



State of Eritrea

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ERITREA 2014
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT (ERITREA 2014 MDGR)**

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

December, 2014

1.0 Introduction

Eritrea is one of the 189 nations which endorsed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2000 at the General Assembly of the United Nations, as part of the internationally agreed development goals. The objective of the Declaration was to improve the livelihoods of humanity in the 21st century by pursuing the eight (8) MDGs with quantified, time-bound targets to be achieved by the year 2015. Progress in achieving the goals globally has been uneven, with some countries having achieved many of them, while others on track, and others falling behind.

Monitoring the MDGs takes place at both global and national levels: At the global level, the UN Secretary-General reports annually to the General Assembly on the progress of implementation of the MDGs. At national levels, the preparations of the MDG Country Reports are nationally led and owned by the governments, and are one of the best instruments for obtaining MDG evidence from the ground, extracting lessons learnt and maintaining momentum towards the MDGs. The Reports also serve as public information and a social mobilization tool to help keep the country commitments to the goals.

Eritrea has integrated the MDGs into her national plans and they have been the basis for the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (SPCF) 2013 – 2016 signed between the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) and UN System in 2013. Implementation progress is tracked as part of annual reviews of the sector performance by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE). The last formal MDG report for Eritrea was prepared in 2006 and as part of the Country reports on MDGs, the next is planned to be undertaken this year, 2014. In 2014, Eritrea prepared Health-related MDG report, which shows remarkable progress made in Child mortality (MDG4), Maternal mortality (MDG 5), and some targets on combating the spread of HIV and AIDS (MDG 6); the country presented the report at the 2014 side event at the UN General Assembly and also presented a paper on the general over view of other MDGs.

2.0 Objective

The overall objective of the 2014 MDG Report is to provide an assessment of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs in Eritrea which will serve as an impetus for policy and decision making by the Eritrean Government to accelerate progress on the other MDGs and continue to address social equity and justice. The report will also provide a regional perspective on some of the Eritrea's MDGs where data is available from the EPHS data of 2010, as well as evidence-based inputs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Eritrea.

Specific objectives are:

- i) To provide an assessment of progress towards attaining the MDGs with emphasis on the developments since the publication of the last progress report in 2006;
- ii) To identify key policy interventions to accelerate progress on the lagging MDGs and promote discussions on interventions needed for accelerating progress. on the MDGs; and
- iii) To provide evidence-based inputs and information for national planning and budget process, as well as to the Post-2015 Development Agenda for Eritrea.

3.0 Data

The 2014 Eritrea MDG Report will largely utilize EPHS 2010 data. The last EPHS was done in 2010 and the results published in 2013. The next EPHS study is planned to be carried out in 2015.

4.0 Preparation process

The preparation process of the 2014 MDG Report will involve consultation spearheaded by government. A wide range of stakeholders will be consulted in the process to gather additional information. These consultations will seek to gather data and information on MDG specific issues like achievements, trends, challenges and interventions in terms of resources and policy actions required to attain the targets by 2015, and inputs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda. After the data and information are gathered, a draft report will be prepared and reviewed by a team of 17 experts and high ranking government officials.

5.0 Outline and Content of the Report

Following is the proposed outline and contents of the MDGs 2014 report in line with the 2013 Addendum to the MDG Country Report Guidelines. The report will comprise of six chapters as follows.

5.1 Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter will elaborate the evolution of MDGs, an overview of coordination of the report production and objectives, as well as rationale. It will also provide an explanation on the methodology applied. Additionally, the chapter will give the scope and limitations of the report, as well as its organization.

Key sections of chapter one will be:

- (i) Background to the MDGs
- (ii) Coordination and Methodology of report production
- (iii) The objectives and rationale of the report
- (iv) Scope and limitations of the report
- (v) Organization of the report

5.2 Chapter Two: National Development Context

This chapter tries to highlight generally the national context of the country by presenting and discussing issues like the geography of the country, priorities of government, performance of the economy and challenges, development financing, trade and regional integration, socio-economic development – poverty and inequality, social service delivery, the employment challenge, sustainable development – agriculture and climate change, food security, the environment and energy and the prospects of key natural resources, their exploitation and implications.

5.3 Chapter Three: Progress towards the MDGs

This chapter will contain an analysis of trends towards MDG targets and indicators and the rate of progress updated to latest figures. This chapter will identify the gaps from the targets and the reasons for these gaps and what needs to be done. In addition, sub-regional analysis of progress will also be done.

Key sections of chapter three will be:

- 5.3.1. Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 5.3.2. Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education
- 5.3.3. Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- 5.3.4. Goal 4. Reduce child mortality
- 5.3.5. Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- 5.3.6. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 5.3.7. Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability
- 5.3.8. Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

5.4 Chapter Four: Innovations Driving MDG Achievements

This section will focus on cross-cutting innovative strategies employed to drive MDGs, specific efforts employed and country unique innovations, such as country commitment and emphasis on value for money practices.

5.5 Chapter Five: Challenges to Sustain and Improve MDGs in Eritrea

These challenges will include internal challenges, which would require internal solutions and external challenges which would require regional and international solutions.

5.6 Chapter Six: Lessons Learnt and Implications for the Post 2015 Development Agenda

The lessons learned to inform what has worked and can be continued, what has not worked, and why, as well as what needs to be done going forward, including informing the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be outlined and synthesized in this chapter.

6. Review and Drafting of the Report

A: Proposed Review Team/Committee:

This team will comprise of 17 experts, including a Norwegian expert familiar with Eritrean statistics, a representative from UNCT, Eritrea and MDG focal persons from relevant sector ministries. The responsibility of the Review Team will be to ensure timely collection and submission of data from various ministries and agencies.

B: Proposed Drafting Team

This will be constituted by two national consultants and MND staff who will be supported by MDG focal persons from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, Ministry of Marine Resources, National Union of Eritrean Women, and National Statistics Office under MND. Also to be consulted are Ministry of Finance, Bank of Eritrea and Ministry of Trade and Industry. Research assistants will also be recruited to support the process and the Ministry of National Development (MND) will coordinate the assignment.

C: Consultation with UNCT Eritrea

After review of the draft Eritrea 2014 MDG Report by the Review Team/Committee, the MND staff will consult with the UNCT Eritrea for their (UNCT) comments.