

2009



United Nations Development Programme

COORDINATED SUPPORT TO REDUCE POVERTY AND ACHIEVE THE MDGS

POVERTY PRACTICE 2009 RESULTS
BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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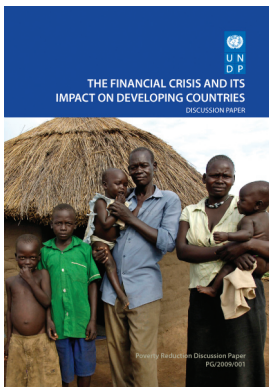
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2009 RESULTS

2009 was a critical year for poverty reduction. While the world is approaching the last five years before the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs, the global economic, climate and food crises are threatening to slow or even to reverse gains in human development in some countries.

Through its work within the Practice Architecture and in collaboration with various partners, the Poverty Practice has supported not only the acceleration of attainment of the MDGs but also progress in human development – and this, in the context of several crises. The Poverty Practice has focused on maximizing the contribution of growth, employment, social policies, and global economic integration to long-term human development and resilience. It has also contributed to the development of corporate strategies and shaped the global agenda more favorably for the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. A summary of the main results follows.

I. Responses to emerging development challenges: the economic crisis, food security, and climate change



The Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Developing Countries

The Poverty Practice rapidly assessed the impact of the economic crisis, laying a solid factual foundation for UNDP’s support for the response of developing countries. The working paper *The Financial Crisis and its Impact on Developing Countries* provided the first assessment of the transmission mechanisms of the crisis. This assessment resulted inter alia in the production of UNDP Programming Guidance notes and conceptual policy papers dealing with a vast range of topics such as crisis transmission mechanisms, green jobs, industrial and agricultural policies, employment strategies and social protection, impact assessments and monitoring, design of social protection and social safety nets, integration of gender and HIV responses, development of comprehensive strategies for food security, and the effective and catalytic use of ODA. These knowledge products were widely distributed to county offices through various channels. Numerous UNDP knowledge networks, such as an intranet service space on the economic crisis, a dedicated wiki with country pages for each country office, and an on-line library, provided a platform for exchanges of good practices, policy experiences and South-South exchanges of solutions. A dedicated window from the Poverty and Social Impact Analysis initiative provided funds to 18 countries in various regions to assess effective policy responses to the crisis.

Many countries – 14 in Asia Pacific alone – directly benefited from the guidance that the Poverty Practice, in collaboration with Office of Development Studies, gave in country-specific papers relating to the crisis, which informed national policy responses to the crisis. The Poverty Practice also supported regional policy dialogues in response to the crisis in countries in Asia Pacific, East Europe, and Africa. The Rethinking African Economic Policies conference, supported by the Poverty Practice, brought high-level African policy makers into dialogue about policies addressing the impact of the crisis on human development and the MDGs.

In the context of the Social Protection Floor and the Global Jobs Pact initiatives of the CEB, the Poverty Practice has been part of UN inter-agency efforts to extend the mechanisms of social protection and job creation in countries affected by the crisis, through operational guidance, capacity development and better joint programming in all regions.

The Poverty Practice, working with UNDESA, coordinated an e-discussion about the economic crisis in July 2009. The discussion raised the awareness of over 10,000 policy makers, researchers and civil society practitioners about key issues such as the management structure of international financial institutions. A summary of this e-discussion was later distributed at the United Nations World Conference on the Impact of the Financial and Economic Crisis on Development. Together with the Gender Group, the Poverty Practice moderated an e-discussion entitled *Gender & the Economic Financial Crisis*, which brought the theme of gender closer to the forefront of analysis and advisement.

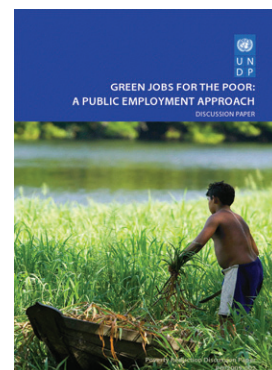
The Poverty Practice substantively and operationally contributed to the establishment of the Global Impact and Vulnerability System (GIVAS) as a follow-up to the London G20 meeting. Already by March 2009, the Poverty Practice, using its global knowledge networks and innovative tools such as wiki, mobilized its network of country office staff to collect and to provide early information on country developments. The UN has used this information to highlight the depth and the speed with which the crisis hit the developing world, where statistics tend to be less timely and less reliable. Some of the information was also incorporated into the GIVAS report. Stories and testimonials collected by the Poverty Practice helped the UN to put a human face on the crisis. The Poverty Practice has also been active in the GIVAS outreach to member states and has contributed to a better understanding and acceptance of the initiative.

With regard to food security, the Poverty Practice continued to substantively contribute to the UN High Level Task Force and ensured that access to food remained an important consideration in the coordinated policies of the UN. The Poverty Practice developed guidance notes with policy options and supported countries such as Afghanistan and Jordan as they formulated strategies for food security and livelihood. Also in Jordan, the Poverty Practice gave advisory support for the development of a UN joint programme on food security.

To raise awareness about the interrelationship between climate change and poverty reduction, the Poverty Practice has authored and distributed many knowledge products on various topics. It published a working paper on *Green Jobs for the Poor: a Public Employment Approach*. It has compiled good practices of integrating climate change responses with MDG strategies; finalized a cross-practice concept note and the programme brief *Capacity Development for Climate Change and Poverty Reduction*; and supported Nepal, Nicaragua, and Indonesia in peace-building, youth employment with green jobs, and energy price issues. *The Index Insurance and Climate Risk: Prospects for Development and Disaster Management* report, which includes substantive contributions from the Poverty Practice, presented lessons and experiences along with policy advice for the possible scale-up of such initiatives for sustainable development, explaining how index insurance

“The MDGs can be met. Progress will not be made, however, by simply replicating what others have done. It will require innovation, critical thinking, openness to learning from others, and the flexibility to adapt broad principles and proven policies to ever changing and unique local contexts.”

HELEN CLARK
UNDP Administrator
Africa-China Poverty Reduction and
Development Conference
1 November 2010
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



*Green Jobs for the Poor:
A Public Employment
Approach*

can better protect the most vulnerable and poor in the context of development, disaster management and climate change adaptation.

Apart from the analytical and policy advisory support it gave in immediate response to the crisis, the Poverty Practice strengthened countries' long-term resilience through its work in MDG support, inclusive development and inclusive globalization.

II. Coordinated support to MDG Achievement

Over 20 countries, including Bhutan, Chile, El Salvador, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Morocco, Tajikistan, Nepal, Malawi, Mali, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Uganda, have benefited from Poverty Practice's advisory services on integrating the MDGs into their national development programmes and from our MDG scaling up initiatives. Lao PDR saw the development of an MDG Road Map that will inform consultations about upcoming national development plans. In 166 communes across Mali, a Scaling up Task Force will coordinate the efforts to scale up the Millennium Villages. Malawi saw the provision of assistance to establish a SWAP on agriculture.

Through the UNDP/SNV partnership, seventeen countries, including Albania, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Laos, Macedonia, Mozambique, Mali, Niger, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Zambia, have benefited from our support through innovative capacity-enhancement pilot projects linking national and local levels for MDG-based planning, implementation and monitoring. Based on successful experiences, Poverty Practice, DGG, CDG and UNCDF established a cooperative framework to scale up support for the MDGs at the local level.

Parallel to the UNGA session in September 2009, the 2010 MDG Review process was successfully launched at a side-event organized by the Poverty Practice and chaired by the UNDP Administrator together with the Government of the UK. Attended by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the President of Malawi, the event generated the enthusiastic engagement of government officials from 46 member states, spurred momentum and focused attention on the 2010 MDG Summit as a turning point for MDG achievement. As part of the 2010 review process, the Poverty Practice has prepared a revised draft of the National MDG Report Guidelines, which has been endorsed by the UNDG and will be introduced to country offices in the first quarter of 2010.

The Poverty Practice has completed the MDG Break-through Strategy, which will facilitate BDP cross-practice collaboration to spur support for MDG achievement. In addition, the Poverty Practice has produced knowledge products such as the MDG Needs Assessment Tools in four languages (English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese), the MDG Country Index of Effort, the MDG Guidebook to align MDGs with national development strategies, and the MDG Acceleration Framework. These tools have well prepared countries to enter the critical year of 2010 to review progress, identify obstacles and hasten proven interventions.

To mobilize resources for the achievement of the MDGs, the 2009 MDG Gap Task



Photo: Kayla Keenan

Force Report made a timely contribution to influencing the debate on the shortfalls to achieving the MDGs. The report warned about the possible reversal of hard-won gains and underscored the need to hasten delivery of MDG 8 commitments. The first draft of the joint IMF/UNDP publication on the Gleneagles Scenarios has been finalized and presented at the side event in September 2009. The RBA finished and endorsed a proposal to support the introduction of the Gleneagles scenarios in Africa. The introduction in ten new countries started after the Poverty Practice, in collaboration with the IMF, organized and conducted a training workshop for the newly recruited RBA country economists.

The Poverty Practice undertook many initiatives that strengthened coordination within UNDP itself and among UN organizations and IFIs. The MDG Support Team of Poverty Practice served as the Secretariat to the MDG Steering Committee to ensure coordination across different UNDP bureaux. The Poverty Practice contributed substantively to the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), particularly by serving as UNDP Focal Point to the Task Force and the Senior Steering Committee. A moderated e-discussion on Global Public Health, jointly organized by the Poverty Practice and UNDESA as part of the preparatory process for the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), generated a series of feasible recommendations for consideration by the Council and the larger international community. The UNDG/MDG Policy Network hosted in the Poverty Practice organized three joint UN missions to UNCTs in 2009. In Malawi, the joint mission support resulted in the 'UN re-positioning' planning in support of the Common Approach to Budget Support for the UNCT. In Uzbekistan, the Economic Crisis and Urban Development policy note was prepared, and the Policy Network UN joint mission received the grade of 'outstanding' from the service user in Uzbekistan.

In collaboration with the RBA, the Poverty Practice prepared a proposal to implement the recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Committee, focusing on involving the Regional Directors Team in Africa to improve coordination for implementation of the recommendations. Furthermore, the Poverty Practice, working closely with RBA and the office of the DSG, organized a successful meeting of the MDG Africa Working Group, chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General on 23 November, to evaluate the progress made so far and to move forward with the implementation.

III. Expanded national and local capacities for inclusive development

The Poverty Practice has supported 26 countries to conduct Poverty and Social Impact Assessment (PSIA) of their policies in agriculture, health, education, and urban development. Human rights-based approaches have been integrated into the tools of PSIA. The support for PSIA, through strong partnership with the World Bank, widely covered regions such as Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. The results of the PSIA have informed the policy-making processes in these countries in an effort to overcome the obstacles to achieving the MDGs in the sectors identified.

The Poverty Practice has also given advice on the development of economic and

"The MDG Gap Task Force, comes out at a critical time. The global economic crisis continues to threaten efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In some cases, responses to the crisis, such as protectionist measures and new restrictions on migration, are compounding the risks. Pressures on donor countries to cut their aid budgets may limit the resources available to developing countries, which in turn will face further difficulties in tackling the crisis and providing for the needs of their people."

BAN KI-MOON Secretary-General of the United Nations

social policies. In Egypt, a monitoring and evaluation framework was designed and implemented for the poverty reduction programmes in the poorest 1,000 villages. In El Salvador, policy options were provided with a costing tool developed to support the scaling up of that country's conditional cash transfer programmes. A wide range of topics on economic governance has been studied across countries to inform the policy-making and structural reforms for inclusive development.

Training sessions on PSIA, development indicators, and statistical literacy have increased development partners' capacities to monitor development. The self-paced version of the Indicators for Development Course has been developed and piloted in two regions. There have been studies on data availability and data quality in various countries, including in Bangladesh, Madagascar, Pakistan and Uganda.

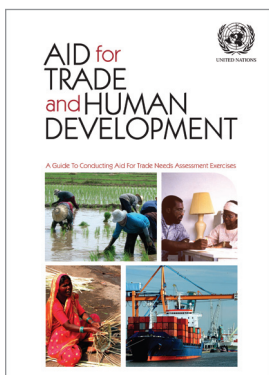
Capacities to promote participation, non-discrimination and accountability in key national poverty reduction policies have been strengthened in Guatemala, Indonesia and Liberia. In Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia, recommendations for mainstreaming human rights in local development plans were developed and applied at the local level. Recommendations for incorporating human rights into local development plans have been provided to Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia.

IV. Global economic integration and a fair process of inclusive globalization

The Poverty Practice supported 40 LDCs in their efforts to expand their trade capacities. As a result, Afghanistan developed a comprehensive capacity-building programme on the basis of which the Ministry of Commerce set up a policy and strategy unit dedicated to strengthening the organization and coordination of national policies and strategies for trade, industry and private sector development. Furthermore, Bhutan and eight other countries gained access to the EIF programme, which enables those countries to benefit from a USD 250 million trust fund to developing countries' engagement in monitoring address their trade-related supply-side constraints. Furthermore, Aid for Trade has been greatly enhanced, with the number of countries responding to the Aid for Trade questionnaire increasing from 7 in 2007 to 83 in 2009.

The Poverty Practice has developed key tools in support of trade capacity building: *Human Development Impact Assessment of Trade Policies and Aid for Trade Guide for Needs Assessments*. In Brazil and Kenya, there was an analysis of the effects of the WTO Doha Round, which then informed the debate about the role of trade liberalization in development. UNDP also published an important study on commodity development strategies in the LDCs, which showed that the EIF programme should favor strategies that Poverty Practice help LDCs to develop manufacturing and industrial activities associated with commodity production.

The Poverty Practice has provided countries with advisory and capacity development support regarding intellectual property and innovation policies, focusing on



Aid for Trade and Human Development

health, environment and food security. A consultation on patentability guidelines for pharmaceutical products for the Arab States region trained over 20 patent and health government officers from 7 countries in an effort to encourage the examination of pharmaceutical patents from the perspective of public health. An innovative study jointly with HIV practice on India's product patent regime highlighted new approaches that India could take to ensure sustained global access to affordable medicines. Indonesia and the Philippines held national consultations seeking to balance trade agendas with farmers' rights while heeding the importance of plant variety and environmental laws and policies.

The Poverty Practice facilitated the work of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and developed, with the IOM, ILO and UNICEF, a guidebook on incorporating migration issues into national development programmes, thereby adding a significant policy dimension to existing national development planning strategies.

V. Contribution to partnerships and corporate strategy development

The Poverty Practice's energetic engagement in partnership mechanisms such as the UN System Joint Crisis Initiative, the High-level Task Force on Food Security, the 2010 MDG Review, the MDG Africa Initiative on the MDGs, the MDG Steering Committee, the Global Migration Group, GIVAS, among others, strengthened UNDP's partnerships.

The Poverty Practice also contributed generously to the development of the following three key documents, which all serve as cornerstones for defining corporate strategies for UNDP in the changing context of global development.

The Poverty Practice led the development of the *MDG Break-through Strategy*, which provides guidance for UNDP support of countries as those countries review their progress, define obstacles, identify successful experiences, and hasten and sustain achievement of the MDGs. This paper presents the key strategy for UNDP's mid-term programming interventions and provides the platform for BDP's practice architecture for broad collaboration on the MDGs.

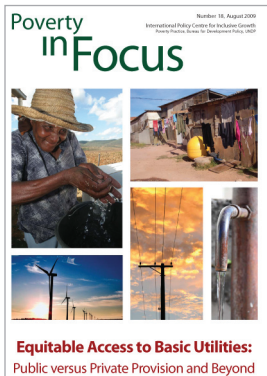
Working with Office of Development Studies (ODS) and the Capacity Development Group (CDG), the Poverty Practice developed the paper *Equity, Sustainability, and Peace: Human Development in a Rapidly Changing World*. This paper presents broad hypotheses on inequality, environmental sustainability and security, which the organization favorably received in its effort to define its long-term vision for human development.

With the Operations Support Group (OSG), the Poverty Practice also led the development of a South-South cooperation strategy for UNDP. Based on an analysis of the changing context within a broader historical perspective, it provides the organization with the prospect of a new phase of cooperation and offers recommendations about key elements of a general UNDP strategy that includes policies, operations and management.



Photo: Kayla Keenan

VI. Enhanced facilitation of South-South learning and collaboration



Equitable Access to Basic Utilities: Public versus Private Provision and Beyond

Through its research, publications and conferences covering development topics such as inequality and the associated topics of inclusive development, social protection, and the relation between privatization and human development, the Poverty Practice's International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), a partnership with the Government of Brazil, brought key policy issues to the attention of decision makers in the South, providing highly informed policy guidance and advice in an effort to hasten achievement of the MDGs.

Addressing the issue of inequality, the IPC-IG produced a *Matrix of 8 LAC Countries*, which summarizes those countries' social protection policies and demonstrates how those policies contribute to the reduction of gender and race inequality. The IPC-IG continued to raise awareness of inequality through a series of products that notably includes *The Role of Women in Poverty Reduction, Impacts on Child Labor and Implications to Labor Supply*. Partnering with Harvard University at a major international workshop in Rio de Janeiro in June 2009, the IPC-IG promoted policy dialogue on social mobility trends and initiatives in Cuba, Brazil, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Countries benefiting from IPC-IG's policy advice on social protection include Angola, China, Costa Rica, East Timor, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, and Zambia. The IPC-IG initiated a process to help in the scaling up of social protection schemes in East Timor within a framework that facilitates effective use of scarce resources and encourages coordinated programming, with particular focus on MDGs 1 and 3.

The IPC-IG also provided best practices information, policy guidance and advice to promote inclusive development in Africa, Latin America and the Arabic States as well as in Asia and the Pacific through South-South learning.

IPC-IG embraced a broader research agenda on emerging development issues and cutting-edge topics. Its work on increasing access to basic services for the poor has expanded knowledge on the role and the conditions under which sound privatization strategies, complemented by public policy, can promote development. It has contributed to policy processes exploring the role of the public and private sectors in facilitating affordable access to new information technologies. The research, policy studies and one-page publications of the IPC-IG have been translated into many languages and distributed through various channels to the IPC-IG's global development network of over 18,000 policymakers, researchers, CSO workers, UN specialists and development practitioners in 189 countries.

VII. Knowledge management

The Poverty Practice knowledge management services have helped country offices, regional centers and, in some instances, even other UN agencies increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their poverty reduction work in the field.

The PRnet 'consolidated replies' collected practical experiences from the UNDP global network to inform programme countries on programming in areas including

food security strategies, employment policies, regional competitive indicators, and micro-finance mechanisms. This knowledge was widely shared with programme countries and policy makers and used in capacity development initiatives in the field. It more efficiently supported country offices in their responses to local demand and better enabled countries to make well-informed poverty reduction policies. The decision of the government of Timor-Leste to broaden its approach toward a comprehensive social safety net is one strong example of the PRnet's effectiveness in promoting human development and achievement of the MDGs.

The Poverty Practice launched its new global poverty website, <http://www.undp.org/poverty/>. Essential for publicizing UNDP's work in poverty reduction, the website will also make it much easier to mobilize resources for UNDP programmes and will no doubt become a very convenient, preferred source of reliable information for governments, organizations, and individuals around the world.

The Poverty Practice has supported the corporate TeamWorks initiative by piloting the service space on the economic crisis, by populating service spaces for all eight service areas of UNDP on poverty reduction, and by setting up user groups on various topics. The MDG strategy service space now has over 150 users and provides important user feedback that facilitates improvement of the corporate TeamWorks development.

Knowledge management is recognized by the Poverty Practice as the new way to do business. The Poverty Practice retreat and the Community of Practice (CoP) meeting organized in September further strengthened this consensus, promoted knowledge sharing and exchanges within the global network, and launched the global UNDP CoP on poverty reduction, private sector development, and MDGs of UNDP.

VIII. Conclusion – Looking Forward

The Poverty Practice's achievements in 2009 have contributed to the realization of UNDP corporate vision and strategies, supported programme countries in their efforts to hasten and sustain progress in human development, and shaped the global agenda more favorably for the achievement of the MDGs. They have also demonstrated prospects of a new way to do business through knowledge management, service delivery models and wider collaboration with development stakeholders.

Looking forward to 2010 and 2011, the Poverty Practice will accelerate its effort to introduce the MDG Break-through Strategy; sharpen its focus on the 2010 MDG Review; harmonize the integration of climate change responses with efforts to reduce poverty; deepen its studies and policy support of addressing vulnerabilities; promote regional economic mechanisms and trade capacities for human development; and facilitate the exchange of knowledge in South-South cooperation. To achieve this, the Poverty Practice will 1) balance its roles as a generator of new information and a resource for existing information, so that the Poverty Practice continues to support countries and to inform and influence global development policies; 2) enhance collaboration with all Practices and strengthen engagement with all parts of the Practice architecture; and 3) pursue a robust resource mobilization strategy to support the delivery of services.



Photo: Kayla Keenan



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