

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) LOCALIZATION

As a signatory to the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the Philippines together with 189 UN member states committed to address the global targets set against the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Millennium Development Goals are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty and worst form of human deprivation in its many dimensions-income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environment sustainability. The eight MDGs are:

- Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education,
- Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women,
- Goal 4. Reduce child mortality,
- Goal 5. Improve maternal health,
- Goal 6. Combat HIVs/AIDs, malaria and other infectious diseases,
- Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability, and
- Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Meeting the requirements of the MDGs will entail collaborative efforts of major stakeholders - the national and local government units (LGUs) as well as the private sector through related interventions geared toward mainstreaming the MDGs in the local development agenda.

LGU Roles on MDG Localization

As frontline institutions, the LGUs have significant roles to play to realize the MDGs. For most part, the achievement of the MDG targets largely depends on the delivery of devolved services.

As provided under the Local Government Code of 1991 or Republic Act 7160, local government units (LGUs) assume the primary responsibility for the provision of basic services and facilities and the improvement of the quality of life of their constituents. Section 16 and 17 particularly, enumerates LGU basic services such as:

1. promotion of health and safety,
2. enhancement of people's right to a balanced ecology,
3. promotion of ecological balance and economic prosperity and social justice,
4. maintenance of peace and order, and comfort and convenience of their inhabitants among others.

Likewise, the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1997 gives the LGUs the frontline role in the fight against poverty. The law tasks the LGUs to be responsible in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Anti-Poverty Reduction Agenda within their area of jurisdiction.

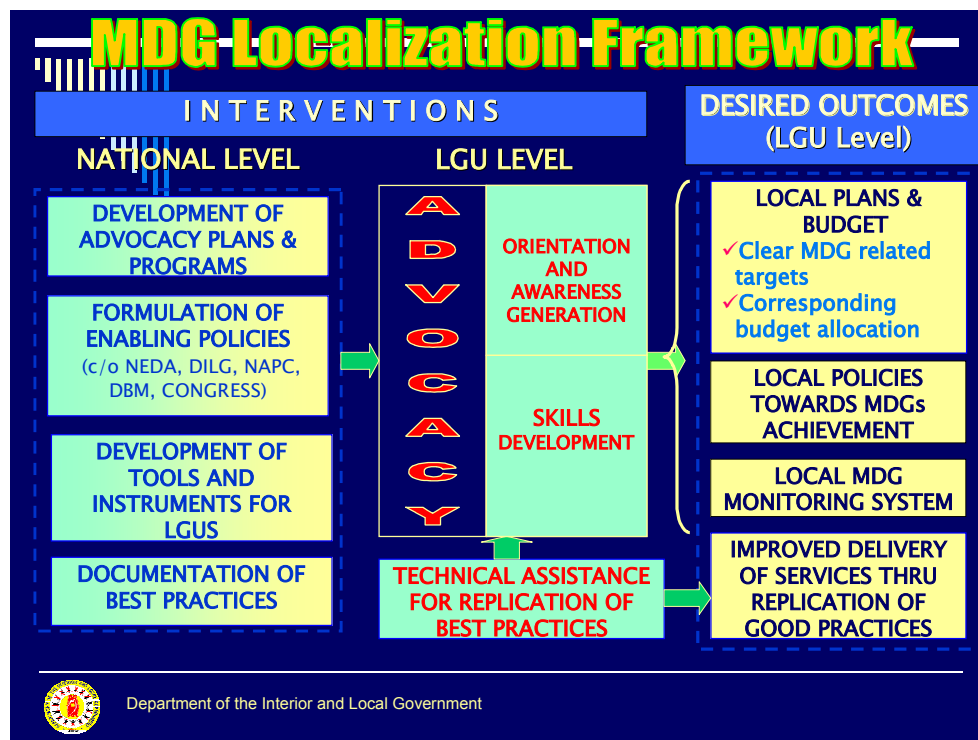
The Department of Interior and Local Government, through its Bureau of Local Government Development, has taken on the responsibility of localizing the MDGs localization by virtue of Social Development Council (SDC) Resolution No.1 Series of 2003 mandating the DILG to take the lead in MDG localization.

The MDG Localization Framework

The national government provides the enabling environment for the LGUs to be aware, committed and capacitated to address the MDG targets in the locality. The DILG developed the MDG Localization framework to guide all localization efforts and initiatives. The MDG localization framework identified a set of desired outcomes for an MDG responsive LGU which includes the following:

- (1) a local development plan incorporating the MDG targets and corresponding increase budget allocation for MDG-responsive PPAs,
- (2) local policies that facilitate the achievement of the MDGs;
- (3) local monitoring system to benchmark LGU contribution in the attainment of MDG targets and to track down accomplishments vis-à-vis targets; and
- (4) improved delivery of basic services through replication of good practices, and
- (5) inclusion of accomplishment of MDG targets as one of the performance commitments of the LGUs.

To attain the outcomes under the localization framework, LGUs need to be equipped with knowledge and skills through interventions such as: (a) advocacy, (b) policy formulation, (c) development of tools and instruments, and (d) documentation of good practices.



Approaches in Localizing the MDGs

Several approaches are being carried out by the DILG in capacitating LGUs to contribute to the attainment of the MDGs and uplifting the quality of life of their constituents. These interventions are particularly stated in DILG MC No. 2004-152 "Guide to Local Government Units in the Localization of the MDGs" dated November 2004, which provides for the: (a) menu of PPAs per MDG goal and target to guide LGUs in responding to MDGs; (b) diagnosis of local situation using existing local indicators and monitoring system; and (c) call for documentation and replication of good practices.

1. Poverty Planning and Resource Allocation for Basic Social Services

First, LGUs are encouraged to formulate their Local Poverty Reduction Action Plans/Agenda and prioritize local budgets for focused interventions for the poor and vulnerable sectors. Due to the limited resources of LGUs, priority should be given to the delivery of basic services which would directly impact on poverty reduction. In addressing this concern, a menu of options or a list of local services which have direct impacts on the achievement of the MDGs have been identified.

The LGU Options recommend specific projects and activities which LGUs may implement to address the MDG targets under each goal. With these options, LGUs are expected to increase their budgetary allocation for basic social services responsive to MDGs.

2. Documentation of MDG-related Good Practices

Second, LGUs are assisted to improve delivery of basic services by replicating award-winning innovations of other LGUs in providing effective and efficient services to their constituents. An inventory and documentation of MDG Good Practices in Mindanao was developed through the partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCO) and United National Development Programme (UNDP).

The inventory showcases model practices which can be replicated in other LGUs such as:

1. Partnership between the LGU and an NGO to combat HIV/AIDS;
2. Improving local revenue generations to provide for delivery of basic services;
3. Promoting volunteerism and self-help in communities;
4. Capacity building of households to address minimum basic needs;
and
5. Introducing rewards system to improve service delivery of barangays.

3. *MDG Benchmarking and Local Progress Monitoring*

Third, LGUs are being capacitated to institutionalize a local monitoring system for poverty diagnosis and planning and tracking down resources for poverty projects.

Developing targets, or targeting, has been a major weakness of most LGUs in the country as they lack reliable/credible baseline data, particularly poverty statistics. More often than not, LGUs rely on centrally produced data like NSO/NSCB data for their planning. These data however are not disaggregated at the municipal/city government and barangay government level - the lower level LGUs that are primarily at the forefront of policy or program execution – thereby making it difficult for proper targeting and programming.

A number of local monitoring systems has been developed and are being used at the local level (e.g. MBN-CBIS, MBN-CBPIMS, IRAP, MIMAP-CBMS). A consensus among various government agencies agreed to review the existing monitoring tools and establish a core set of comparable core indicators across monitoring systems. This resulted to adoption of the Core Local Poverty Indicators (CLPIs). These are carefully selected human development and income-based indicators from the different local poverty monitoring systems existing at the local level. An additional indicator on maternal health was included to harmonize the CLPIs with the MDGs.