universalization of primary education and gender equality are also highly appreciative. It was however emphasized that effective implementation of the national policy on children, a holistic approach towards protection of child rights and welfare as appropriate investment in children recognizing that early care and quality services for children welfare is intricately connected with a broader process of overall development of communities and societies thereby the ultimate welfare of the nation. It was strongly emphasized that appropriate and

adequate investment in children was not only desirable from love and affection point of view but as a vital part measure for promoting and sustaining broad-based inclusive growth and development framework.

The above referred Critical issues were elaborately discussed in three concurrent sessions and their findings and recommendations are separately presented in the proceedings. The following sections synthesizes major concern expressed in various plenary session by these presenters as well as views expressed by participants.

1. Policies and Programs

The RT noted that the Government of Nepal had enacted a very comprehensive national policy on promoting children's welfare. As children below 18 years of age comprised approximately fifty percent of population in Nepal it was most important that concerted efforts he made to uplift the living conditions for majority of children, particularly in rural areas. In this respect, apart from the national Policy, National Plan of Action (2000-2014) enacted improvement in quality of child's living education and health was considered to be a major landmark initiations.

RT further noted with appreciation that periodic plans of Nepal had devoted special Chapter outlining the child welfare Policy and other documents such as long term health Strategic Plan (1997 – 2017), National Human Rights Action plan (2004), National Master Plan on Child Labor (2004-2014) National Plan on Disability (2006-2016), National Action Plan Against Trafficking in children and women and labor exploitation-1998, National Plan on Education for All, had all important child protection and welfare programs.

2. Child Health

It was noted with satisfaction that child health continues to improve in Nepal. Under five and infant mortality have decreased to 65 and 52. Immunization of children has significantly increased. However, children suffer a lost in terms of hunger and malnutrition. Even at present, almost 51 percent of children are stunted, primary health care is not adequate, only 40 percent of total births in hospitals. This emphasized that there was a lot actions necessary to improve the health status of the children, particularly in rural areas. Food and nutrition security for children were considered to be the most urgent critical needs. Furthermore immunization, provision of school meals, vitamin A and E for children, prevention and care of HIV/AIDs affected children and special programs for

catering the needs of disabled children, were felt to be of special priority under child welfare programs.

3. Education and Child

The Round Table had noted with appreciation that Nepal had made tremendous progress with respect to child education, particularly in areas of universal primary education. Net enrollment had reached 95% and gender parity in primary education was also very satisfactory. However, it was pointed out that the quality of education needed to be improved significantly. Furthermore, there were wide disparities even in terms of accessibilities to primary education between rural and urban sections, different regions of the country, among different ethnic and language groups and among income groups. The management of schools, quality of teachers and resource provisions in public schools required immediate attentions as they remained in very wretched conditions. Furthermore, it was necessary to institute measures for increasing the level of mandatory compulsory education to grade 12 as widespread application of information technology and other technologies required necessity of raising such levels of education for all kinds of jobs and occupation. While participation of communities in public school management was found to be fruitful, however appropriate supervision from public officials was to be strengthened and strict punitive actions was necessary for school mismanagement and misappropriations of resources use. It was also pointed out that special measures be undertaken to enlist the education for children with physical and mental disabilities while sensitization and special program at normal schools would be desirable however if necessary specialized schools need to be established.

4. Child Rights and Protection

The Round Table had extensively discussed on various aspects as child rights and protection. The Round Table while expressing its appreciation for several policy, other legal and institutional arrangements for ensuring child rights and protection as envisioned under the convention on Rights of Children (CRC), 1989, enacted by the Government of Nepal also note with interest that various activities were undertaken such as public forums on sensitization and advocacy, establishment of child protective social security mechanism as well as education and other life supporting skills development. It had also noted with appreciation that various measures are in place to protect children from different kinds of exploitation, physical and mental abusive practices, child labor, early marriage, child trafficking and children prostitution. However, still a large majority

of children particularly in rural areas and children in low income groups and communities remain under high risk of exploitation and abusive. Malnutrition, lack of education, inaccessibility of health facilities and inadequate institutional mechanisms for child care from government and other public organizations remain as chronic problems. Furthermore children with disabilities, orphans, HIV/AIDS infected children are treated as social menaces. While government of Nepal enacted a National Policy on Children and National Centers and National Human Rights Commission have enacted measures along with local level organizations mechanisms for child protection and rights. The RT however emphasized that certain actions were of primary importance in this respect. It was considered that development of rights based child protection policy, national mechanism to end impunity and enhancing child protection system and strong mechanism, child protection system and strong mechanism for monitoring child protection and child rights were considered to be of urgency. It was urged at RT that vigorous efforts were needed to combat violence and exploitation against children in family, schools, alternative care centers, adult works places and society at large. IT was also strongly urged that conflict affected children and children with disabilities should be especially protected, their rights ensured and enacted and government and other civil society organization should especially catered to their needs.

The Round Table had appreciated that National Plan of Action (NPA) on children for realization of their potentials and improvement in the quality of life of Nepalese Children. It was strongly pointed out that the NPA has had served as the guiding policy document in harmonizing and improving the legal framework for child rights and for realization of their rights as enshrined in the CRC framework, MDGs, Education for All (EFA) and periodic plans of Nepal. It was however strongly emphasized that adequate institutional mechanism and alternative resource allocation for protecting child rights and welfare were necessary to fully implement the policies and programs as envisioned under different government enacted policies and intended actions.

5. Investment in Children

The participants at Round Table unanimously had the view that adequate investment in health and welfare of reproductive motherly stage, infant, child and adolescent stages were of particular importance to the development of proper productive human capital in any society. While appropriate investment from family, community and NGOs are highly impor-

tant yet in consideration to the low living conditions of Nepal's society, it is the primary responsibility of the government to invest adequately for health, education and general welfare of infants and children. This is especially important in rural areas and for the benefit of disadvantaged, marginalized and low income groups. Investment in primary and secondary education not only in improving the quantitative enrollments but also in quality improvement is necessary. Similarly extensive provisions of preventive health care, immunization, mental care and adequate provision of safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation facilities should be provided through public sectors. Similarly good quality general and technically oriented primary education for children with special provision for encouraging girl-child education and with special facilities for disabled physically/mentally handicapped children should be provided. Improvements in public community schools, management skills and quality improvements of teachers, adequate provisions of science and mathematics teaching persons, laboratory facilities for IT learning source and other technical learning facilities for IT teaching, science and other technical learning are needed. All these require substantial up-scaling in investments and in consideration to the family earnings in rural areas in Nepal. Such investments are to be forthcoming from government. Furthermore, effective implementation to child rights and protection policy and measures would require further investments. Additional investments in sensitization of children toward environmental conservation and sustainability, knowledge gain toward mitigation and adoption measures for adverse climate change are also necessary. All these would require at least 40 percent or over of total public outlay. It was also strongly emphasized that the new post-2015 development framework should encourage investments in social sectors particularly benefiting children's welfare.

MDGs and Post - MDGs framework and Children

The Round Table noted with satisfaction that Nepal had achieved praiseworthy achievements in meeting most of the MDGs particularly related to promotion of children welfare. It was emphasized that while MDGs had important priorities for social development issues and thereby for children's welfare concerns, however concern for children rights, welfare and overall development must be set in broader perspectives and should remain a continuous part of the overall global and national development so that poverty and social difficulties affecting children's welfare, be reduced and ultimately alleviated. In terms of MDG achievement, poverty

in Nepal has come down to 23 percent primary education enrollment has reached to 95 percent. Today fewer infant deaths are occurring and less than five mortality rate has been reduced to 55 per thousand births. Similarly there have been significant improvements in provision of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and primary health care provision.

The Round Table expressed its appreciation for all those achievements and strongly expressed the view that the good works in areas of child welfare under different MDGs related programs should be continued and further strengthened under the development framework to be designed under the post-2015 development strategy. It was emphasized that investment in social sectors especially related to education and health sector for children and youth should receive priority. Preventive health care, immunizations, maternal and reproductive health facilities, nutrition and food security for children and youth should be accorded due priority. Similarly good education provision of quality technical education especially IT related education and primary education with science with science-orientation should be provided widely. Children and youth should be fully apprised in environmental conservation knowledge and skills, climate change adversities and adaptation measures. The Round Table had strongly indicated that children were the most valuable resource for national development and appropriate investment in building their capability for productivity, competence, knowledge and skills was the most important fundamental priority and therefore should be accorded an important strategic focus in the post-MDG development framework.

PART III

Proceedings of the Round Table

Cicil Shrestha / Ishwori Prasad Sharma

1. Introduction

As one of the signatories of the Millennium Development Goals – 2015 (MDGs), Nepal has made remarkable progress in the field of childcare, health and education services and many donor countries and international organizations have extended their support to make this happen by supporting the Government of Nepal (GoN) to implement its initiatives. This is a testimony that MDGs has brought the world community together to make the lives of children in Nepal and elsewhere better. For example, this country continued with consolidated National Program of Action (NPA) for Children 1992 in 2002 & 2004 which would go up to 2014. Additionally Nepal has tried its best to address the needs of children and their development through plans and programs related to Education for All. Government of Nepal brought a National Policy on Children (2012) which has mandated for the allocation of 10% budget for the cause of children; and National Strategy and Guidelines on Child Friendly Local Governance in order to achieve MDG targets. With regard to health services millions of children have been protected from the IMR, U5R and preventable diseases. The culture of child labor, child marriage and using children for conflict has reduced substantially. Child rights, child participation and child protection have become areas of concern and discussion for the general public.

Despite remarkable progress Nepal has made in meeting the MDG targets, there are many issues to be addressed and many areas requiring serious attention. For instance, Nepal is still in the category of 49 least developed countries in the world. It has about 20,000 children residing in

alternative care homes¹; many of whom are not receiving adequate care, health and education related services. The issue of inequity in relation to the quality of services for survival and development between the rich and the poor; the urban and the rural population, etc. has to be addressed immediately. This scenario is intensified with the needs of many children and young people who have been a victim of conflict. Against this background Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, Action-Aid International Nepal and SOS Children's Villages Nepal jointly organized Round Table on Millennium Development Goals and Children: Post – 2015 Development Agenda at SOS Children's Village Sanothimi, Bhaktapur on July 26 – 27, 2013.

2. Objectives

The overall aim of the Round Table was to bring the planners and policy makers of the government agencies and international organizations, development partners, institutions working for childcare, child rights and child welfare; educationists and health professionals, representatives of the civil society, researchers, experts and presidents of various child clubs together to share their vision, ideas, experiences and successful practices to identify issues, challenges and opportunities; and to formulate effective but pragmatic strategies to improve and consolidate child development situation in Nepal. Plenary and concurrent sessions were initiated to facilitate discussions, promote deliberations and identify strategies for policy formulation and implementation through operational networking, coordination and collaboration. Its key objectives included:

1. To develop a common understanding of the MDGs and its relevant government policy initiatives and implementing strategies among the stakeholders and service providers,
2. To assess and share MDG achievements and identify areas where immediate attention is required to accelerate the movement of the country to achieve MDG targets,
3. To identify areas, challenges and opportunities to facilitate the government and national /international development organizations in formulating Post MDG Development Agendas, and
4. To make realistic recommendations to strengthen childcare, health and education services in equitably and to address the issues relating to employment, sustainable development and child protection; especially focusing girls & children from vulnerable families/communities.

3. Program / Organization of the Round Table

The program structure of the Round Table served as a common platform for discussions and deliberations to the government agencies; national and international development organizations; institutions working on child rights and child protection; health and education service planners and practitioners; civil society leaders, researchers and experts of development programs and children.

Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay, President of SOS Children's Villages Nepal, served as the chairperson of the Organizing Committee. This committee was responsible for organizing and coordinating the Round Table from all perspectives including financial and logistics. Separate committees were formed to collect technical inputs from the GoN, development organizations and various experts and to finalize conclusions, recommendations and resolutions. Colleagues from SOS Children's Villages Nepal and Action Aid International Nepal worked together to prepare reports and proceedings that include all addresses, speeches, presentation of resource papers, comments from the panelists, synthesis of concurrent sessions and 'recommendations and resolutions' as the final outcomes.

The Round Table was divided into inaugural session, four plenary sessions, three concurrent sessions (Post MDG Child Health & Education; Child Protection System in Nepal and Investment in Children) followed by various presentations/discussions leading to the recommendations for pragmatic policy initiatives and implementation strategies. Many dignitaries, professional experts and practitioners presented their vision, ideas, experiences and expertise. Experts and participants prepared and presented their recommendations and resolutions. In the Valedictory Session, participants including children expressed their reflections of the program whereas representatives from the government and development organizations stated their views, comments and appreciations of the overall program. They also offered their insights to improve the draft version of the recommendations and resolutions.

Key presentations of the Round Table included Policy Planning and Strategies for MDG and Children for MDG and Child Health; MDG and Children's Education; Social Protection in Nepal and Children on Poverty; Sharing Regional Experience and Successful Practices of the SAARC Region; Education System in Nepal: Achievements, Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

4. Date and Venue

The Round Table was organized on July 26-27, 2013 at SOS Children's Village Sanothimi Complex, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur. Unlike other programs which are normally held on big hotels, key purpose of deciding this venue was to cut costs and enhance effectiveness of the program. SOS Hermann Gmeiner School Sanothimi building is in a serene location with a big hall where the main event took place. Its classrooms were used for concurrent sessions.

5. Participants

The **Round Table on MDGs and Children: Post 2015 Development Agenda** was attended by 155 participants for Inaugural Session whereas it came down to 125 in all plenary participants for Inaugural Session whereas it came down to 125 in all plenary and concurrent sessions. Key participants of the program included policy makers, officers from the sectorial ministries and departments, district level authorities and sectorial agencies, I/NGOs working for child rights, child protection and advocacy, academia and researchers, social workers and child rights professionals, business and community organization leaders, children (presidents of various child clubs from Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kavre), media persons and staff members of the organizing partners.

6. Inaugural Session

Many dignitaries of national and international repute attended the Inaugural Session. Mr. Upendra Adhikary, Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare presided the session whereas Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shayka, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission was the Chief Guest. Among many respectable guests were Ms. Hanaa Singer, Representative, UNICEF Nepal and Mr. Singye Dorji, Director SAARC Secretariat.

After the children of SOS Children's Village Sanothimi recited the National Anthem, Prof. Dr. Bishwa Keshar Maskay, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and President of SOS Children's Villages Nepal offered warm welcome to the Chief Guest, distinguished personalities and the participants. He then stated that people from Nepal and around the world might have taken this Round Table seriously because it is first of its kind being organized in Nepal. He clarified the purpose of the Round Table, presented the program structure to all experts and participants. He expressed that recommendations, resolutions and strategies offered and their implementation will support Nepal to build an equitable society where no child has to suffer from poverty, discrimination

and exclusion and that government agencies and national/ international development organizations will consolidate their collaborative efforts for better and dignified life of our future generations. Prof. Maskay added that the Round Table will identify gaps between policy and practice, issues and emerging opportunities on child protection, health care and educational services and will encourage the government and international development partners to increase investment on children.

Honorable Minister Riddhi Baba Pradhan, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare stated in her Message that MDGs was a milestone in bringing the world community together to uplift the social and economic standards of people; especially from the least developed/ developing nations. She had conveyed that this Round Table will support the government's efforts to offer children opportunities for their overall development in order to ensure that they will have a financially dependent and dignified life. She stated that helping children achieve such life is a priority of the government. She also said that she had felt assured that this program will consolidate the partnership of the government with national & international development organizations to support all children in Nepal, especially the ones deprived topographically, socially and financially.

Ms. Hanna Singer, UNICEF Representative for Nepal talked about the relationship of the UNICEF and SOS Children's Villages International, stated how all MDGs are related to children and briefed why meeting all MDGs is significant. Ms. Singer appreciated the achievements of Nepal toward meeting MDG targets and gave indications of the areas needing more attention such as maintaining equity in the services children are receiving in the urban and rural areas, and financially well off and deprived communities. She also showed concern about the vulnerability of girl children to fall victim of deprivation and human trafficking. She added that, while preparing post MDG – 2015 agenda, everyone has to understand that sustainable development starts with safe, healthy and well-educated children.

Mr. Singye Dorji, Director SAARC Secretariat extended his greetings to the audience and read out the Message of His Excellency Ahmad Saleem, Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In his message HE Saleem highlighted the efforts of SAARC such as proclamation of SAARC Decade for Girl Child (1991 – 2000), the SAARC Social Charter which focuses on the need for literacy, education and skill development amongst adolescents and youth, especially girls to combat girl trafficking. His Excellency also expected

that the Round Table will make realistic recommendations to identify best feasible approach, methodology, mechanism and instruments for maintaining children's rights and programs into national development agenda and priorities including periodic plans and sectorial policies to achieve the MDGs and to formulate post 2015 development agendas.

Through his keynote address Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, Former Assistant Secretary General, UN and Former Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF, New York appreciated the timely conduction of the Round Table and stated that the well-being of children is the essence of the MDGs and illustrated how they are child-centric. He outlined the progress being made to prepare Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and gave reasons why UNICEF and SOS Children's Villages International have welcomed this effort.

Mr. Gautam stated that Nepal is on the track of achieving six out of eight MDGs but showed concern over the need of overcoming a legacy of age-old marginalization, discrimination and exclusion still prevalent in many societies. He then shared his vision that current efforts and even post-2015 development agendas should address the challenges of inequity, consolidate child protection, work for sustainable environment to control floods and promote green economy, create child-friendly cities, and ensure child-friendly local governance. At the end Mr. Gautam called all dignitaries, presenters and participants to work actively in shaping the post-2015 global development agenda and programs for Nepal.

Chief Guest of the Inaugural Session, Honorable Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya, Vice-Chairman of National Planning Commission, GoN offered his Inaugural Address by stating that the Round Table has been held at a defining moment as the MDGs are to be redefined for post-2015 development agendas. He stated that Nepal has accorded due priority in the development of an environment where children have the best prospects for their growth and development.

Highlighting the efforts GoN has made to ensure child protection, child development and child participation through legal, social and financial measures; Honorable Vice-chairman shed light on the current government plans, policies and programs to protect and promote fundamental rights of children, eliminate all kinds of discriminations and maltreatment, and eliminating all kinds of child labor. He also gave examples of the government's attempts for coordinated efforts and called for everyone's support to achieve MDG targets and to resolve the issues and challenges that remain on the way to offering children better and more effective services.

Chair of the Inaugural Session Mr. Upendra Adhikary, Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, expressed his happiness for having this opportunity and stated that listening to the dignitaries has been an insightful experience. He said that Nepal needs to further strengthen ongoing efforts and initiatives in the process of devising post-2015 development agendas to ensure children development opportunities through quality education and health facilities, and through other child-centered activities. He also mentioned that Nepal is hopeful to meet MDG targets through collective efforts of the government, development partners, civil society groups, NGOs and families.

Mr. Adhikary showed concern over the sections of child population from the rural areas who have remained outside the development stream and are deprived of public services such as education, health services, nutrition and social protection and wanted that quality education and health services, provisions for better nutrition and appropriate sanitation services will be incorporated in the post-2015 development agenda for Nepal. Stating the stand of the government, he indicated that social development issues and child-centric challenges will have to be reflected in the new global development framework. He assured that the government would be looking forward to the recommendations of the Round Table and would consider for appropriate actions to implement them

PART II

Plenary Sessions

First Plenary Session: Experience and Way Forward

The First Plenary Session entitled 'Experience and Way Forward' was chaired by Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank and former Vice-chairman, National Planning Commission. There were five presenters; Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal, Governance Advisor, Norwegian Embassy in Nepal; Dr. Suniti Acharya, Former Representative, WHO in Bangladesh and Member of General Assembly - SOS Children's Villages Nepal; Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal, Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal; Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC); and Dr. Bal Gopal Vaidhya, Former Member, National Planning Commission.

Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal presented on 'Policy and Planning for MDG & Children: Strategies for Post-2015 Development Agenda'. First he dis-

cussed MDGs and stated the global situation of children, then he focused on the national situation and prevailing instruments designed for children and also talked about post-2015 agenda for children. Mr. Dahal clarified that more than one third population are children in the global context; and many of them victims of poverty, exclusion, exploitation and inequality. He added that 24 million children are without parental care and 8 million of them are in alternative care facilities. He pointed out that, in the milieu of least developed nations, children below 18 years constitute 50% of the total population which shows that these countries are rich in child population but poor in terms of child survival and development.

Mr. Dahal discussed some international measures taken to address this scenario. He detailed regular UN Conventions, Education for All, ILO 182 of 1999, MDGs of 2000 UNGASS of 2002 and other international events which have influenced the attitude of decision makers and have led to the changes in laws, policies and practice. He indicated the importance of these conventions to directly influence the governments' decision making and have given tools to the civil society organizations to lobby and campaign. He then discussed the Nepalese context saying that 48% of our population is children. He also offered statistics of children without parental care, refugee children, children with disabilities, and victims of armed conflict. He also drew a picture of school education system to show attendance and dropout scenario.

Mr. Dahal gave some examples of national initiatives such as National Plan of Action for Children, operational guidelines for Child Friendly Local Governance and National Policy for Children. He stated some gaps between the policy and practice that happened due to our mindset towards children, poor understanding of child rights and role of the duty bearers, poor coordination among the ministries and between the central and local authorities. He offered some suggestions on how these challenges can be addressed which include that our national policies and practices should align with the post-2015 agenda like SDGs on which focus is on transforming economics for jobs and inclusive growth to end poverty and improve livelihood, necessity of good governance and forging global partnership in the new spirit of solidarity. Within the country, he showed the necessity of ensuring quality basic services such as health and education, protection, participation and development of children and eradicating all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Dr. Suniti Acharya, presented on Millennium Development Goals and Child Health stating how the UN Millennium Declaration consolidated the commitment of world leaders for a new global partnership

by setting time-bound and quantifiable targets. She said that all MDGs have direct or indirect impact on child health and showed through examples and illustrations the progress global community including Nepal has made in meeting the targets. Some examples she gave were the immunization of children above 90%, reducing child mortality, and offering access to education.

Dr. Acharya pointed out some challenges requiring attention of the global community as well as Nepal in areas of maintaining equity to reduce poverty, to further reduce child mortality rate and to make equitable distribution of resources. She enlisted 22 districts of Nepal on which people still do not have adequate food supply, and proper health and education facilities. She argued that malnutrition has a lifetime consequences among children and, as such, must be taken as human rights issue. She said adequate intervention programs are required to build an equitable society.

For post-2015 development agendas, Dr. Acharya suggested to design an advocacy tool to guide for national and global policies and maintained that post-2015 goals and strategies should have greater flexibility to address the regional, national and sub-national necessities. She also explained why global community has an increased obligation to ensure that all children have opportunities to develop to full capacity for equitable prosperity. She argued that education, health and other services must be considered from child rights perspective while preparing new plans and policies. Additional suggestions from Dr. Acharya were; giving attention to the needs of adolescents, mentally and physically challenged population and ensuring integrated approach to offer education, social and health services. Finally she opined that discussions must continue to mainstream child rights and child health into national development agendas.

Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal, Country Director, Action-Aid International Nepal discussed Millennium Development Goals and Children: Rights to Education in the light of our concerns, promises, commitments, strategies, plans, governing systems, delivery mechanisms and operational methodologies. Mr. Phnuyal asked the participants to assess MDGs through conventional wisdom and human rights perspective, issue of constitutional rights, democracy and development, and through most recent national and international commitments.

In the context of 'Rights to Education' Mr. Phnuyal stated the progress Nepal has made in terms of accessibility. He stated that net enrollment rate in grade one is 93.7% and the literacy rate of the country is 86.5%. He showed his concern that when we disaggregate data on

the basis of gender, geographical regions, social and economic classes, ethnic groups and the need of differently abled children, authorities and service providers need to demonstrate more accountability.

During his presentation additional issues Mr. Phnuyal raised were defining basic education (up to which grade?), controlling dropout rates (which are alarmingly high in grade one), enhancing the quality of physical, academic, management and learning environments of schools; and the quality of education in the public and private schools. He also raised questions on policy and governance to clarify the scope of public, private and trust-run schools; roles of the central and local government bodies and the development partners to offer 'quality education' for all and to manage resources, and share knowledge, expertise and technical skills.

Mr. Phnuyal discussed the roles of the government and development partners. He suggested considering successful and failed practices; to redefine the position of teachers' and students' unions and to assess their norms, ethics, rules and regulations. As a way forward for post MDGs planning, he offered some points to ponder which included provisions for free and compulsory education, inclusion and nondiscrimination, rights to adequate infrastructure, quality and training of teachers, safe and nonviolent environment for children, participatory governance and quality of learning. Finally he urged all government agencies and development partners to make 'Quality Education for All' imperative and assured that Nepal can achieve it through collective efforts of the government, family members, international development partners, local communities and family members.

As a child protection campaigner of the country Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC) discussed and shared his expertise on 'Child Protection System in Nepal: Issues and Challenges' in relation to MDGs. Mr. Pradhan detailed the history on the emergence of the MDGs and their impact for Nepal saying that Nepal has made remarkable progress for achieving most of the MDG targets despite a decade long armed conflict because of collective efforts of the government, civil Society organizations, NGOs, development agencies, business communities, and all concerned. Then he pointed out that much has to be done to eradicate poverty, exploitation, discrimination and injustice and that this calls for additional consolidated efforts and investment, with special focus on children and people living in the most difficult circumstances.

According to Mr. Pradhan, quite a big majority of children in Ne-

pal are still at the risk of abuse and exploitation. As the protection of children begins from womb and particularly becomes very challenging from zero to five years of age, early support and intervention is a must. He added that as one of the state parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other related international instruments, Nepal has been trying its best to domesticate its commitment in action through a number of national laws, bi-laws, policies, programs from the central to the local level. He opined that all MDG targets can be achieved by 2015 with some additional efforts except 'eradicating poverty and hunger'.

Mr. Pradhan said that all MDGs are directly or indirectly related to protection, survival and development of children and these goals encourage improving social and economic conditions of the people in the world, particularly in the poorest countries. He suggested making child protection an integral part of plans, programs and strategies. Despite significant achievements and progress made in the past decades, he added that Nepal has yet much to do to make children free from all forms of exploitation, discrimination and injustice.

Mr. Pradhan also highlighted the progress made for 'Child Rights and Child Protection' through National Human Rights Commission and other Human Rights Institutions, INGOs including the UN Agencies and by implementing child protection policy. He also indicted the need of assessment, evaluation and follow up on the efficacy of the national instruments and mechanisms from the central to the VDC level. For post MDGs policies, he suggested to switch from welfare approach to consolidated system approach to child protection to ensure 'no child is left behind' by adhering to the following issues:

1. Accountability of the government authorities and line agencies and to discourage practice of impunity
2. Strengthen inter-agency co-operation
3. Strengthen capacity of concerned stakeholders and service providers to ensure better response to children's protection
4. Strengthen community and school based child protection mechanisms
5. Increase investment for implementing child laws, child protection policies and plans of action on children's overall development
6. Strengthen children's meaningful participation to protect the rights of children, particularly from abuse and exploitation.
7. Strengthen national mechanisms for effective and systematic monitoring and evaluation of National Child Protection System

Another presenter Dr. BalGopalBaidyadiscussed 'Investment in Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya discussed 'Investment in Children' by giving a brief

account of achievements Nepal has made toward meeting MDG targets such as ensuring survival, development and protection of children. He said that national policy to integrate MDGs in the development plans, increased expenditure in the social sector, growth of remittance flow in the country and its spending for health and education have played vital role. He illustrated that 19 out of 24 MDG targets are likely to be achieved by 2015. He stated that the performance of MDGs comes as a bit of surprise despite recent armed conflict and prolonged political transition, sluggish economic growth and ensuing weakening of state institutions in the country.

According to Dr. Baidya, enabling factors for this to happen are supportive policy environment, increased investment for human development expenditures, implementation of targeted programs such as the Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF), the Karmali Employment Program, Food-for-Work program, increasing coverage of social security and social protection programs, open society and vibrant press, and increasing access to education with gender parity in primary and secondary schools and support of international development partners in the form of grants and loans.

Giving reasons why we must invest more on children, he argued that several of MDGs are directly related to children (MDG 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6) and others too have implications for children and therefore, discussing investment in children in a way is quite akin to discussing investment for MDGs. He added that because children have a special place in the hearts of people in general and decision makers in particular, it is easier to draw their attention when investment discussion is on children rather than on MDGs. He also explained that investing in children is encouraged by Nepal's own constitution and the fact that Nepal is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC). Dr. Baidya stated economic argument for investing on children because it aligns with the human capital approach. Public investment in social sectors (health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation, etc.) is considered as an investment to increase the individual's productive capacities and their potential income which ultimately will improve their well-being and the wellbeing of the nation.

With regard to how much to invest on children, Dr. Baidya talked about 20/20 initiative that says states to spend 20% of the national budget and 20% of grants and loans of donor countries for social sector. However, considering the large number of rural population in Nepal, he suggested to follow 25/25 principles to increase investment accordingly.

He forecasted that investment in children will increase in coming years because the focus of education in post 2015 period will be on higher level of education and skill training and definitely, the cost implications are going to be much higher. The health challenges in post 2015 period will require much more expensive interventions; and addressing the challenges of climate change will be an expensive proposition.

In order to have more investment on children Dr. Baidya suggested increasing the size of budget with greater mobilization of domestic revenues, maintaining accountability and transparency, and restructuring the budget through public private partnership and/or build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) models for infrastructure development which gives way to free up substantial resources in the national budget to design child-sensitive plans and programs.

Interaction from the Floor

Greater majority of the participants praised for the timely coordination of the Round Table saying that it was time to think of post 2015 development agendas and that this conference could be an eye opener to set priorities. They also said that the presentations were well-prepared and insightful. Many of them appreciated the progress Nepal has made in meeting the MDG targets saying that it was possible because of the collective commitments at the national and international level, and continued support from the international development partners

Among several issues raised by the participants included:

- How can we bridge the widening gap between the rich and the poor in order to provide adequate services to all children regardless of their family and locational background?
- What is the reason that there is a gap between policy and practice? We have excellent policies which have not been implemented effectively.
- What can the government bodies do to ensure that essence of all plans and policies trickle down to the grassroots level (i.e. VDC, local community, etc.) perfectly? The message of the central authority never arrives at the local level.
- So many international communities and development organizations are supporting our country. But the lives the poor and the underprivileged has remained the same. How can we change this scenario?
- In the context of child protection, many children are living in

alternative care homes and their conditions are not good. There are instances of child rights violation and abuses. How can we improve this situation? How can we offer all development opportunities to those children?

- It seems our country requires strong advocacy, monitoring and supervision mechanism to ensure all children receive development opportunities. What can we do for that? This Round Table should focus on this area too.
- Major problem of our country is that members of the target group are not involved in the planning process. This Round Table should explore adequate mechanism to involve stakeholders and to ensure 100% implementation.
- In the changing national and international context, concept of 'Basic Education' should be redefined. Can we suggest making it up to grade eight (or even grade 12)?
- The focus of all development programs must be to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, especially in rural areas. This will have positive ripple effect on childcare, child protection, health and development of all children. The Round Table should focus on finding effective strategies on this area. We must suggest a mechanism to the government to ensure sufficient food supply in all households.
- Instead of taking childcare, health and education services separately, they must be offered to children through integrated approach to enhance effectiveness and efficiency.

Synthesis of the First Plenary Session

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank and former vice-president National Planning Commission thanked the Organizing Committee for inviting him. He expressed that he was pleased to contribute to this Round Table as the Chair of the first plenary session because of his research interest in child rights and child protection.

Dr. Khatiwada thanked all presenters and appreciated their presentations saying that they were scholarly and thought provoking in areas of policy and planning, education, child rights and child protection, and investment on children. He commented that international scenario of child rights and child protection discussed by Mr. Bhola P. Dahal, MDGs and Health by Dr. Suniti Acharya, Educational Context by Mr. Bimal Phnuyal, Child Protection System in Nepal by Mr. Gauri Pradhan and Investment in Children by Dr. Bal Gopal Baidhya were good learning references for anyone interested about MDGs and the progress Nepal has made in this area.

Dr. Khatiwada remarked that discussions made on the floor and the ideas and queries from the participants had added to the beauty of all presentations and that with more discussions taking place the next day the Round Table would be successful to prepare an adequate roadmap to address the issues not covered by the MDGs and also to draw attention of the government. He added that the presentations were a learning experience for him and that they made the roles of the government, development organizations and the general public clearer to meet the MDG targets and to make the lives of Nepalese children better.

Dr. Khatiwada stated that implementation of development policies and actions can accelerate if they are central to children, their needs and their development possibilities and if the set targets and existing issues are discussed with the representatives from all strata of the society and with all stakeholders. He argued that policies designed after vigorous consultations ease the implementation process of policies and support to meet the desired objectives.

Stating the current context of the country Dr. Khatiwada said children are relatively safer despite weakening situation of the government institutions. For this he gave credit to the families who have offered opportunities to their children's protection, growth and development and to the trend of the society's ever increasing commitment to support children for their overall personality development. However, he showed his concern over the widening gap between investment and outcomes in the education sector. Appreciating the investment parents have made to educate their children which seems higher than of the government, he commented that outcomes in education depend on the way we invest on our children; more investment on them means they have possibilities for better and more dignified life. To justify this he drew examples from rich families on which young generation are normally getting richer.

While presenting synthesis Dr. Khatiwada showed his concern to find ways to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor families by ensuring adequate investment. He opined that supporting poor families to make investments will promote social and economic harmony of the country. Giving examples of how quality road construction supports the overall development of a country, he stressed on making quality hospitals, quality schools, quality roads, etc., which are instrumental to make our lives better, more comfortable and more systematic. His final remark was on prioritizing investment after assessing possible outcomes and its impact to the target group

Second Plenary Session: Regional Perspectives and Experiences

The second plenary session was chaired by Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal, Member Secretary, National and the presenters were Mr. Marc Vincent, Pro-

gramme and Planning Chief, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia and Dr. Lava Deo Awasthi, Director General, Department of Education, GoN.

Mr. Marc Vincent shared his experience and presented 'Regional Perspective' of the SAARC Region. Mr. Vincent highlighted the progress made in achieving MDG targets, stated some challenges and suggested some priorities for post MDGs 2015 – targets. While discussing his presentation he also briefed UNICEF's emerging priorities for the wellbeing of children in the Region.

Mr. Vincent said that much has been achieved since the General Assembly endorsed the MDGs in 2000 and many indicators show a positive global trend, particularly in the health sector including the decline of child deaths. However, he showed concern over tremendous disparities not only between countries, but within countries for the fact that progress has not been sufficient for the poorest and most vulnerable children. He explained that this was the reason for UNICEF to adopt an equity-based approach to address the needs of children who suffer the worst deprivations, have no access to education, healthcare, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development. He illustrated the Region's challenges such as:

- In terms of nutrition, South Asia remains the region with the highest proportion of underweight children under five. In 6 out of the 8 countries, a third or more children are stunted.
- A large number of children, especially girls, remain out of school.
- South Asia remains one of the most gender insensitive regions in the world. Discrimination against girls begins with sex selection and female feticide, and continues throughout their lives. Often gender discrimination is exacerbated by caste, class, religious and ethnic divisions. Harmful practices persist including child marriage, child labor, child trafficking and widespread violence against children and women.
- Despite impressive global reductions in child mortality, the pace of progress must increase. One in 16 children still die before their first birthday.
- In terms of improving maternal health mortality rate it has fallen from 590 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 220 in 2010. Further reductions are possible.
- The region is not on track in terms of sanitation. 692 million people in South Asia practice open defecation; which underlines the importance of addressing sanitation for better health outcomes.

In order to address these challenges Mr. Vincent suggested focusing on quality education for employment to adolescents, minimizing the impact of climate change, enhancing gender empowerment through equal opportunity for girls, building resilience for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness; ensuring good governance with effective institutions to maintain and consolidate accountability and transparency; and managing fast paced urbanization to make lives of people better in the region.

Dr. Lava Deo Awasthi made presentation on 'MDGs and Children: Focus on Education' by discussing MDGs, their targets and achievements made so far and 'Education for All' goals. He then highlighted current issues and challenges of education sector in Nepal. Then he offered way forward to attaining MDGs and EFA Goals and in planning post -2015 development agendas.

With regard to achievements made so far toward MDGs, Dr. Awasthi gave examples that people living below the national poverty line has gone down to 25.2%, under five mortality has reduced to 50 per 1000 live births and maternal mortality per 100000 live by half in ten year time, spread of HIV/AIDS is under control, net enrollment rates have reached 95.3% and gender parity has been achieved in enrolment for primary education. Then he stated some challenges like social, economic and geographical disparities, rising on the income inequality, large number of malnourished children, and so on. Thereafter he elaborated the MDG and EFA targets like ensuring that by 2015:

- Offering access to all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality;
- Ensuring that learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programs;
- Achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015; especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults;
- Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, and
- Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

Dr. Awasthi discussed some current issues and challenges of education sector such as low levels of student learning, teachers' time on task

below the expected norm, limited exposure to multiple sets of learning materials, lack of early reading and learning, low value to local knowledge, almost nonexistence of child friendly school environment, especially for children with disabilities, poor sanitation and provision for girl toilets, building trust in public schools and many others. He offered some suggestions like implementing School Sector Reform Program agendas such as making structural changes of the school system, bringing in 600000 out of school children in the mainstream, and enhancing management and accountability of school leaders and teachers, etc.

As a way forward for post-2015 development agendas Dr. Awasthi mentioned the need of planning for reducing inequalities and wastage in education, updating education system to cater to the development needs of the stakeholders and the nation, meeting resource gaps through education tax or other similar approaches, defining the share of central and local level government authorities in managing and providing resources in education. He also suggested guaranteeing resources through PCF, block grants, matching grants, etc. for public schools managed by communities and the need of having robust system in place (governance, management and delivery of services) and enhancing parents' commitment and inclusive environment in all schools. He added that additional resources making improvement can be managed by working in partnership with NGOs/ CSOs/ DPs.

Discussion on the Floor

Discussion of the second plenary session was focused on maintaining social and gender equity. Participants showed concern over increasing dropout of girl students from schools once they reach puberty. A participant thought that bringing out of school children in the mainstream education is a difficult task, and therefore this Round Table should find ways to address this problem.

A participant argued that GoN should give priority to vocational and technical education to increase employment prospects and wanted clarification whether the government has any plans and programs. Another suggested that special provision must be made to ensure that children with disabilities have all possible opportunities for development. Someone suggested that problem of malnourished children should be addressed adequately to promote intellectual development of all children.

A greater majority of participants were concerned over the deterio-

rating standard of education, especially in the public schools. They suggested that the government mechanism must ensure adequate management and accountability. They asked why most of the public schools remain closed for more than expected days and many of those schools are charging fees despite government's commitment to free education. Some participants said Early Childhood Development Program has positive impact in improving education standard and hence the recommendation of the Round Table must include this.

The participants showed concern over political interference in the academic institutions and wished that teacher training programs should be reviewed to focus more on building positive attitude.

Synthesis of the Second Plenary Session

As the Chair of the Session Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal, Member Secretary, National Planning Commission thanked Mr. Marc Vincent and Dr. Awasthi for their presentations. He stated that issues raised by Mr. Vincent, especially about current disparities children from rural areas and marginalized communities are facing, requiring additional attention on improving sanitation and quality education for employment, etc. require serious consideration. Likewise, Mr. Bhusal appreciated Dr. Awasthi's comment on the need of giving more value to local knowledge and ensuring access to 'quality education for all' to consider for recommendations. He also appreciated the participants for raising relevant questions and offering valuable suggestions.

Mr. Bhusal said that the government is working for redistribution and/or reallocation of teachers to maintain student: teacher ratio and it is also planning to work in public-private partnership model to make arrangement for additional funding in education. With regard to improving the recording and reporting system in education he added that DoE is planning to implement School Management Information System Software which will facilitate the head-teachers to make data input and after scrutiny from the authority concerned, this data may be available to anyone interested.

Mr. Bhusal showed his appreciation over the participants' queries and said that they reflect how serious people have become towards quality standard of education and learning style prevalent today and pointed out that current system which promotes rote learning should be changed to promote critical and creative thinking among students. He emphasized parents, communities, students and all concerned need to support the government's actions in making schools a better learning organization.

Giving instances of improvement being made in area of inclusion, Mr. Bhusal said he agrees that there is much to do to raise the standard of education and to make Nepali schools inclusive in the desired level. He called everyone to understand that change is a slow process, and added that first it must take in our attitude and that we must work with patience and passion. In order to show the real challenge of improvement and inclusion in education Mr. Bhusal stated the major concern in education sector now is 'how to offer mainstream quality education to a differently abled child of a marginalized family from a remote village of Mugu District (the district itself is in remote area).

Part III: Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent Session: One

The theme of Concurrent Session ONE was Post MDG Child Health and Education and it was chaired by Dr. Teertha Dhakal, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission and the resource persons were

Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal, Governance Advisor, Norwegian Embassy in Nepal; Dr. Suniti Acharya Former Representative, WHO Representative in Bangladesh, and Member of General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal and Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal, Country Director, Action-Aid International Nepal. Panelists of the session were Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen, Program Manager, Plan Nepal and Mr. Tap Raj Pant, Program Officer, UNESCO, Nepal. This group had 30 participants including six females.

Before the session started Dr. Teertha Dhakal gave a brief background of the country's health and education context. Then he stated 'code of conduct' to direct the discussion so that the team can come up with recommendations in the stipulated time. He gave some examples of the progress being made in Nepal such as increasing investment of the government in the social sector and shifting the orientation of health and education services from welfare perspective to fundamental rights perspective. He also praised the support of the NGOs and showed the necessity of being properly recorded.

As a resource person Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal stated that child participation can be taken as one areas needing improvement for which the government has already made commitment in the international level though Nepal already has 13000 Child Clubs. In the current system at

least two children are participating in Ward Citizen's Forum. All these things are promoting the participation of children. He also praised the national policies and instruments for being in good directions.

Mr. Dahal also discussed the issue of our attitude and practices which are still directed through 'welfare perspective'. He also showed the necessity of merging four 'child rights and protection' committees in a single functional committee. He also suggested in keeping children in priority of development in local government with effective integrated programs to ensure children's protection and development.

Dr. Suniti Acharya illustrated the progress made in health sector such as the reduction of child mortality rate and discrimination and promotion of mother education. Then she pointed out the necessity of meeting the nutrition target, raising awareness in the remote villages of the hills and the Terai and ensuring food and nutrition security.

As a resource person Dr. Acharya said that resources should be properly channeled to the grassroots level and our plans and programs should follow life cycle approach with additional emphasis to adolescents and their issues, especially the girls. She suggested recognizing child health, education, food security and nutrition as one integrated issue of child development.

Mr. Bimal Kuman Phnuyal gave examples of the progress made on school enrollment rates but pointed out that 'drop out' cases need to be considered more seriously. He stated that 'Education for All' should now be redefined as 'Quality Education for All' with the support of the development partners and general public and the level of 'basic education' by taking international context into consideration.

Mr. Phnuyal said that we are in a state of defining the human resource for new Nepal, as we are under the process of new nation building and address the problem of disparity in different communities and socio-economic segments. He pointed out the necessity of strengthening local government authority and School Management Committee for school improvement to ensure equity based resource distribution.

Panelist Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen argued that the nation must understand that investment on women supports to children's health and education so this issue must be taken forward. Likewise recommendation from the group should support to institutionalize the representation and participation of children for their own development.

Another panelist Mr. Tap Raj Pant showed the issue that most marginalized communities' children are still out of school (no change since 2008: 61 million children were out of school in 2008, still the figure is same). He also stated that aid factor is also a critical (61 billion dollar

was needed for basic education but only 1.6 billion invested), that the campaign for EFA is not linked with the need of urban poor and labor market and that school system need to focus on outcome based learner centered approach of learning and formative evaluation. He also showed the necessity of making the roles of NGOs in education clear.

After the presentations and comments from panelists, session Chairperson Dr. Dhakal summed up the key points and opened floor for discussion. Vigorous deliberation took place with 14 participants contributing the team with their ideas and finally the team made the following recommendations:

- Education and health policies shall be guided by the principle— children, mother and parents as owner of services; local government and SMC as a manager, and national and local government as investment.
- Participatory process shall be established for policy formulation, planning and monitoring process and child participation shall be insured in every level and structure including SMC. Meaningful participation with responsibility shall be established.
- Single union of teachers and students shall be directed by policy. Political party wise association shall be restricted.
- No space for profit making schools up to the basic grades shall be legitimated
- The Flash Report shall be audited by local community and stakeholders and raw data of schools shall be published in web site of DEO.
- Timely and adequate teachers' recruitment and training shall be insured. Trainings of NCED shall be reviewed; teachers training must be reached in class room.
- Accountability of SMC shall be incorporated in policies.
- Inclusive education and special education needs programs shall be carried out as per the need for full attainment of disable children in education
- Health facilities up to the Ward level in 20 mountainous districts shall be extended to ensure the access to basic health services of children and mother
- The number of FCHV shall be increased in low indicators results district in Terai (eg. Kapilvastu).
- Extension of birthing centers to insure institutional delivery to save the life of newborns and mother. Shall be counted and provided the incentive to the home based delivery by trained personals
- Birth preparedness plan shall be promoted for safe birth. Make the husbands accountable for safe delivery including periodic visit to

health facilities

- Intra household food and nutrition security shall be insured with effective mechanism
- Targeting shall be equitable and monitoring shall be participatory
- Direct funding and support to HP and SHP shall be established (as the resource is not reaching to HP and SHP from district). Monitoring mechanism in district level shall be formalized through DDC
- Linking school health and nutrition shall be effective and holistic approach shall be established for children health, nutrition and education

At the end the Chair of the session Dr. Dhakal thanked all presenters, panelists and participants for their endeavors.

Concurrent Session: Two

The theme of Concurrent Session TWO was Child Protection System in Nepal and it was chaired by Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema, Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand, and Former President of Rotary Club of Patan. Resource person was Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC) and the panelists were Mr. Mohan Raj Sharma, Member, Executive Committee, Social Welfare Council and Ms. Nupur Bhattacharya, Member of General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages Nepal.

After setting the scene and stating rules and guidelines to move ahead with presentations, discussions and make recommendations from the group, Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema asked the presenters to make their presentations. Then the panelists put forward their comments/statements and the floor was open for discussion. All these deliberations were focused on safeguarding the fundamental rights of children, ensuring their protection and promoting collaborative workplace culture to address issues relating to child rights and child protection. Major concern raised by the group was how to meet the MDG targets and how to bridge the gaps between the haves and have-nots.

The group was also serious about finding ways to implement existing policies effectively. The team thought that most of the policy initiatives are fine and they align with national and international policies regarding child protection but the problem is with implementation of those policies. Majority of the members opined that the structures of the policies are proactive but the institutions or the concerned authorities need to be more responsible and accountable. In this regard the team concluded

that monitoring and supervision mechanism must be strengthened for effective implementation. Group two members decided to suggest that line agency and people at the grassroots level need capacity building to support the target groups who happen to be from remote areas.

Another issue group two discussed was educating children and youths in mass to control human trafficking, abuse and violation. The members discussed that mother should be made aware of child health issues; teachers and parents should have required information on the importance of child rights and child safety. This calls for positive socialization for protective environment on which children are taught via social learning processes with positive motivation, loving care and rewarding opportunities.

Further issues raised by the presenters, panelists and participants were economic aspect to eliminate child labor, establishment of system based child protection, and elimination of all types of discriminations. They argued that Nepal urgently needs a system to protect children with disabilities and to promote that the government has the ownership of children in case they lose their parental care. The group suggested that social inclusion and its aspects have to be incorporated in post 2015 development agendas.

Key recommendations of Group Two for Post MDG Development Agendas are:

- Including human rights and child protection in the national curriculum
- Sensitizing conceptual clarity at different school, household and community for taking action from informal sector against child protection.
- Clarifying strategies to report abuse situation and legal provisions to ensure child safety in foster care and alternative care and to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Ensuring accountability and transparency at all levels of government agencies and other organizations.
- Establishing “system approach to child protection” for proper protection and reintegration
- Consolidating family and community strengthening programs to prevent child abandonment
- Enabling mechanism with:
 - o Child rights commission to be consolidated with human rights commission and a Child right commissioner.
 - o Social audit of Village Child Protection Committee where social audit

of child rights and implementation of integrated child protection rights take place.

- o Systematic approach with informal and semi-formal structures to address the cases relating the violation of child rights or abuses of any kind.
- o Emphasis on clarity of the child protection policy to the civil society to protect all children from abuses and neglects.

Concurrent Session –Three

With the theme Investment on Children this session was chaired by Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta, Director General, Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare. Resource person was Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya, Former Member, National Planning Commission and the panelists were Mr. Shree Shankar Pradhananga, National Director, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal and Mr. Madhav Pradhan, President, C-Net Nepal.

Though Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya had already made his presentation on 'Investment on Children' he briefly discussed some statistics and indicators covered by his presentation and focused on the post MDG development agendas. Thereafter panelists and participants raised several questions on the presentation and possibility of having further recommendations. During the discussion participants raised several questions relating to the achievement of MDG goals, prioritizing of the national plans to ensure quality education, especially to girls and children from socially, topographically and economically marginalized communities and families, designing development programs that are sustainable, focus on the development of agriculture, health services and education. The team also thought that climate change is also an area where serious consideration is required.

The issue of how much to invest on social sector was raised and the resource person made the following remarks:

- Nation should invest 50% in the social sector.
- Private sector should be encouraged to support social development activities.
- National should invest on highway construction and modern farming to sustainable development.

Views of the panelists

- National should increase its expenditure on child protection, health and education and it should ensure equity, participation and inclusion through proper monitoring system. Strong monitoring and supervision mechanism should be in place. If required additional

human and financial capital must be invested.

- Nation has started to allocate budget for indigenous, oppressed, children, women and differently abled. However, strong monitoring system is required to achieve desired changes.
- The government should take sole responsibility of the development of social sector. Private sectors resources can be utilized for infrastructure development so that the State has enough resources to invest for social sector.
- Development activities should focus on villages and rural communities to maintain equity and social justice

Suggestions from the participants

- Investment in education should be considered investment for the development of a nation, because educated citizens are the pillars of development.
- Focus must be on practical and skills centered education that makes people's lives better.
- National should develop strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism to uplift communities, especially of the rural areas.
- Integrated and coordinated mechanism should be in place to develop areas like education, health, transportation, communication and agriculture.
- The issue of human trafficking and child development has to be mentioned in the post MDG agendas

Final Recommendations from Concurrent Session: THREE

After discussion, mutual consensus was received on the taking the suggestions to the plenary session, which were planned for the Post MDG. The basis and recommendations of these consensuses were put forward as follows:

Basics:

- Children as citizen in all sphere of society.
- Government policies must address the 'EQUITY'
- Disparity can be minimized through Equitable Action
- Child rights are human rights
- Child friendly environment is the way to increase children's access to the public services
- Adequate investment and proper utilization of resources can fulfill

the government's commitment

- Nation's prosperity depends on 'Today's Investment' in children; we are not expecting the immediate return.

Recommendations:

- Investment on social sectors with child focused activities.
- Proper investment and utilization of resources to fill the existing gaps, especially in the area of child protection.
- Investment should be focused on ensuring quality of services.
- Socially excluded and marginalized children should be given the foremost priority in the national investments.
- Ensure strategic growth investment plan is in place and investments are made accordingly
- Ensure accountability and transparency across all sectors and at all levels.
- Foster meaningful children's participation in investment plan and implementation
- Regular Monitoring and Evaluation of Investment should be ensured.
- Investment on systematic value education should be promoted.

In the third plenary session presided by Dr. Bhavani Dhungana, Former Officer UNSCAP in Bangkok and Member of General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages Nepal Dr. Dr. Teertha Dhakal, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission; Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema, Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand; and Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta, Director General, Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare served as the resource persons. Panelist was Mr. Tarak Dhital, Executive Director, Central Child Welfare Board Government of Nepal.

In this session the Chair Dr. Dhungana stated the guidelines to proceed the recommendations of the concurrent sessions, then the floor was open for discussion on which the panelist Mr. Dhital offered his remarks, insights and suggestions. Thanking all contributors for their ideas and insights the president then offered his remarks and synthesized the recommendations of all sessions.

After stating the processes of coming into conclusion and preparing these recommendations, Dr. Dhakal said forthcoming development agendas should consider the following issues to improve 'Education and Health of Children' in the country:

- Quality of Education should be enhanced by promoting rights in schools, derived from core human rights treaties and conventions

and echoed in national constitution in an equitable and inclusive environment to ensure 'Quality Education for All'. Arrangement must be made to ensure adequate individual support to children with special needs.

- The post 2015 development agenda should consider the needs of children and adolescents who have missed formal schooling and lack foundational skills such as basic literacy and numeracy. Multiple learning pathways and multiple entry points and re-entry points at all ages and at all educational levels should be provided.
- Education reforms should aim to transform schools into learning hubs. This requires the education sector to coordinate and collaborate with other sectors.
- Education systems should reflect and welcome the diversity of the social fabric and aim to achieve social cohesion by doing so. Therefore, education systems should be able to cater to multiple needs and circumstances by promoting flexibility and respect for diversity so as to achieve minimum, essential core standards of quality and achievement and a maximum level of inclusiveness.

Another resource person Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema, Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand and Former President of Rotary Club of Patan, who presided concurrent session TWO offered following points to consider while preparing post 2015 development agendas:

- Amend the National Laws on Child Rights in order to develop the Rights Based Child Protection Policy
- Set National Minimum Standards on Child Protection
- Restructure and Strengthen National Mechanisms to End Impunity and Enhance Child Protection System
- Develop Child-Friendly Environment Everywhere by strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation
- Strengthen Community and School Based Child Protection System and strengthen Children's Participation through Clubs and Groups in schools and communities
- Increase Investment for Implementing Child Protection Policies and Plans of Action by consolidating National Mechanisms for Monitoring the Child Protection System.

Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta, Director General, Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare, who presided the concurrent session themed 'Investment on Children', gave a brief account of the process his team reached to make the following key recommendations:

- The State must increase investment education and skill based trainings.
- Post 2015 health interventions will be more expensive. The State and its development partners should ensure resource to address the individual tailored health related needs of all children everywhere.
- Being one of the most vulnerable countries affected by 'climate change' Nepal must prepare properly to respond to climate change impacts considering the costs for mitigation measures and rehabilitation of those who might be affected from natural disasters.
- Given Nepal's largely rural population and low level of educational attainment and health indicators Nepal needs to invest in social sector by following 25/25 principles or even higher.
- We must create fiscal space for investment on children, especially for those from poor households. 25-30 percent of the GDP should be spent for education by ensuring proper implementation of all intervention programs through proper monitoring and supervision system to ensure required level of accountability and transparency.

Mr. TarakDhital, Executive Director, Central Child Welfare Board, Mr. Tarak Dhital, Executive Director, Central Child Welfare Board, Government of Nepal and panelist of the third plenary session thanked the organizing committee for inviting him and said that the Round Table was organized at the right moment and that it will support the nation to set clear framework for providing children development opportunities. He appreciated the recommendations and asked the participants to understand that our country is now in a state of system less system, and the greatest challenge is to develop a strong functional system to make the lives of children and citizens better.

Mr. Dhital claimed that children and protection should be together; where there are children there must be protective environment. Giving examples of some cases where children are abused by teachers, doctors, judges, and even family members, he said there is certain distance between children and protection. In order to prevent such incidents, he said that training is required to all professional, including the childcare professionals.

According to Mr. Dhital, desire for change/improvement has three situations; one: there is no thinking (awareness for change) and no re-

sources, two: there is awareness but no resources and three: there is thinking and there are resources. That is the reason need analysis is required for effective change mechanism to take place. He added that for change to take place the objective of change should be clear at the grassroots level and there must be effective monitoring and follow up mechanism in the system.

On behalf of CCWB Mr. Dhital stated his commitment that the government is ready to support individuals or agencies with resources if they come up with concrete proposal. He said pressure must be there but with clear constructive roadmap and suggestions.

After hearing all presenters' (resource persons of the concurrent sessions) recommendations and discussions on which many participants contributed with insightful ideas and suggestions, Dr. Bhawani Dhungana, chair of the third plenary session synthesized all recommendations into the following ones adding his ideas and suggestions:

- The national policy on child rights and child protection must have two parts. The first part should contain specific national issues on which the government's attention is required, for example, child development, child protection, educational financing, etc. It must also include good practices of countries that have invested adequately in the right time have shown the world with their pace of development (South Korea and Singapore).

The second part of the national policy should include child protection mechanism, with resource provisions for policy implementation, strong monitoring and supervision mechanisms. There must be clear understanding among the government agencies to increase investment in the social sector. We must address the issue with implementation gap because policies are there but they have not been implemented due to lack of will power and inadequate resources.

- We are in urgency of creating basic fundamentals to make more investment for children's health and education from 'Development of Human Capital' perspective. First priority must be on the development of human capital through quality education and the use of modern technology, ICT, etc.
- Primary education must be subsidized because it is the responsibility of the government to offer basic education and it must be defined up to grade twelve, and the government must take initiatives to make it

inclusive. The State cannot escape from the responsibility to enhance quality of education in the country.

- It is also the prime responsibility of the government to offer opportunity for quality primary healthcare services for all children and citizens. In order to ensure sufficient fund for quality health and education services the government can work through public private partnership for infra-structure development to investment more money for social sector investment such as health, education, drinking water, etc. This stand must be a priority for the Post MDG Position Paper.

For post MDG development agenda Dr. Dhungana suggested that the State needs a composite approach on the basis of 12 suggested goals and 5 transformative drivers. The Position Paper which GoN is preparing must contain child related recommendations made by this Round Table and they must be thought seriously.

Valedictory Session

Mr. Upendra Adhikary, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, GoN was special guest for Valedictory Session and Prof Bishwa Keshar Maskay, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee chaired it. There were several speakers including two children and a women participant.

From among the child participants Mr. Suraj Khatiwada and Miss Smriti Singh Shrestha conveyed their sincere thanks to the organizers, expressed their happiness for being a part of the Round Table and shared their experiences to the audience. They suggested that post MDG agendas should focus on quality education. There must be provisions to address the problem of human / girl trafficking and drugs abuse. Suraj and Smriti argued that the State must ensure that all schools have conducive learning environment and that system of corporal punishment should be completely eliminated. Youths between 16 – 18 years must be offered social and emotional support to cope up with the rapidly changing situation.

From among adult participants Miss Sharada Ghimire and Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen expressed their views on the Round Table. They said that they felt lucky to become a part of this conference. Miss Ghimire said that she was now aware to understand how policy is formed. She added that she was enriched with theoretical perspectives of child rights, child protection, education and development though she already had

some practical knowledge of the field. She also suggested that such discussion should be organized at the Regional Level, too.

Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen thought that the Round Table served a purpose of mid-term review of the MDGs. He said that discussions, deliberations and recommendations were insightful. He thanked the organizers for their hard work to organize this conference and also thanked participants for their valuable ideas and suggestions. He also said that recommendations of the Round Table are instrumental to build strong basis for preparing a framework to set the direction for development after the MDGs.

Before presenting the synthesis of the Round Table the Chair of the Organizing Committee Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay and chair of this session announced that recommendations and resolutions were to be finalized by the Drafting Committee chaired by Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyl with three members (Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal, Mr. Bidya Nath Bhurtel and Dr. Bhawani Dhungana) in consultation with the experts they thought necessary.

Prof Maskay opined that ten hours of input and intense discussions were of high quality which can be seen from the recommendations made in the plenary and concurrent sessions. He expressed his belief that sharing of ideas and expertise give an indication that 80% of the MDG targets might be achieved (MDG Round Table somehow seemed a mid-term review). He stated that success of this Round Table was a testimony of the outcome of the joint efforts of Action-Aid International Nepal and SOS Children's Villages Nepal. He hoped that these two organizations will work together to offer equitable learning opportunity to all children, especially the ones socially, economically and culturally marginalized.

While presenting synthesis of the Round Table Prof. Maskay stated that presentations from policy makers, scholars, I/NGO representatives and experts were enlightening which were followed by very inquisitive and rewarding discussion and learning. He expressed his happiness that many critical issues on areas of policy, institutional mechanisms, supportive programs and arrangements for protection, provision, prevention and participation of children in development process were discussed.

Prof. Maskay asserted that the Round Table was very timely and evolved very useful inputs and recommendations for possible inclusions in the post-2015 Development Agenda preparations. He asserted that the Round Table has built a way to form partnership with civil society through networking, collaboration and alliances in decision making and implementation of child related policies.

Among various points Prof. Maskay incorporated in his synthesis was the emphasis of the conference on quality learning and health care services and the recommendations that these should be the unifying umbrella theme for national education policy reforms and the future global development agenda. He stated his happiness that this conference served as a forum where policy makers of the Government, international organizations like UNICEF and Regional Organisation like SAARC, representatives of the civil society, academics and experts from various institutions worked together on issues of child rights and development.

Before concluding his synthesis Prof. Maskay explained that active participation of young boys and girls remained a unique feature of the Round Table, and he expressed his hope that this endeavor will be instrumental to ensure “NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND” from receiving quality health and education services in a safe and loving environment.

Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal, Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal and Chairman of the Drafting Committee, expressed that the Drafting Committee has kept the essence of all ideas, suggestions and recommendations made by the participants in various sessions. He stated his pleasure that the Round Table was successful to apply meaningful participation of everyone involved and said that this culture will be reflected in the final recommendations in order to ensure that children and stakeholders will have their say while implementing the policies related to them.

Mr. Phnuyal suggested the dignitaries, experts and participants to follow critical approach and to carry out successful practices while implementing policies. He indicated the need of revisiting Health and Education Policies to consolidate provision and processes to ensure the access of quality services to the target group.

He reiterated that Nepal has made significant progress in terms of quantity in offering education services but ‘quality’ is still an unaddressed issue. He mentioned that child protection and education must be made social norms and responsibility of all (parents/ guardians, society and the State). He suggested that child protection system should consist of ‘Children’s Commission’ in order to ensure their safety and development.

Mr. Phnuyal talked about ‘strategic investment’ on which the State, Society, NGOs and Parents have a clear roadmap and basic mechanism to offer quality services to children and to make Nepal prosperous and that such mechanism should focus on ensuring equity to children, especially to the ones who have suffered multiple exclusion from the mainstream of services. He also mentioned that our attitude, behavior, political cul-

ture requires improvement and we must develop social values. Before he read out the conclusion, recommendations and resolutions, Mr. Phnuyal requested everyone to make an honest commitment to put all principles into action and thanked all participants and volunteers for their support.

Key points mentioned in the Recommendations and Declarations:

The Round Table reaffirmed that that rights of the children including their access to quality education is a basic human right for every person, a public good for all societies, an essential condition for human fulfillment, sustainable development, peace and democracy, and an important vehicle for global citizenship. It emphasized that vigorous efforts are needed to combat all forms of violence against children in the family, at schools and at work places through measures such as child-friendly schools, child friendly cities and child friendly governance, better enforcement of child labour laws, and a culture of non-violence in society as a whole. It underscored that national budget should be more sensitive to the needs and priorities of children for the realization of child rights and urged that there is an urgent need to address the child rights from the perspective of social inclusion and mainstreaming of the issues and concerns of children at risk to the development planning and practice in the country from local to national level in all sectors. The Round Table reaffirmed that there is an urgent need to reach extremely poor, marginalized and socially excluded children, especially girl child in the society and children with different abilities. Priority should be given to help protect the lives of children living in poverty and ensure their basic human rights by strengthening their family livelihood and social safety nets.

In order to address these issues the Round Table made the following recommendations:

- Respect, recognize and fulfill “children as citizen” in all sphere of society
- Make post 2015 and periodic plans with and for children to SUCCESS
- Review and make a comprehensive child rights act in line with national policy on children-
- Allocate more resources to ensuring fundamental rights of each children and their parents “a separate child sector” in each periodic, sectorial, district and local level plans
- Ensure access to quality basic services “provisions, protection, preventions and participation” without any discrimination to any child
- Review the roles of different CR authorities and committees –

minimize the numbers with strong mandates and resources and expand the mandated CR authorities up to VDC/school level

- More engagement and mandates to local government – localization of child rights and child protection issues with central funding in promoting child friendly schools, VDCs and DDCs
- Institutionalize the child participation from central to local level including strengthening local institutions like child clubs for social mobilization and monitoring of child rights situation
- Strengthen collaboration between I/NGOs, UN Agencies and Government authorities collectively for better enabling environment and opportunities for children
- Address child protection issues comprehensively & eradicate all forms of violence , abuse, neglect, exploitation & child labour& penalize perpetrators

The special guest of the session Mr. Upendra Adhikari started his valedictory remarks by thanking the organizers for conducting this Round Table and he appreciated its success. He expressed his commitment on behalf of GoN that 'Recommendations of the Round Table' will be implemented and 'policies and practices' will be revised in necessary. He appreciated the organization and coordination of this conference saying that it was timely and the themes discussed in all sessions were highly relevant. He thanked the presenters, experts and participants for their enthusiastic participation and outstanding deliberations.

Mr. Adhikari stated that ever since Nepal signed UN Child Rights Convention in 1990 efforts have been made to improve the childcare, child protection and development services in the country and that this Round Table has been valuable to raise awareness and to consolidate the government's efforts. He also said that this has opened door to strengthen partnership with national and international development organizations and I/NGOs in order to ensure children's safety and increase opportunities for their development.

Member Secretary of the Organizing Committee and the National Director of SOS Children's Villages Nepal first highlighted the importance of the Round Table saying that it is a symbolic of open, honest and intimate discussions among like-minded people that is more likely yields better understanding among the participants to come to a conclusion. He therefore asked everyone not to make 'Round Table' a political

buzzword only.

Mr. Pradhananga expressed that the topic 'Millennium Development and Children' itself is significant and implementation of its 'Recommendations and Declarations' will have a great socio-economic impact in the country. He also declared that outcomes of the Round Table (i.e. recommendations) will be shared in the international forums and suggested that this must be made an agenda to discuss in the parliament of Nepal.

Mr. Pradhananga thanked all experts, participants, presenters; especially volunteers from SOS Nepal for making the Round Table a great success. He echoed that such events must take place frequently as they strengthen inter and intra organizational cooperation and collaboration to work for children and needy people in the country

Recommendation and Declaration

Background

The Round Table on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Children (referred to as “the Round Table” thereafter), held on 26-27 July 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal, was jointly organized by Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, ActionAid International Nepal and SOS Children’s Village Nepal. It brought together over 120 stakeholders from across Nepal including government officials, international organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, I/NGOs, universities and academia, and youth organizations.

The Round Table was convened to provide a forum where Government policy makers, international organizations, institutions working on child rights and child protection, civil society representatives, academics and experts could share experiences and ideas. The overarching aim was to assess, document and analyze existing policies, plans, priorities, progresses and challenges of development efforts in achieving the MDGs in Nepal from a child rights perspective as well as to explore and recommend the most feasible approach, methodology, and mechanism for mainstreaming children’s rights and child development programs into the national development agenda. Other priorities including periodic plans and sectoral policies to achieve the (post) MDGs and, as an immediate result, to contribute to the global discourse on post MDGs agenda and also feed into the thirteen periodic plan of the country. The outcomes and recommendations of the Round Table will also feed into

further discussions within the UN towards developing the possible contours of the post-2015 development agenda. 34% of the global population is children. Without engaging and working with them, any development efforts would not be successfully implemented.

Context

Nepal is one of the first 20 countries being the state party of the UN-CRC in 1990 and is obligatory to respect, promote and fulfill children's rights to life and survival, development, protection and participation. After ratification of the UNCRC, Nepal has already made two 10-years National Program of Action (NPA) for Children (the first one in 1992 for 1992 to 2002 and another one in 2004 up to 2014). Similarly, several laws policies, laws and regulations were enacted to harmonize in line with the UNCRC. Nepal has also shown its commitment towards children through its periodic plans. The recent national policy on children reiterates the political commitment of the state made in different international instruments including UNCRC.

In the national perspectives of the child rights, the achievement in few goals and indicators of the MDGs are remarkable, however, it is not yet satisfactory. There are failures and successes, best practices and lessons learned of MDGs in our context as well. Burden of child labour, child marriage and children in armed conflict have been gradually being reduced. Social awareness on the rights of children and children's participation in their issues and concerns has been raised immensely in our society during the period of last 13 and half years. However, understanding and application of child rights and child protection is yet an unfinished agenda in our country and elsewhere.

Without the collective efforts and collaboration among stakeholders including: i) government and local bodies, ii) community workers and other volunteers, iii) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including national non-governmental organizations and CBOs, iv) private sector, v) political activists, vi) media, and vii) academia (teachers & researchers) together with children and their associations to be more accountable and responsive towards children and their needs, MDGs including the Post-MDGs would not be achieved in the least developed countries like Nepal.

Nepal with 47% child population, globally known as population dividend, has one of the highest malnutrition rates globally, with over 41 percent of children suffering from chronic under-nourishment, particularly in rural areas. More than a third of Nepal's 12.6 million children -the founda-

tion for tomorrow's parents and leaders - live below the national poverty line.' Nepal's children suffer from severe malnutrition, have inadequate access to schooling, and are deprived of at least two of the seven basic human needs. Though, Nepal has made an incredible progress in achieving MDGs target especially in universal primary education and child mortality even after the decade long violent conflict in the country. Despite these significant achievements and progress made in past decades, Nepal yet has to do a lot more to make our children free from all forms of exploitation, abuse, violence, discrimination and injustice. Many thousands children are out of parental care and family support system.

As a conventional and caste based society, most of children are brought up under the belief of traditions and superstitious norms and values. In consequence, many children die before the age of five due to malnutrition and preventive diseases and those who survive also have to come across with different types of exploitation and discrimination. This is particularly very serious among children of the marginalized and Dalit Communities of society.

Remarkable progress has been made in improving access across all levels of education. However, there are many challenges ahead in terms of equity and quality of education and levels of learning achievement. In particular, considerable attention is needed to improve youth and adult literacy and skill oriented education services. Despite good progress in the areas of poverty reduction, children of poor and marginalized groups including children at risk hardly could make a difference in the areas of survival, development and protection. Finally there is the political and social argument for investing in children. The lack of public investment in children may prevent children from poorer sections of society to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and thus remain in severe poverty. Such a situation will result in high levels of inequality which will continue to weaken social cohesion and the nation's stability. This can eventually undermine the process of consolidation of democracy.

Dual citizens from education and family set up, rural urban development gaps, weak child rights and child protection mechanism, poor local and national governance and accountability system, corruption and poor rule of law system that jeopardize the implementation of child rights need to be highlighted.

Vision And Principles

The Round Table reaffirmed that the rights of children including their access to quality education is a basic human right for every person, a

public good for all societies, an essential condition for human fulfillment, sustainable development, peace and democracy, and an important vehicle for global citizenship.

The Round Table highlighted that we are not manufacturing products; we are creating enabling conditions for children and young people to grow and develop their potential to contribute to social justice and democratic transformation in Nepal.

The Round Table emphasized that the public education system should enable and empower every child to address the social, political and economic struggles of people living in poverty and marginalized people. Education should build competency among all children with appropriate knowledge, skills, attitude and values for the 21st century namely learning to know, learning to be, learning to do and learning to live together.

The Round Table acknowledged the outcomes and recommendations of the Regional Thematic Consultation in the Asia-Pacific on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda held on 28 February and 1 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand which provided an emphasis on quality learning for all and highlighted the root causes of disparities, not only in terms of access to quality education but also of learning outcomes and the participation of children in education, that should be seriously addressed and need to be featured prominently across all education-related goals, targets and indicators in the future development agenda.

The Round Table emphasized that vigorous efforts are needed to combat all forms of violence against children in the family, at school and at the work place through measures such as child-friendly schools, child friendly cities and child friendly governance, better enforcement of child labour laws, and a culture of non-violence in society as a whole.

The Round Table underscored that the national budget should be more sensitive to the needs and priorities of children for the realization of child rights.

The Round Table urged that there is an urgent need to address child rights from the perspective of social inclusion and mainstream the issues and concerns of children at risk into development planning and practice in the country from local to national level in all sectors.

The Round Table reaffirmed that there is an urgent need to reach extremely poor, marginalized and socially excluded children, especially girl children in society and children with different abilities. Priority should be given to help protect the lives of children living in poverty and ensure their basic human rights by strengthening their family livelihood and so-

cial safety nets.

Family and community also have a responsibility towards the realization of child Rights

Key Strategies

- Guarantee that a rights-based approach is institutionalized in constitutions, national laws and increase the budget for child protection agencies
- Ensure child participation in decision making at all levels and in all sectors related to children and young people
- Ensure that health care services are accessible and sensitive to children and young people including SRH
- Make quality education accessible, relevant and practical to children's daily lives and digital economy
- Provide equal access for each young person to decent work and economic opportunities
- Prioritize children of marginalized groups and people living below the poverty line

Recommendations

In view of the above, the Round Table made the following recommendations:

A. Planning and Policies on Children

1. Multi-Sectoral Coordination should be ensured for planning and implementing child centric programs and policies.
2. Make post 2015 and periodic plans with and for children to SUCCESS (SUCCEED?)
3. Allocate more resources to ensure fundamental rights of each child and their parents "a separate child sector" in each periodic, sectoral, district and local level plans
4. Ensure access to quality basic services "provisions, protection, preventions and participation" without any discrimination to any child
5. Review the roles of different CR authorities and committees – minimize the numbers with strong mandates and resources and expand the mandated CR authorities up to VDC/school level
6. More engagement and mandates to local government – localization of child rights and child protection issues with central funding in promoting child friendly schools, VDCs and DDCs
7. Institutionalize child participation from central to local level including strengthening local institutions like child clubs for social mobilization and monitoring of child rights situation

B. Education

1. Make a mandatory provision for public servants to send their children to public schools
2. Quality of Education should be enhanced by promoting rights in schools, derived from core human rights treaties and conventions and echoed in the national constitution.
3. Basic education is a basic right that should not be regulated by profit-making private institutions.
4. School social audit should be conducted to promote the integrity of data systems.
5. SMCs and HMCs should be accountable
6. Equitable and inclusive access to quality learning should be ensured for all (children, youth and adults). Attention should be paid to mainstream the education of children with special needs. Policies guaranteeing educational provision need to begin with early childhood care and education and go beyond primary schooling.
7. Education reforms should aim to transform schools into learning hubs. This requires the education sector to engage and work with other sectors.
8. Education systems should reflect and welcome the diversity of the social fabric and aim to achieve social cohesion by doing so. Therefore, education systems should be able to cater to multiple needs and circumstances by promoting flexibility and respect for diversity so as to achieve minimum, essential core standards of quality and achievement and a maximum level of inclusiveness.

C. Child Health

1. HMCs should be accountable
2. The number of health posts should be increased in hilly regions, more focused at ward level
3. The number of health practitioners should be increased in Terai based on population
4. Increase Skilled birth attendance in order to address the issue of Neonatal death rate
5. Promote the culture of delivery in Health posts/hospitals
6. Man should make accountable towards children's health
7. Bring about an integrated program on School health and nutrition in order to improve the intra-household food security
8. Recruit timely- health practitioners.

D. Child Protection

1. Develop the Rights-Based Child Protection Policy, especially focused on Social Inclusion
2. Set National Minimum Standards on Child Protection
3. Restructure and Strengthen National Mechanisms to End Impunity and Enhance Child Protection System
4. Develop Child-Friendly Environment Everywhere
5. Strengthen Inter-Agency Co-operation
6. Strengthen Community and School Based Child Protection System-create safety net in community
7. Strengthen Children's Participation through their Clubs and Groups
8. Strengthen National Mechanisms for Monitoring the Child Protection System

E. Investment

1. Investment on Social Sectors should be increased with more focus on child rights
2. Ensure proper investment and utilization of resources to fill the existing gaps, especially in the area of child protection
3. Investment should be focused on ensuring quality of services,
4. Socially excluded and marginalized children should be given the foremost priority in the national investments.
5. Ensure strategic growth investment plan is in place and investments are made accordingly
6. Ensure accountability and transparency across all sectors and at all levels
7. Foster meaningful children's participation in investment plan and implementation
8. Regular Monitoring and Evaluation of Investment should be ensured
9. Investment on systematic value education should be promoted

Contributors

Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya is Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission. He was former Senior Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Finance and former Secretary in Nepalese government, with over 30 years of international policy and planning accomplishments leading to highest ranking non-elected professional and civil servant post in His Majesty's Government. Experience in development planning and administration including regional planning; development finance and public policy; international economic relations; agricultural and rural development; poverty alleviation and employment; decentralization and social mobilization; human resource development and labor issues; and industry, trade and investment. Consulting with United Nations, including UNESCAP, and other non-governmental organizations. Director and Board Chairman of several banks. Member of Nepalese delegations to numerous national/regional/international conferences. Expert in regional and international conferences/seminars/workshops such as UNESCAP Annual Sessions, Colombo Plan Consultative Committee Meetings, International Conference on Population and Development Preparatory Committee Meeting, ILO Employment Planner's Meeting, Meetings of South Asia Planning Agencies' Representatives and Conferences on poverty alleviation.

He had earlier served as Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Secretary, Administrative Reform Monitoring Committee, Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment, including appointments as Member-Secretary of both the Prime Minister's Environment Protection Council and his Population Committee, Member-Secretary, National Planning Commission and Member-Secretary, National Development Council, Secretary, Public Service Commission, Chairman, National Computer Development Com-

mittee, National Computer Center, Planning Commission Project jointly sponsored by UNDP/World Bank/ILO/HMG/N, Kathmandu.

He has served as an International consultant in economic policy and planning, regional development, etc. Clients include Colombo Plan, DFID, GTZ, ILO, OECD, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNESCAP, World Bank and others (Price water house Coopers and other INGOs).

He has earned Ph.D. (Economics) from University of Bombay, India and Post-graduate Diploma in Regional Development Planning, Settlement Study Center, Rehovot, Israel and MA (Public Policy & Administration), University of Wisconsin - Madison, Wisconsin and M.A. (Economics), Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal.

H.E. **Mr. Ahmad Saleem** is Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Ms. Hanaa Singer is UNICEF representative in Nepal. She has been serving in UNICEF for over 20 years both in the areas of development and humanitarian fields. She had served in Kazakhstan from August 2008 to 2011. Prior to that, she has served as the UNICEF representative in Azerbaijan July 2004- August 2008; Regional emergency advisor for CEE/CIS region based in Geneva 2001- July 2004; Deputy representative Haiti; Deputy Representative and Officer in Charge of UNICEF Burundi 99 –2000; Officer in Charge of Maldives country office 96-98; National officer Egypt RCD 1990-96. In addition to the above she was engaged in academic teaching and research in political sociology and international relations in the American university in Cairo, Sadat's academy for management sciences and the faculty of political science. Ms. Singer is a national of Egypt. She obtained both her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science in 1983 and her Master's Degree in Sociology/Anthropology in 1990 from the American University of Cairo. She also holds a diploma in "Planning and Management of Decentralised Studies" from Bradford University in 1992.

Kul Chandra Gautam is a former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. He is a seasoned diplomat, public policy expert and peace advocate. He has extensive experience in international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. He led global policy formulation and advocacy on issues related to the rights and well-being of women and children, including at the historic World Summit for Children (1990), UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (2002) and on matters related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Currently, he serves on the Boards of a number of

international and national foundations and charitable organizations dealing with public health, education, child rights and international cooperation. (See www.kulgautam.org for more information).

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Governor Nepal Rastra Bank & Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission

Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal, Member Secretary, National Planning Commission. He had served as Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Member-Secretary, Administrative Restructuring Commission Nepal 2008, Int'l Provincial Budgeting Advisor, UNDP/Making Budget and Aid Works Project, Ministry of Finance, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Land Reforms and Management, Government of Nepal. He had also served as Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Nepal, Consul General, Nepalese Consulate General, Kolkata, India, Joint Secretary (Budget and Program Division), Ministry of Finance, Joint Secretary, Ministry of General Administration. His areas of professional expertise are Fiscal and Budgetary tasks, Development Planning and Management, Decentralization and Local Governance, Gender and Development, Human Resources Management; and Administrative Reforms. He had earned Master of Science (Regional Development Planning & Management), 1996, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand (Gold medalist), -Graduate Diploma (Regional Development Planning & Management), 1995, Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany and Master of Arts (Political Science), 1983, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He had Participated in over 60 diverse professional training and workshops in different countries. He has very extensive research, policy and issue papers are written covering specialized areas published from Nepal and abroad. He had served in various committees and commissions including Member-Secretary, UN-DAF, Nepal/UNDP 2011-12, Board Member, Poverty Alleviation Fund, Member-Secretary, National Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committee, National Planning Commission, Member Secretary, Social Protection Steering Committee, Member-Secretary, National Commission on Freed Bonded Laborers and Member of National Land-use Council. He had also served in different Boards of Government of Nepal.

Gauri Pradhan is a Commissioner (Member) and Spokesperson in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He is trained in Management and International Law, Human Rights and Child Rights, and Conflict Management. He is Founder President of CWIN Nepal, Founder Member of Global March against Child Labor and Secretary General and Founder Member of Friends for Peace. He has served as a National

Chairperson in Central Child Welfare Board from 2003 to 2005, National President in Human Rights Alliance from 2001 to 2003 and NGO Federation of Nepal from 2000 to 2002.

Dr. Bal Gopal Baidya is the current Chairman of the Board of New ERA, a prestigious Nepalese research institution. He is also a former Member of the National Planning Commission of Nepal where he served from 1991-1994 and 1995-1997. At NPC he was responsible for the social sector. During his tenure at NPC social sector expenditure increased from about 16 percent to 22 percent of the national budget. Dr. Baidya received Ph.D. in Economics from the University of the Philippines in 1986. He has served as a member of several high level committees and boards of national level institutions

Dr. Suniti Acharya is Former Representative, WHO Representative in Bangladesh, Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Village, Nepal. She is a paediatrician and public health specialist. She obtained her MBBS degree from India, DCH from London and MPH from Tulane University, USA. Apart from working as Medical officer in Various hospitals in U.K and Nepal, she worked as Consultant in Kanti Childrens Hospital in Nepal from 1973 till 1979. She joined Integrated community health development of the MOH in 1980 and worked in National Public Health Programmes in such as FP/MCH, Epidemiology and Immunization. Her contribution in Public Health was in expanding National immunization programme to all 75 districts of Nepal. between 1985 -90. She also served as Chief of Health Policy Planning and International cooperation division in the MOH between 1991-93 and was instrumental in bringing the first National Health Policy of Nepal in 1991. She joined WHO South east Asia Regional office in 1993 as Regional Advisor in Maternal and Child Health, advised and provided Technical support to the governments of 11 South east Asian countries' including Nepal till 2000. She was promoted to WHO Country Representative in Bangladesh in improving Health of the people of Bangladesh till 2005. Currently she is working in Nepal as Executive Director of Center for Health Policy Research and Dialogue (CHPRD), member of High level Policy Advisory Committee (HIPAC) of Ministry of Health (MOH) and visiting Professor at Institute of Medicine, T.U Kathmandu Nepal. She is also working as Temporary advisor to WHO as one of the Member of WHO Regional Polio Eradication Certification Commission and will have will have the opportunity to be involved in certifying South East Asia Region Polio Free in February 2014. She has attended National and international conferences as a resource person. She has published scien-

tific papers in national and international journals.

Bhola Prasad Dahal is Governance Advisor in Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu. He has worked with Embassy of Finland, Save the Children, and Nepal Red Cross Society and has been teaching in different colleges and universities since 1985. He is currently doing PhD from Kathmandu University, School of Education; he has done Master's Degree in Sociology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 1999, Master's Degree in Management (Business Administration) from Tribhuvan University, Nepal 1994. He has been involved in various child protection research work and evaluation programs.

Bhola Prasad Dahal is Governance Advisor in Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu. He has worked with Embassy of Finland, Save the Children, and Nepal Red Cross Society and has been teaching in different colleges and universities since 1985. He is currently doing PhD from Kathmandu University, School of Education; he has done Master's Degree in Sociology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 1999, Master's Degree in Management (Business Administration) from Tribhuvan University, Nepal 1994. He has been involved in various child protection research work and evaluation programs.

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stitute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. Earlier he was Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. He was also the Regional Director at Mid-Western and Western Region Directorate of Public Service Commission. He had also served as Under Secretary and chief Population Policy and Research, Ministry of Health and Population. He had attended several training programs and workshops from national and international institutions. He had also attended several regional and international seminars and conferences including Ministerial level Conference in ICPD /POA and MDGs, Wuhan, China and Regional Seminar on Enhancing Social Services Policies to Strengthen Family Wellbeing in Asia and The Pacific, Organized by UN ESCAP, Macao, China.

Marc Vincent, Office In-charge, ROSA, Chief Regional Planning and Program, UNICEF, Regional Office for South Asia. Marc Vincent is the Regional chief of Programme and Planning for UNICEF. Today he is representing the Regional Director for South Asia. As regional chief of Planning and Programmes his role is to support UNICEF Country offices in the region in the development and strategic positioning of their country programmes. The Regional Office for South Asia covers eight countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Marc has worked for the United Nations in a variety of capacities including the Chief Human Rights Officer in Sudan. He has also worked for High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. He has worked in Rwanda, Burundi, Former Yugoslavia, Sudan and Cambodia.

Dr. Awasthi is the Director General of the Department of Education in Nepal. Dr. Lava Deo Awasthi, Director General, Department of Education

Born on 14 October 1959 in the district of Baitadi in the Far Western Region of Nepal, Dr Lava Deo Awasthi earned school education from his home district in 1975. Dr Awasthi gained a B Ed Degree in 1979 and an MA in Humanities and Social Sciences (in English Literature) in 1983 from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. He did an MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL in 1989 from England, UK and a PhD on Exploring Monolingual School Practices in Multilingual Nepal from the Danish University of Education, Copenhagen, Denmark in 2004.

Dr Awasthi started his career as a school teacher in his home district. He has gained a wide range of experience and expertise while working in different capacities for more than 30 years. He has already worked with the Social Welfare Council, District Education Office, Curriculum

Development Centre, Higher Secondary Education Board, National Centre for Educational Development, Basic and Primary Education Project and Department of Education/ Ministry of Education, Government of Nepal. Dr Awasthi has also served as the Joint Secretary, heading the Panning Division, Educational Management Division and Monitoring Division in the Ministry of Education. At present,

In addition, Dr Awasthi has headed many committees and has accomplished important assignments, commissioned by the Government of Nepal. He was directly involved in preparing Nepal's educational reform plans and sector-wide programmes, and national policy papers. He has presented papers and delivered talks in a number of national and international forums and conferences. He has taught in a number of university campuses and is currently a Visiting Faculty in Kathmandu University and Tribhuvan University of Nepal. He has authored many books and articles in education and development; language and pedagogy; medium of instruction; mother tongue teaching, research methodologies; oriental and western cosmologies; ethnic relations and indigenous knowledge systems. He has conducted research with focus on diversity education; social inclusion; language, power and pedagogy; rights and resources; cosmologies and cultures; equity and social justice etc.

Dr. Bhavani Dhungana is an economist and has work experience both at national and international levels. He is Former Officer UNSCAP in Bangkok, Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Village, Nepal. After completing his education at graduate and post graduate levels in Nepal, India, Philippines and the United States, Dr. Dhungana joined Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA), a policy research and training institute under the Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He had also served as an Advisor to Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal, and Executive Director of the Industrial Services Centre (a public sector undertaking of the Government of Nepal). He undertook several research activities on different aspects of Nepalese economy and socioeconomic-development perspectives for Nepal.

Dr. Dhungana joined United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand in March 1983 and worked in areas of industrial and technological development, trade promotion, investment, private sector development, and enterprise promotion in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific. His special focus had been in advising and assisting governments in policy formulations and institution building for strengthening national capabilities for industrial growth and technological up gradation in

least developed economies and countries in transition towards market-oriented approach. After retiring from UNESCAP, Dr. Dhungana briefly served as Advisor to the Nepal Government/ World Bank Project in Nepal on Poverty Alleviation (PAF). Till recently he was working as a Senior Economic advisor to Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal. Dr. Dhungana worked as an International Consultant for an EU-WTO project on Building Trade Capacity in Nepal. He is also involved in providing technical advices in training programmes and institution building and poverty reduction measures including achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) both for the public and private sector agencies.

Dr. Teertha Dhakal is Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat (NPCS), has a Ph.D in Education (Development Studies) from Kathmandu University and MSc in Project Planning and Management from University of Bradford, UK. Dr. Dhakal has over 20 years' experience in the government where he has been doing substantial work in internalizing results-based management approaches in the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes. He has also gained experiences on the issues of child health and education during his engagement designing the School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP), facilitating MDG progress reports and needs assessment exercises and also coordinating Child Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) framework in 2011-12 in the capacity of NPD of Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP).

Keshab Bhakta Mathema, Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand, Former President of Rotary Club of Patan.

Padma Raj Bhatta, Director General, Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare. He had served as a Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population. Earlier he had served as a Finance Controller, Treasury Controller and Under Secretary (Accounts) in different District Offices, Departments, and Ministries in Government of Nepal. He has a Masters in Public Administration and Master of Arts in Economics.

Tarak Dhital is Executive Director, Central Child Welfare Board, Government of Nepal. He was Spokesperson and General Secretary of CWIN-Nepal, a pioneer child rights organization, his main areas of work are child rights advocacy. He is a trainer, facilitator and resource person for inter-agency policy advocacy and for the child related issues at national level. At grass-root level, he has worked extensively in social mobilization and child participation. He has authored several books

including 'Decade of CRC Ratification: Implementation of Commitments and Achievements', 'Children's Rights and Responsibilities', 'Child Friendly School', 'Conflict and Children: Role of Child Protection Committee', 'Children as Zone of Peace: A Training Manual', 'New Nepal & Child Rights', 'Child Rights in New Constitution' and others. He has served as a member of CRC National Periodic Report Drafting Committee with Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, member of drafting committee for national plan of action for the reintegration of children affected by armed conflict in Nepal with Ministry of Peace & Reconstruction and founder or member of many other Task Forces, Working Groups, and Networks of Government agencies, UN agencies, I/NGOs those are related to child rights. He has served as a consultant for UN agencies, I/NGOs, GOs on various works related to child rights including formation or amendment of child related laws, develop plans and policies, design & organize workshops training seminars, publish IEC materials, evaluation and monitoring etc.

Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen, Program Manager, Plan Nepal. He has work experience in Research/Training/Development/ Management fields. Before joining Plan Nepal, he had worked in Ministry of Agriculture: sponsored by FAO/World Bank. Consultant for Asian Development Bank as an Agriculture specialist Minor Crops Development Project Department of Agriculture (Research Officer/Executive Director), LARC-ODA (Agronomy Head), FAO (Agriculture specialist), ICIMOD (consultant). National Consultant for Agricultural Extension and Marketing Project- He has earned Ph.D. from Reading University (UK), 1992 in Transfer of Technology: Through Group Approach and M.Sc. also from Reading University (UK) in Agricultural Extension/Rural Sociology.

Tap Raj Pant is National Programme Officer, UNESCO Office in Kathmandu. Born in Nepal, Mr. Pant holds a M.A. degree in Mathematics, a M Ed. degree in Education Planning and Management from Tribhuvan University, Nepal and a M. Phil in Education (2003) from Danish University of Education, Denmark. Mr. Pant has worked in Ministry of Education Nepal for 12 years in various capacities as school supervisor, section officer and District education officer in several districts. From 2005 Mr Pant is working as Chief of Education section in UNESCO Office in Kathmandu. As an Education Specialist, Mr. Pant acquired widespread national and international expertise, coordination, networking and overall programmatic management and delivery skills.

Mohan Raj Sharma is a Member, Executive Committee, Social Welfare Council. He did his Post Graduate Study in Regional Integrated Rural Development Planning from Settlement Study Center (SSC) Rehovot Israel. He also has Master's Degree in Business Administration and Commerce (MBA) from Institute of Management, Tribhuvan University. He has served both national and UN agencies in different capacities. He was Public Information Officer in the UN Mission for Liberia, Senior Programme Coordinator in the Improvement of the Situation of Child Labourer (ISCL) Project, Senior Planning Advisor at UNDP – Participatory District Development Planning (PDDP) in the Mid Western Region, Planning Advisor at UNDP's Decentralized Support Programme (DSP) for Mid Western Region, Developing Planning Specialist at UNDP's programme in Strengthening Decentralization Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in the Coordinator's Office at Rapti Integrated Rural Development Project. He had carried study on Humla District Profile as a team member. He has expertise in strategic planning, project design, monitoring and evaluation, project management, Decentralization and Governance and Participatory Planning.

Nupur Bhattacharya, Member of General Assembly, SOS Children's Village, Nepal

Madhav Pradhan is currently President of CWIN. He has conducted various research projects on issues of children's rights and child protection. For the past two decades, he has been working towards these causes in various capacities within CWIN. He had been a taskforce member on Child Participation of Aflatoun, Child Social Protection and Education. He is a governing board member of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and as Chairperson of Child Care Homes Network Nepal (CNET-Nepal).

Shree Shankar Pradhananga is National Director of SOS Children's Villages Nepal; he has been with SOS since last 30 years. He has Master's Degree in Business Administration and Commerce. His experience includes working with Rastriya Banijya Bank from 1975 to 1980. He is a Member of Bhaktapur Rotary since last four years. He is a Board Member of Shiddhi Memorial Foundation since last eight years and life member of Nepal Cancer Society.

Shubhendra Man Shrestha is Education and Youth Program Coordinator, ActioAid International Nepal. He has worked as National Coordinator in National Coalition for Children as Zones of Peace and Child Protection (CZOPP). He had also worked as a Researcher in Fo-

rum for Protection of People's Rights (PPR Nepal) and Social Worker in Central Jail-Bhadra Bandi Griha, Kathmandu and Social Worker Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office (KMC), Social Welfare Department. He has a Masters in Conflict, Peace and Development Studies (MA CPDS). He has a training in Child Protection System Mapping and Assessment.

Dr. Biniv Maskay, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Economics, Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. He is an empirical macroeconomist with research interests in economic growth and development, open-economy monetary policy, financial development, international financial integration, international trade and foreign direct investments. He received his Ph.D. in 2012 from the University of Kentucky where he also served as the Instructor of Record. He has taught courses such as Principle of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Statistics for Business and Economics, Money and Banking and International Economics.

Ishowari Prasad Sharma is Village Director of SOS Childerens Villages Kavre.

Cisil Ann Shrestha is Communications and Resource Mobilisation officer at ActionAid International Nepal.

Programme

July 26, 2013
Registration 12:00 – 01:30pm

Inaugural Session 02:00 – 03:30pm

National Anthem

Welcome Address

Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay
Chairman, Organizing Committee &
President, SOS Children's Villages Nepal

Inauguration of the Round Table on MDG and Children by lighting the Panus
By Chief Guest, **Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya**
Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission

Address

Ms. Hanaa Singer
Representative, UNICEF Nepal

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Saleem
Secretary General
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Key Note Address

Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam
Former Assistant Secretary General United Nations (UN)
Former Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF, New York

Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest

Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya
Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Address from the Chair

Mr. Upendra Adhikari
Acting Secretary
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Coffee Break: 03:30 – 04:00pm

Photo Session

04:00 – 06:00pm

**First Plenary Session I
Experience and Way Forward**

Chair

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada

Governor Nepal Rastra Bank &
Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission

Policy and Planning for MDG and Children

Strategies for Post 2015 Development Agenda

Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal

Governance Advisor, Norwegian Embassy in Nepal

Millennium Development Goals and Child Health

Dr. Suniti Acharya

Former Representative
WHO Representative in Bangladesh,
Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal

Millennium Development Goals and Children's Education

Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal

Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal

Child Protection System in Nepal

Issues and Challenges

Mr. Gauri Pradhan

Commissioner
National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC)

Investment in Children

Dr. Bal Gopal Vaidhya

Former Member, National Planning Commission

Interaction from the floor

Synthesis of the Session by the Chairman

Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada

Governor Nepal Rastra Bank &
Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission

06:00 – 08:00

Reception Dinner

Hosted in Honor of the Participants

July 27, 2013

09:00 – 10:00

Plenary Session II

Theme: Regional Perspectives and Experiences

Chairman

Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal

Member Secretary, National Planning Commission

Speakers

Mr. Marc Vincent

Office In-charge, ROSA

Chief Regional Planning and Program

UNICEF, Regional Office for South Asia

Dr. Lava Deo Awasthi

Director General

Department of Education

Synthesis of the Session by the Chairman

Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal

Member Secretary, National Planning Commission

10:30 to 12:00

Concurrent Session I - III

Concurrent Session I

Theme: Post MDG, Child Health and Education

Chairman

Dr. Teertha Dhakal

Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission

Resource Person

Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal

Governance Advisor, Norwegian Embassy in Nepal

Dr. Suniti Acharya

Former Representative

WHO Representative in Bangladesh,

Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal

Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal

Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal

Panelist

Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen

Program Manager, Plan Nepal

Tap Raj Pant

Program Officer, UNESCO, Nepal

Interaction from the floor

Synthesis of the Concurrent Session by the Chairman

Dr. Teertha Dhakal

Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission

Concurrent Session - II

Theme: Child Protection System in Nepal

Chairman

Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema

Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand

Former President of Rotary Club of Patan

Resource Persons

Mr. Gauri Pradhan

Commissioner

National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC)

Panelist

Mohan Raj Sharma

Member, Executive Committee

Social Welfare Council

Ms. Nupur Bhattacharya

Member of General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal

Interaction from the floor

Synthesis of the Session by the Chairman

Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema

Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand

Former President of Rotary Club of Patan

Concurrent Session - III

Theme: Investment in Children

Chairman

Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta

Director General

Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Resource Person

Dr. Bal Gopal Vaidya

Former Member, National Planning Commission

Panelist

Shubhendra Man Shrestha
Education and Youth Program Coordinator
ActioAid International Nepal

Mr. Shree Shankar Pradhananga
National Director, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal

Mr. Madhav Pradhan
President, C-Net Nepal

Interaction from the floor

Synthesis of the Session by the Chairman
Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta
Director General
Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare

12:00 – 01:00

Lunch Break

01:00 – 03:00

Concurrent I, II, III continues

03:00 to 04:30

Plenary Session III

Theme: Synthesis and Recommendation of Concurrent Sessions I-III

Chairman

Dr. Bhavani Dhungana
Former Officer UNSCAP in Bangkok
Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal

Presentation of Synthesis and Recommendation of Concurrent Sessions I-II-III
Resource Person

Resource Person

Dr. Teertha Dhakal
Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission
Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema
Former UNICEF Representative for China, Philippines and Thailand

Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta
Director General
Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Panelist

Mr. Tarak Dhital
Executive Director, Central Child Welfare Board, Government of Nepal

Synthesis of the Session by the Chairman

Dr. Bhavani Dhungana

Former Officer UNSCAP in Bangkok

Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal

04:30 – 05:00

Tea Break

05:00 – 06:00

Valedictory Session

Chairman

Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay

Chairman, Organizing Committee &

President, SOS Children's Villages Nepal

Co-chairman

Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal

Chairman of the Drafting Committee

Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal

Synthesis of the Round Table

Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay

Chairman, Organizing Committee &

President, SOS Children's Villages Nepal

Presentation of Draft Recommendation and Declaration

Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal

Chairman of the Drafting Committee

Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal

Address by

Valedictory Address

Mr. Upendra Adhikary

Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Shree Shankar Pradhananga

Member Secretary

Organizing Committee

Hi-tea Refreshment

06:00 – 07:00pm

List of Participants

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Glossary

Accountability

Obligation of government, public services or funding agencies to demonstrate to citizenships that contracted work has been conducted in compliance with agreed rules and standards or to report fairly and accurately on performance results vis-à-vis mandated roles and/or plans.

Action Plan

A detailed statement of specific steps to be taken in the implementation of a strategy.

Advocacy

Advocacy is speaking up and taking action on behalf of all children who have lost their parents or whose parents are not able to care for them alone. Successful advocacy, based on our experience as a practitioner, leads to sustainable changes that ensure these children can fully enjoy their rights, in a supportive environment.

Alternative (child) care

Alternative (child) care or out-of-home (child) care refers to a temporary or permanent full-time arrangement where a child is looked after (night and day) by a caregiver other than his or her parents. There are a range of alternative childcare options including those that are informal (for example, care by family members, neighbours or friends) and those that are formal (for example, formal foster care or family-based care).

Audit

An objective and systematic review of activities, systems, procedures, transactions and controls of an organization which is carried out in accordance

with generally accepted common auditing standards. An audit provides feedbacks and recommendations to the management of an organization in respect of the effective management, economic use of resources; soundness, adequacy and application of financial and operational systems, procedures and internal controls, compliance of financial transactions and other procedures with established rules, regulations and instructions, the regularity of the receipts, custody, expenditure, accounting and reporting of resources, and the conformity of expenditure against authorized funds.

Baseline

The situation before the intervention

Benchmark

A reference point or standard against which to assess performance or achievements or an intermediate target to measure progress in a given period using certain indicators. A benchmark may refer to achievements by comparable organisations. In the quality sense, a benchmark should be an organisation or process considered to be “best in practice”.

Beneficiary

A beneficiary is a child, family member, or community member who participates in the social institutions. Beneficiaries are equal partners and participants in their own development.

Biological family

Family members to whom a child is biologically related i.e. birth parents, biological siblings and other relatives

Capacity

The ability of individuals and organisations to perform effectively, efficiently and in a sustainable manner.

Capacity building

It is about helping parents and carers learn everything they need to know to care for and protect their children – from organising a home to earning a living, from bonding with a child to creating a stable family life at home.

Career guidance

Services and activities intended to assist individuals, of any age and at any point throughout their lives, to make educational, vocational training and occupational choices and to manage their careers.

Child development

Child development is a child's growth on many levels: physical, emotional, intellectual, social, cultural and spiritual.

Child development plan

Child development planning is a formal and structured process to ensure quality in alternative care. It includes setting and measuring specific objectives and decisions to promote the child's abilities and development. It is usually implemented by the caregiver directly responsible for the child and supported by specialists.

Child protection

Child protection is the prevention of and response to violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse against children. Child protection includes raising awareness of child abuse and its implications, providing guidance on how to protect children from abuse, setting up and following reporting procedures, and ensuring that clear action is taken when child abuse is suspected or reported.

Children at risk of losing parental care

Children living in the parental home where risk factors limit the capacity of the parents to provide appropriate, nurturing and secure care.

Children without parental care

Children whose parents are unavailable, unable, unwilling or otherwise lack the capacity to provide appropriate, nurturing and secure care.

Child rights approach:

Sometimes referred to by its initials CRSA, this is an assessment of the situation of children in a particular country, with emphasis on children without parental care or at risk of losing it. It includes the legal, social, economic, cultural and political factors in a country that impact on children's rights. It describes factors that make children vulnerable and identifies who it is that can take action to improve the situation for children at risk.

Civil society

Refers to the sphere of autonomous associations that are independent of the public and for-profit sectors and are designed to advance collective interests and ideas

Collective Visions

Higher goals that involve moral and ethical values which are shared by many people, and can or cannot be worked together to be reached

Community

A group of people living in the same locality and sharing some common characteristics

Community-based care

Under community-based care, the community works together to provide services and support families to stay together and to provide quality care for their children.

Community-based organization (CBO)

An orderly approach to a task initiated by and owned by the community to improve the living and economic conditions of that community.

Cost effectiveness

A measurement of the relative cost needed to obtain a desired effect. A procedure is said to be cost effective if the value of its effects is greater than the cost of producing the effects.

Cooperation

Voluntarily arrangement in which two or more entities engage in a mutually beneficial exchange instead of competing. Cooperation can happen where resources adequate for both parties exist or are created by their interaction.

Diversity

Differences among people with respect to age, class, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, spiritual practice, and other human differences.

Direct essential services

The child's development needs by providing direct essential services either through respective institution's own programme, through other local organisations or by working with the community or governments to support them set up and provide these services.

Efficiency

Efficiency means achieving maximum output from a given level of resources used to carry out an activity. Efficiency means doing things "right".

Evaluation

Evaluation is an assessment - as systematic and objective as possible - of an on-going or completed project, programme, or policy. It covers its results, design and implementation.

Extended family

The term extended family refers to the wider network of family members that might include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. In some cultural contexts this may include neighbours, friends or community members who play a role in child care.

Family development plan

A structured tool to engage families in their own development and support them towards self-reliance by drawing on their strengths and competencies.

Family of origin

A family of origin is one into which the child was born and includes biological parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, or a network of extended family members.

Family strengthening

Direct essential services for children and capacity building for parents which will empower families to strengthen their capacity to provide quality care for their children with the aim of families becoming self-reliant

Family-based care

Family-based care is a form of alternative child care [see definition above] which generally takes place within an existing family and includes care arrangements such as foster care and care by extended family members.

Fellowship

Communion, as between members of the same community

Formal care

All care provided in a family environment which has been ordered or authorised by competent administrative body or judicial authority, and all care provided in a residential environment, including in private facilities, whether or not as a result of administrative or judicial measures.

Foster care

Foster care is a full-time alternative care arrangement, whereby a child is placed in the domestic environment of a family other than his or her own family.

Goal

The highest level result to which International Federation and National Societies operation intends to contribute. It is measured by impact indicators.

Holistic approach

A holistic approach to child development considers all of a child's developmental needs, including physical, emotional, cultural, social and spiritual needs.

Human Resource Development (HRD)

HR development is any process or activity that has the potential to develop work-based knowledge and skills, expertise, capacity, and satisfaction, whether for personal or group/team gain, or for the benefit of an organisation or community.

Impact

The longer term changes produced by an intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended

Implementing partners

Implementation partnership means that the project is jointly planned, budgeted, implemented, monitored, and evaluated with another organisation(s) or group, including local NGOs, local authorities, and other community-based structures.

Social Inclusion

Social inclusion is the way in which society tries to readdress the balance of everyone to be treated equally – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, language, poverty, impairment or other factors. In a socially inclusive society, all citizens feel valued and have the opportunity to participate fully in society. In a socially inclusive society, all citizens feel valued and have the opportunity to participate fully in society.

Indicator

A quantitative or qualitative, time-bound measure used to demonstrate change, it shows the extent to which programme or project hierarchical effects are being or have been achieved

Informal care

This is an alternative child care arrangement in a family environment which is provided privately without the involvement of a child welfare authority. Often, informal caregivers are relatives or friends of the family.

Institution Building

Reinforcing the institutional and administrative capacity

Institutional care

Institutional care is a full-time alternative care arrangement in an official

residential setting where groups of children (some organisations define it as more than ten) live together often in a dormitory style arrangement with common living areas

Integrity

Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code. The state of being unimpaired; soundness. The quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness

Key performance indicators

Key performance indicators define and measure progress toward organisational goals.

Leadership Development

Any activity that enhances the quality of leadership within an individual or organization. Teaching of leadership qualities, including communication, ability to motivate others, and management, to an individual who may or may not use the learned skills in a leadership position.

Life skills training

Life skills training prepares individuals to live independently and cope with challenges in their lives.

Long –term care

Long-term care refers to the duration of an alternative care placement. Some might consider six months to a year as long term, but in many cases children in long-term care will remain in care until they can live independently. Long-term care is usually for children who are not expected to return to their families and who require a new permanent alternative.

Looked after children

Children in care subject to a court order and those accommodated by a local authority.

Monitoring

Systematic and continuous collecting and analyzing of information about the progress of a piece of work over time. It is a tool for identifying strengths and weaknesses in a piece of work and for providing people responsible for work with sufficient information to make right decisions at right time to improve its quality.

Needs assessment

A needs assessment is a process that identifies the needs of an individual, community or a group of people, considering the actual and ideal situations.

Objective

A vision or image of a future situation. It is specific, time bound and measurable goal for particular aspects of a piece of work, which contribute to achieving long-term aims.

Outcome

The changes during the project period and fully delivered by the end of the project (mid-term)

Output

Tangible results of the activities of a project. The productions of outputs are under given assumptions about the context, under the control of the project management.

Parents

Biological or adoptive parents, or others with legal parental responsibility for the child.

Partners

The individuals and organizations that collaborate to achieve mutually agreed upon objectives. The concept of partnership connotes shared goals, common responsibility for outcomes, distinct accountabilities and reciprocal obligations. Partners may include governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, universities, professional and business associations, multi-lateral organizations, private companies, and so on.

Policy

A written principle or rule to guide decision making; a plan or course of action developed by government, political party, business or individual intended to influence and determine decisions, actions and other matters.

Process

A set of logically related tasks performed to achieve a defined business outcome.

Program unit

A program unit refers to the different parts of the institution's programme in a given location.

Purpose

The improved situation that an International Federation and National Societies operation is expected to contribute significantly if completed successfully and on time. It is measured by outcome indicators.

Quality care standards

A written document outlining provisions that should be in place in a care setting in order to ensure that a child receives quality care.

Quality circle

Quality circles are a central and integral part of a comprehensive quality management system. a quality circle is a small group of 5 to 10 people led by a facilitator. Co-workers from the same work field meet voluntarily on a regular basis to discuss and solve work-related problems.

Quality management system

A quality management system enables an organisation to manage performance, strengthen co-workers and develop strategies for development, instead of being in the role of reacting to alarm signals.

Research

Research is any original and systematic investigation undertaken in order to increase knowledge and understanding and to establish facts and principles

Resilience

Resilience is the strength that enables a person to adapt to challenges and recover from trauma, so that even if they have experienced difficulties or have a disadvantaged background, they are able to find fulfilment in life.

Rights-based approach

An approach that promotes and protects the rights of children, which are described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Another aspect is that this approach aims to empower poor and vulnerable people to make their own decisions and participate fully in society.

Service

An act of helpful activity (to a community)

Short-term and respite care

Short-term care provides temporary alternative care for a child separated from his/her family. Respite care is a type of short-term care where a child is placed in alternative care in order to give families a 'break' from normal life for a limited time period.

Stakeholder

A stakeholder is any person, group or organisation that is affected by or has an interest in institution's Programme or project.

Strategy

The means whereby a goal or objective achieved. Strategies are broad general statements of an approach and do not include specific details of steps to be taken.

Sustainability

The ability to maintain and improve upon the outcomes and goals achieved with external support after that support has ended.

Terms of reference

Definition of the tasks required of an individual or a group of people for a certain assignment

Youth Programme

Youth programme refers to all work with young people.

Vision

Ideal situation both within the organization and in the constituency it purports to serve. It is its “dream” of what should be.

Source:

UNDP <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/glossary/>

UNEP <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/Glossary.pdf>

UNITAR http://www.unitar.org/mdp/sites/unitar.org/mdp/files/Glossary_E.pdf

UN Security Council <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/methods/glossary.shtml>

SOS Kinderdorf International <http://design.sos-kd.org/messaging/glossary.htm>

Annotated Bibliography

Burnett, Nicholas, and Colin Felsman. 2012. "Post-2015 Education MDGs." *Washington: Results for Development Institute.*

This report has been prepared by the Results for Development Institute (R4D) with the purpose of reviewing and contributing to the evidence base concerning progress on the education Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All Goals (EFA) to 2015 and beyond. For this purpose, the evidence base comprises experience with the MDGs to date, current debates and policy developments, the aim of a post-2015 global agreement similar to the MDGs, how a global agreement might add value to national efforts, and the type of agreement that might be made, including targets and indicators. This paper on the education MDGs and EFA goals is complemented by similar work on the health MDGs.

Gauri, Varun. "MDGs that nudge: the Millennium Development Goals, popular mobilization, and the post-2015 development framework." *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6282* (2012).

The Policy Research Working Paper Series disseminates the findings of work in progress to encourage the exchange of ideas about development issues. An objective of the series is to get the findings out quickly, even if the presentations are less than fully polished. The papers carry the names

of the authors and should be cited accordingly. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank and its affiliated organizations, or those of the Executive Directors of the World Bank or the governments they represent. The Millennium Development Goals, which expire in 2015, were a global agreement to promote human development and reduce poverty. But they did not create a legalized institutional regime, in which precise obligations would be delegated to specific actors, nor were they, in many respects, compatible with the incentives of the countries whose heads of state endorsed them. They most resembled international human rights treaties, which are also not legally coercive, and which achieve their effects largely through their role in social and political mobilization.

Herfkens, Eveline. "Enhancing the Millennium Development Goals."

This paper has three main parts: the first reviews the progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and argues that their main shortcomings are that they ignore distributional issues; and that they that have led to policy fragmentation that deemphasizes income poverty. They will not be fully achieved, in part because of disparities within countries. The paper maintains that, as an international consensus is emerging of the importance of the equity issue, now is the time to enable and even accelerate the achievement of the MDGs by introducing social protection floors, so that vulnerable and disadvantaged people can join in the overall progress. Social protection floors would also help address the second shortcoming of the MDG framework, as they would foster a more comprehensive and integrated approach to deal with income poverty and deprivation. The second part describes how more specifically a social protection floor contributes to the achievement of individual Millennium Development Goals.

The third part makes the case for ODA to finance social protection floors. Today, there is a legitimacy crisis for ODA, as questions about aid effectiveness in conjunction with tightened budgets are eroding public support even in several European countries strongly committed to the ODA/GNI target. Helping finance the establishment of SPF would fit in well with the urgent need on the one hand of donors to assure their taxpayers that ODA is improving lives of poor people, while it is consist-

ent with the lessons learned regarding aid effectiveness. A final section contains conclusions and recommendations.

IPU.UNICEF.and UNICEF. 2004. Child protection: A handbook for Parliamentarians no.7.Authors: Dan O'Donnell and Dan Seymour.Inter-Parliamentary Union. And UNICEF Switzerland

The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the world organization of Parliaments, and UNICEF, the organizations mandated by the United Nations to promote and ensure respect for the rights of children, have worked together to produce this handbook on child protection for parliamentarians in recognition of the ethical, legal and developmental imperatives surrounding child protection.

The fulfillment of children's rights, including those to protection, depends on a global movement in which everybody not only understands and respects their duties to children, but also acts upon them. Parliamentarian can and should be among the foremost champions of child protection. They can legislate, oversee government activity, allocate financial resources and, as leaders within their nations and communities, raise awareness of issues and provide advocacy. This handbook addresses all of those functions specifically to ten child protection issues namely; i) birth registration and the right to identity; ii) protection of children in armed conflict; iii) sexual exploitation of children; iv) trafficking and sale of children; v) harmful traditional practices; vi) violence and neglect; vii) alternative care; viii) juvenile justice; ix) child labour; and x) the rights of child victims. The handbook includes examples of the many ways in which Parliaments and their members around the world have responded to the challenges of child protection through laws, policies, advocacy and other means. It also describes how Parliaments and their members can gain a clearer understanding of what their contribution can be, and equips them with the knowledge and tools they require to make that contribution. Twenty years after the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child we can take stock of the progress we have made in protecting our children. There have been important steps forward including New legislation with strengthened international standards, such as the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the use of children in armed conflict. This handbook will enable Parliaments and their members to help to deliver on these promises and reach the fundamental goal of child protection. At the same, child rights organizations can use this as a tool for doing policy advocacy with parliamentarian and politicians.

Isaacs, Julia. 2007. Cost-effective investments in children. Brookings Institution

Based on a review of benefit-cost evidence, this paper identifies four areas of investment that merit expanded federal funding even in a time of fiscal austerity. America's future economic well-being will benefit from targeted investments to ensure that children have the skills to become tomorrow's adult workers, caregivers, taxpayers, and citizens. Target areas for a package of proposals totaling about \$25 billion annually and \$133 billion over a five-year period are the following:

- High-quality early childhood education programs for three- and four-year-old children (\$94 billion over five years);
- Nurse home-visiting programs to promote sound prenatal care and the healthy development of infants and toddlers (\$14 billion over five years);
- School reform with an emphasis on programs in high-poverty elementary schools that improve the acquisition of basic skills for all students (\$17 billion over five years); and
- Programs that reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy (\$8 billion over five years).

Note: Extracted from <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2007/01/01childrenfamilies-isaacs>

Klasen, Kenneth Harttgen. Fragility And MDG Progress: How Useful Is The Fragility Concept?. No. 20. European University Institute (EUI), Robert Schuman Centre of Advanced Studies (RSCAS), 2010

Abstract: While progress in developing countries as a whole, in terms of growth, poverty reduction, and several MDGs, has been quite good in recent year, fragile states lag behind in levels of MDG achievement. To understand the link between fragility and MDG progress, and also to identify the most effective policy interventions to achieve the MDGs, it is essential that fragile states are appropriately defined and classified. While the amount of literature on how to engage with fragile states is rapidly accumulating, only very limited analysis exists that investigates to what extent the levels and trends in the MDGs differ significantly between different definitions of fragile and non-fragile states. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the usefulness of the fragile state concept in tracking the levels of progress of the MDGs. In doing so, this paper

applies several definitions of fragility in order to study the MDG progress between 1990 and 2006. It compares average performance in levels and trends of MDG progress between fragile and non-fragile countries and also compares within-group heterogeneity. The paper shows that fragile countries are, indeed, performing worse in terms of MDG levels. In terms of MDG progress, progress is not necessarily slower in fragile states. Only a rather small number of countries suffering from compound disadvantages are doing significantly worse in terms of MDG progress. Lastly, the heterogeneity of MDG performance among fragile states is so large that it is not very useful to treat them as a group; the problems they face, as well as the solutions required, differ greatly and have to be developed and treated *sui generis*.

SOS KDI. 2013. Implementing the Millennium Development Goals, SOS Kinderdorf International, Innsbruck Austria

This document outlines the actions and activities undertaken by SOS Children's Villages to help meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It provides a general overview of the organization's approach to the MDGs, offering related examples of its work with children, families, and communities.

We are convinced that to make this a reality, the Post 2015 development agenda should be firmly rooted in the basic principles of human rights, placing children at its core and addressing the needs and rights of children, especially those most disadvantaged and marginalised such as children without parental care. This will secure the healthy personal development of all children, thus creating an equitable society that can achieve sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

The new post 2015 development agenda and outlines should provide a set of recommendations on how children, especially those most disadvantaged and marginalised, can be mainstreamed throughout the framework. These recommendations are based on over 60 years of experience working with the disadvantaged children, young people and families, as well as on the work the organisation has done on the MDGs

United Nations. 2010. World Programme of Action for Youth. United Nations Economic and Social Affairs: New York

The World Programme of Action for Youth provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. It contains proposals for action

to the year 2000 and beyond (aiming at achieving the objectives of the International Youth Year and at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihood among young people.

The Programme of Action focuses in particular on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society. It contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people. The WPAY focuses in particular on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society.

In its original form, the World Programme of Action for Youth outlined 10 priority areas to be addressed; however, at the ten-year review of the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, Member States agreed to the addition of five additional issue areas. These were expanded upon in a Supplement, which was adopted in 2007. Together these 15 issue areas and their related plans of action are what is understood to comprise the World Programme of Action for Youth, which guides policy and action in the area of youth development.

The decade since the observance of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace has been a period during which the world experienced fundamental political, economic and socio-cultural changes. These changes will inevitably affect at least the first decade of the twenty-first century as well.

Young people represent agents, beneficiaries and victims of major societal changes and are generally confronted by a paradox: to seek to be integrated into an existing order or to serve as a force to transform that order. Young people in all parts of the world, living in countries at different stages of development and in different socio-economic settings, aspire to full participation in the life of society.

United Nations. 2012, Realizing the Future We Want for All. Report to the Secretary General. United Nations Systems Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda: New York

This report of the UN System Task Team aims to serve as a reference to orient these ongoing discussions and the broader consultation process taking place among governments, the UN system and other international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. The report will also in-

form the work of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to be appointed by the Secretary-General to advise him on the post-2015 process and it will provide technical inputs to the process for developing sustainable development goals (SDGs) that was agreed in the Rio+20 Outcome.

The report begins by reflecting on the experience of the UN system in supporting the implementation of the MDG framework. Building on the lessons learned, the report provides an assessment of the key development challenges to which the global development agenda should respond. It proposes a vision of people-centered, inclusive and sustainable development and initial ideas for possible contours of a post-2015 UN development agenda. It concludes by laying out a possible road map for the process of defining the agenda, including ways of bringing different voices of people around the world into the consultations.

The report is informed by the initial consultations organized by the UN System Task Team with Member States, academics, civil society organizations and the private sector. It is also based on a thorough review of the growing literature on the subject.

The report manifests a genuinely collaborative effort among the agencies represented in the UN System Task Team. Above all, it represents a collective determination to reflect on the experience with the MDG framework and provide a solid foundation for all stakeholders to move forward with the preparations for a post-2015 UN development agenda that is responsive to both today's and tomorrow's global challenges and worthy of the aspirations of all countries and people for a better future.

United Nations.2013. The Millennium Development Goals Report - United Nations 2013.United Nations: New York

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. Significant and substantial progress has been made in meeting many of the targets—including halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved sources of drinking water. The proportion of urban slum dwellers declined significantly. Remarkable gains have been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. There have been visible improvements in all health areas as well as primary education.

This report also shows that the achievement of the MDGs has been uneven among and within countries. Children from poor and rural households are much more likely to be out of school than their rich and

urban counterparts. Wide gaps remain in basic knowledge about HIV and its prevention among young men and women in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been hardest hit by the epidemic.

In more than a decade of experience in working towards the MDGs, we have learned that focused global development efforts can make a difference. Through accelerated action, the world can achieve the MDGs and generate momentum for an ambitious and inspiring post-2015 development framework. Now is the time to step up our efforts to build a more just, secure and sustainable future for all.

United Nations. 2013: A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty And Transform economies Through Sustainable Development: The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. United Nations: New York

The twenty-seven members of High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP), comprised of experienced political leaders, private sector representatives, academia and other key stakeholders from across the world, formed at the request of the Secretary General of the United Nations, put forth the goal of eradicating poverty through sustainable development at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. While the current Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) have their own merits and have had considerable success, the panel communicates their drawbacks; the MGDs did not emphasize the benefit of the poorest and the most excluded people, address negative effects of conflict and violence on development, assert the importance of good governance, clarify the need for inclusive growth to job provisions. Most importantly, as noted in the report, the panel feels that post-2015 goals can vastly be enhanced on sustainability fronts, as the current ones do not integrate the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development, nor do address the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Building on the current MGDs, the report outlines five “transformational shifts” that are applicable to both developed and developing nations as the basis for a single, universal post-2015 agenda. The first of the post-2015 goals is to eradicate extreme poverty all together, with the view that no one is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities regardless of one’s ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status. Second, the panel emphasizes integration of social, economic and environmental dimension of sustainability in response

to the threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation. Third, with the view that diversified economies with equal opportunities can foster a dynamic way of creating jobs and livelihoods, the report calls for substantial economic transformation that aid with eradicating extreme poverty and enriches lives of women and children. The fourth point on the agenda calls for peace and good governance. These allow freedom from fear, conflict and violence, and encourage the rule of law, property rights, freedom of speech, accountable governments, among others; such factors are essential elements of wellbeing. Last, but emphasized the most in the report, is a need for global partnership – one that is based on common understanding of shared humanity, mutual respect and mutual benefit. The report advocates a partnership that involves all governments, institutions and people and that everyone involved be fully accountable of their actions and duties.

UN General Assembly. 2013. “A Life of Dignity for All: Accelerating Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals and Advancing the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015”. United Nations.

Summary: The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/1, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015 and to make recommendations for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

Renewed efforts are essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the end of 2015. While providing an assessment of progress to date, the report also identifies policies and programmes that have driven success in the achievement of the Goals and can contribute to accelerating it. These include emphasizing inclusive growth, decent employment and social protection; allocating more resources for essential services and ensuring access for all; strengthening political will and improving the international policy environment; and harnessing the power of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

A new post-2015 era demands a new vision and a responsive framework. Sustainable development — enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship — must become our global guiding principle and operational standard. This is a universal agenda that requires profound economic transformations and a

new global partnership. It also requires that the international community, including the United Nations, embrace a more coherent and effective response to support the agenda. As we make the transition to this new era, we need to continue the work begun with the Millennium Development Goals and ensure that extreme poverty is ended within a generation. In keeping with United Nations principles, this post-2015 framework can bring together the full range of human aspirations and needs to ensure a life of dignity for all.

Waage, Jeff, RukminiBanerji, Oona Campbell, Ephraim Chirwa, Guy Collender, VeerleDieltiens, Andrew Dorward et al. "The Millennium Development Goals: a cross-sectoral analysis and principles for goal setting after 2015: Lancet and London International Development Centre Commission." *The Lancet* 376, no. 9745 (2010): 991-1023.

The authors note that MDGs' role in strengthening global political consensus, providing a focus for advocacy, improving the targeting and flow of foreign aid, and improving the monitoring of development projects has had considerable success. However, significant challenges with conceptualization and execution of MDGs remain because of the way the goals, targets and indicators are constructed. This report takes an interdisciplinary approach in identifying common challenges that have emerged in meeting different goals and suggests improvements on future goal setting to overcome these difficulties.

This report particularly identifies challenges with conceptualization, execution, ownership, and equity of goals; the authors believe future goal setting should address these concerns for effective channeling of efforts to attain future goals. The authors view that diverse goals arising from independent origins leave gaps in coverage and fails to realize potential synergy opportunities in their implementation. A holistic approach in attaining goals is suggested which, rather than focusing on independent goals, seeks to explore synergies between interlinked elements of wellbeing -- human, social and environment development -- across independent goals. The authors endorse addressing these elements of wellbeing such that the actions ensure equity of opportunity and outcome that takes a pro-poor approach while addressing all communities; this feature of equity along with the commitment to productivity growth in appropriate areas are viewed as key features of sustainability. The authors also advocate adopting internationally rec-

ognized but locally refined development agenda that ensure ownership of goals that can effectively be monitored across society in national, regional, and global levels, and are supported by efficient international institutional frameworks.

World Bank.2007. World Development Report 2007.Development and the Next Generation.The World Bank: Washington

This Report examines five pivotal phases of life that can help unleash the development of young people's potential with the right government policies: learning, working, staying healthy, forming families, and exercising citizenship. Within each of these transitions, governments need not only to increase investments directly but also to cultivate an environment for young people and their families to invest in themselves. The Report identifies three policy directions for helping youth develop themselves and contribute to society: *expanding opportunities, enhancing capabilities, and providing second chances.*

Investing in young people strongly contributes to the Bank's overarching mission of fighting poverty At the same time, investing in young people is a challenge for governments in all countries, rich and poor. It is my hope that this Report contributes to addressing this challenge by sharing the experiences of countries where young people, supported by good policies and institutions, have been able not only to cope but to flourish—and in the process, contribute to a future of hope and opportunity for all generations.

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Photos



View of Round Table



View of Round Table



View of Round Table



View of Round Table



View of Round Table



Children Playing National Anthem



Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay

Chairman, Organizing Committee & President, SOS Children's Villages Nepal
Presenting Welcome Address



Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya

Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission Inaugurating the Round Table on MDG and Children by lighting the Panus



Dr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya

Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission as a Chief Guest
Presenting the Inaugural Address



Ms. Hanaa Singer

Representative, UNICEF Nepal
Addressing The Inaugural Session



Mr. Singye Dorji

Director SAARC Secretariat, Presenting The Statement on behalf of, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Saleem, Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)



Mr. Upendra Adhikary

Officiating Secretary
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
Presenting Address from the Chair



View of Inaugural Session



View of Inaugural Session



View of Inaugural Session



View of Inaugural Session



View of Inaugural Session



View of Inaugural Session



Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada
Governor Nepal Rastra Bank &
Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission
Chairing The Plenary Session



Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal
Educationist and Child Rights Activist
Presenting the Technical Paper



Dr. Suniti Acharya

Former Representative, WHO Representative in Bangladesh, Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal, Presenting the Technical Paper



Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal

Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal
Presenting the Technical Paper



Mr. Gauri Pradhan
Commissioner
National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC)
Presenting the Technical Paper



Dr. Bal Gopal Vaidhya
Former Member, National Planning Commission
Presenting the Technical Paper



View of Plenary Session I



View of Plenary Session I



View of Plenary Session II



View of Plenary Session II



Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal

Member Secretary, National Planning Commission
Presiding the Plenary Session II



Mr. Marc Vincent

Office In-charge, ROSA
Chief Regional Planning and Program, UNICEF, Regional Office for South Asia
Addressing the Plenary Session II



Dr. Lava Deo Awasthi
Director General, Department of Education
Addressing the Plenary Session II



Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal
Member Secretary, National Planning Commission
Presiding the Plenary Session II



Dr. Teertha Dhakal

Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission
Chairing Concurrent Session I



Dr. Suniti Acharya

Former Representative
WHO Representative in Bangladesh,
Member General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal
Presenting the Resource Paper



Mr. Bimal Kumar Phnuyal
Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal
Presenting the Resource Paper



Dr. Chandra Kumar Sen
Program Manager, Plan Nepal
Presenting Comments as a Panelist



Tap Raj Pant
National Program Officer, UNESCO, Nepal
Presenting Comments as a Panelist



View of Plenary Session II



View of Plenary Session II



View of Plenary Session II



View of Plenary Session II



View of Plenary Session II



Childrens Participation



Childrens Participation



Dr. Teertha Dhakal
Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission
Chairing Concurrent Session I



Mr. Keshav Bhakta Mathema
Former UNICEF Representative for China,
Philippines and Thailand
Former President of Rotary Club of Patan
Chairing the Concurrent Session II



Mr. Gauri Pradhan

Commissioner

National Human Rights Commissioner (NHRC)

Serving as a Resource person in Concurrent Session II



Mohan Raj Sharma

Member, Executive Committee

Social Welfare Council

Commenting as a Panelist in Concurrent Session



Ms. Nupur Bhattacharya
Member of General Assembly, SOS Children's Villages, Nepal
Commenting as as Panelist in Concurrent Session II



View of Concurrent Session II



Panel of Concertnet Session III



Concertnet Session in a Group Work



Mr. Padma Raj Bhatta
Director General
Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare
Chairing the Concurrent Session III



View of Concurrent Session III



View of Concurrent Session III



View of Concurrent Session III



Pannel of Plenary Session III



View of Plenary Session III



View of Plenary Session III



View of Plenary Session III



View of Round Table



View of Round Table



Intraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



Intrraction from the floor



Intrraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



Intraction from the floor



View of Plenary Session III



View of Plenary Session III



View of Valedictory Session



View of Valedictory Session



View of Valedictory Session



Children Participants Valedictory Session



Prof. Bishwa Keshar Maskay
Chairman, Organizing Committee &
President, SOS Children's Villages Nepal
Presenting Welcome Address



Mr. Bimal Kumar Phuyal
Country Director, ActionAid International Nepal
Presenting the Technical Paper



Mr. Upendra Adhikary
Officiating Secretary
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
Presenting Address from the Chair



Mr. Shankar Pradhanangha



View of Valedictory Session



View of Valedictory Session



View of Valedictory Session

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & CHILDRENS

POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

*T*he Round Table on Millennium Development Goals & Childrens have recognized that the Government, International Organization and civil societies including the NGOs and community organizations including the academics and private sector have an important role to play in promoting the spirit of cooperation and giving impetus to national and organizational programs in Millennium Development Goals & Childrens.

The book presents the reflections and observations made in Millennium Development Goals & Childrens. in Round Table. It endeavors to cover in a comprehensive manner all important aspects and facets of Round Table by stressing the benefit of cooperation and coordination. The Round Table emphasized the role of civil society in development of programs within their respective organizations and beyond.

The outcome of the Round Table reflects realism, pragmatism and optimism. The participants were as conscious as in the way to overcome the issues and challenges as they were about the need to devise new conceptual tools and approaches to overcome these to identify ways and means of networking, coordination and cooperation.

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