

## **PART II: GOALS 5-8**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report on the MDGs**

## **GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

The Second Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) said there is high probability of meeting the targets on some MDG indicators at the national level. There are, however, regions likely unable to attain the targets. Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General Romulo Neri pointed out, for instance, that Regions IV-A & B, VIII, IX, X, XI, CARAGA & Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are unlikely to meet the target on poverty.

To address these gaps, the Report recommends sustaining and scaling up the campaign for localization. Wider partnership and collaboration with all sectors of society are critical to mobilize commitments, resources and capacities for advocacy. Spending for MDGs must also be increased by making local government units (LGUs) spend more for programs and projects.

### **GOAL 5: Improve maternal health**

Target 1: Reduce maternal health mortality rate by three-quarters by 2015 (half by 2000, half by 2015). The 1993 and 1998 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) show maternal mortality rate (MMR) declining from 209 per 100,000 live births in 1987-1993 to 172 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1991-1997. Problems of large sampling errors and the absence of new official data, however, make it difficult to validate MMR decline.

The government continues to promote maternal health through the two-pronged strategy of safe motherhood and family planning service.

Three major issues must be addressed to effectively reduce maternal mortality rate: (a) data collection and data quality must be improved; (b) maternal health must be accelerated through adequate funding and mobilization of all stakeholders including families and communities; and (c) the brain drain of health workers, particularly doctors and nurses must be addressed.

Target 2: Increase access to reproductive health services to 60 percent by 2005, 80 percent by 2010 and 100 percent by 2015. The 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) showed that only seven out of ten women, who had live births in the past five years before the survey, received a minimum of four antenatal check-ups of which more than half (53%) were performed in the first trimester.

Fertility slightly declined from 3.7 percent in 1996-1998 to 3.5 percent in 2001-2004. This is one child more than the desired fertility rate of 2.5 children per woman. Contraceptive prevalence rate slightly increased from 47 percent in 1998 to 49 percent in 2003. The unmet need for family planning (FP) services among currently married women declined from 20 percent in 1998 to 17 percent in 2003.

Attaining the reproductive health (RH) target will require the following: (a) legislation on reproductive health; (b) establishment of a strong partnership among various RH stakeholders; (c) filling of the anticipated shortfall in FP



commodities; (d) addressing the data gaps on RH; and (e) provision of culture-sensitive, high quality, accessible and user-friendly services on RH, among others.

### **GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

Target 1: Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The number of HIV/Ab seropositive cases since 1984 increased from 1,451 in 2000 to 2,200 in December 2004. It is estimated, moreover, that the actual number of HIV cases is around 10,000. Secretary Neri said that despite the low and slow rate of increase, preconditions for a full-blown epidemic are present given the increasing patterns in high risk behaviors, and only a third of identified high-risk zones have come up with local responses. Thus, the epidemic is now described as "hidden and growing."

Already, Republic Act 8504 or the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 is in place including the Third Medium-Term Plan on AIDS (2000-2004).

Current efforts are now focused on: (a) scaling up and improving the quality of preventive interventions targeted for identified highly vulnerable groups such as the youth, civil servants, informal sector, and overseas Filipino workers; (b) strengthening institutional and general public preventive interventions which include the development of a unified advocacy plan and an expanded voluntary counseling and testing service; and (c) scaling up and improving the quality of treatment, case and support services for people infected with HIV/AIDS, among others.

Target 2: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015. Malaria, the eighth leading cause of morbidity in the country, has declined in terms of morbidity and mortality rates. Malaria is endemic in 65 provinces in the country but data indicated that more than 90 percent of cases were found only in 25 provinces; 65 percent of total deaths also came from the 25 provinces.

Tuberculosis was the sixth leading cause of death and morbidity in 2001, although its incidence has been declining since 1995, from 39 to 38 deaths per 100,000 population, and from 173 to 142 cases per population (morbidity). In 2002 and 2003, the regions with the most number of TB cases were the NCR, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Bicol, Southern Tagalog and Central Visayas.

Although significant strides have been achieved in malaria and TB control, the design of more effective policies and activities must be improved. This covers two major categories: improving service provision; and strengthening program support services.

#### **GOAL 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

Target 1: Implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005 to reverse loss of environmental resources by 2015. Mismanagement of the natural resources is one reason for the widespread poverty in the country. Hence, proper management of natural resources is needed to improve the quality of life of the present as well as that of future generations.

Degradation of air, water and land resources has worsened. Data in 2003, for example, show that air quality is generally not within standards in urban areas, except for Cavite and Davao cities. The passage of the Clean Air Act in 1999 provides a more comprehensive approach for the management of air quality.

For water, various issues have been raised, ranging from water supply coverage, depletion of groundwater, water pollution and unwillingness of consumers to pay. Of the 462 water bodies studied by the DENR as of 2003, 35 percent were classified as "Class C", which can support life systems. About 48 percent of water pollutants are domestic waste, 37 percent are agricultural waste, and 15 percent are industrial waste.

Land pollution, particularly solid waste management has worsened in the cities. According to statistics, only 65 to 75 percent of total waste generated in Metro Manila is collected and only about 13 percent is recycled. Garbage in the metropolis reach 5,345 tons a day.

Until 2010, the government will pursue the following environmental concerns: sustainable and more productive use of natural resources; focus on and strengthening of the protection of vulnerable and ecologically fragile areas; creation of a healthier environment for the population; mitigation of the occurrence of natural disasters to prevent the loss of lives and properties; and environmental accountability for all industries.

Target 2: Halve the proportion of people with no access to safe drinking water or those who cannot afford it by 2015. According to Secretary Neri, household access to safe water increased by an annual average of two percent in 2000-2002. Given this rate of increase, it is possible that the 87 percent access goal can be met by 2015.

Household access to safe water supply slightly rose from 78.69 percent in 2000 to 80 percent in 2002. The ARMM is the most disadvantaged region in 2002 with only one-third of families using water coming from community water systems or tubed/piped wells, compared with 96 percent of families in Central Luzon having access to these types of sources.

Households with sanitary toilet facilities increased from 81.97 percent in 2000 to 86 percent in 2002. Among regions, the NCR had the highest proportion of families with sanitary toilets (98%) while the ARMM had the least (44.7%).

The Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 or RA 9275 hopes to rectify this situation through a comprehensive quality management program to guarantee effective water use and conservation. The water sector will continue to address the existing water supply gaps by: focusing on providing potable water to waterless areas; and giving importance to sanitation services.

Target 3: Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. In 2002, the government estimated 588,853 informal settler families or squatter households nationwide, 51 percent of which are in the NCR, Region VI and Region IV. These informal settlers live mostly in urban slum areas with little or no basic services. The least number of squatters are in CAR, Region I and ARMM.

To alleviate this problem of homelessness security of tenure or shelter units were granted to 382,285 households from 2001 to 2004, mainly through government and private sector housing initiatives. Executive Order 272 issued in 2004 authorized the creation of the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) to

cater to the housing needs of the bottom 30 percent of the population.

The Housing sector shall continue to undertake the following: meet the housing needs of informal settlers, including the relocation of those in danger zones; pursue an urban asset reform program through property rights for informal settlers; elevate HUDCC into a Department of Housing and Urban Development; and expand private sector participation in socialized housing finance and construction, among others.

#### **GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

Target 1: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system; include a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally. Despite a positive economic growth rate, the country's rank in the Global Competitiveness, slipped from 2001 to 2004 and exports have not grown steadily relative to imports since 2001.

Four major policies and programs were pushed to improve trade and financial performance: investment liberation; trade promotion; micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) development; and pursuance of financial reforms and price stability.

To sustain and strengthen the country's productivity and competitiveness at both domestic and global markets, the government will aim to: ensure an enabling environment for MSME development; continue to lower the cost of doing business; and expand investment and export promotion.

Target 2: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debts sustainable in the long term. Government debt has ballooned to PhP3.81 trillion in 2004, or 78.7 percent of the country's GDP. On the other hand, the consolidated public sector deficit tapered a bit to 4.8 percent of GDP also in the same year.

The following challenges have been identified to help attain the goal of debt sustainability: rapid rise in public debt which constrains the ability to finance development objectives; poor management of off-budget risks; and need for shared responsibility and accountability which hinges on transparent and effective communication of reforms being undertaken.

The following reforms have already been undertaken to strengthen the country's capability to meet its debt obligations: a more prudent use of official development assistance (ODA) loans, improvements in collection efficiency of taxes and duties; and improve the country's expenditure management.

Target 3: Provide access to affordable essential drugs in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies. Drug prices in the country have been known to be among the highest in the ASEAN. Based on the 1999 World Drug Survey, only 66 percent of the population had access to essential drugs.

However, efforts to bring down the cost of drugs have slowly made headway during the last quarter of 2004. In 2000, the DOH and DTI adopted the Parallel Drug Importation Program wherein parallel drug imports resulted in an estimated average reduction of 60.9 percent in prices in 2004.

An additional 800 Botika ng Barangay were granted licenses in addition to the 3,002 already functioning nationwide. The government, through its program "Presyong Tama, Gamot Pampamilya," has asked local and multinational drug companies to help bring down drug prices.

The ongoing initiatives include: (a) strengthening of the Bureau of Food and Drugs as a regulatory agency and its function of ensuring quality of drugs; (b) lowering the price of branded drugs and medicine through a significant increase in parallel drug imports to affect the market shares for similar products; (c) promoting authentic herbal/traditional/natural alternative medications that are cost effective and appropriate as treatments for certain illnesses; and (d) addressing problems of access to hospitals and health professionals, availability of certain medicines, and health insurance issues.