



JULY 7/7 MICAH CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES REPORT

Towards achieving and exceeding the MDG's by 2015: Taking the half term score 2000-2007

Introduction

This report outlines campaign the anti-poverty campaign activities carried out by GCAP-Kenya and its partners in the month of July 2007. During this half-time period between signing in 2000 and achievement in 2015, GCAP-Kenya hoped to keep the public support for the MDGs alive. The campaign strategy employed involved igniting a public debate on the Kenyan half time score, public petitions to the leaders and mass mobilization.

The report opens with background information on the campaign which is followed by a summary of the activities. Detailed activity reports are then appended.

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Preamble

The MDGs are a commitment by the government to the citizens, a roadmap to end poverty. "In 2000, member states of the United Nations, and the global financial institutions, publicly promised to halve poverty by 2015 by achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals.

2007, is an important year for the world as it marks the half way mark set by the governments around the world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This therefore means that the governments in the rich nations have seven years to fulfill their promises on increasing Aid, cancellation of debts and ensuring fair trade. On the other hand the developing countries need to utilize these resources to ensure their citizens live a dignified life through the achievement of the MDGs.

The current situation in Kenya is that while some significant progress has been made in meeting some of the targets, in many cases progress is patchy, too slow or non-existent. Popular support for MDGs as development bench marks is waning both among the development workers and the government.

The Micah Network, the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and the Global Call to Action against Poverty have created the Micah Challenge campaign to grasp a moment of unique potential. A moment when the intention of all of the world's leaders to half poverty by 2015, echoes something similar to the call by Prophet Micah 6:6-8. A moment when the world has the means to dramatically reduce poverty and hunger!

Micah Challenge is a member of the Global Call to Action against Poverty. The campaign in Kenya realized the following outcomes,

1. A deepening of Christian engagement with impoverished and marginalized communities. Churches mobilized their members to set aside time to remember the poor. In one church KSH 3m was raised to support goal 7.
2. Provided a platform for the clergy to publicly petition the political leaders to fulfill their promise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).
3. Raised public awareness on the MDG's through a wide media visibility
4. Laid down a framework for a government and Civil Society partnership thereby harnessing civil society participation in MDG's

Activities carried out

1. Football game

On 20th June, the Civil Society on MDGs (GCAP-Kenya), partnered with UNMC and the NGO Board in a football game between members of Parliament, Bunge FC and the NGO board dubbed the 'NGO week supports the MDGs. Bunge FC lost 2-1 to the Civil Society. During a cock-tail after the game, the Members of Parliament present committed to use parliament as a platform to pursue fulfillment of the government's pledge to meet MDGs by 2015.

2. A Bishops' breakfast

Attended by 25 bishops on 28th, this breakfast meeting enlisted the participation of the churches in the 'Blow the Whistle' campaign. The objectives of the Breakfast were:

- a. Create an awareness on the Millennium Development Goals and the role of the Church,
- b. Create an understanding of the Micah Challenge Campaign and the role of the Church in its actualization.
- c. Synergize efforts by the Church and Development Agencies in support of the Micah Challenge Campaign - Kenya.
- d. Agree on appropriate strategy for 'Blow the Whistle' campaign on and before 07/07/2007

3. GoK/CSOs Partnership Consultative Meeting- 29th July

Convened by the Civil Society Campaign on MDGs (the Global Call to Action against Poverty-Kenya) in partnership with the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Action Aid International Kenya and MDGs vocal point at the ministry of Planning and National Development, representative from the Civil society, the Ministry of planning, UNDP and the Finnish Embassy held a consultative meeting on energizing and harmonizing the efforts geared towards achievement and exceeding the MDGs by 2015. A joint facilitation team was set up to advance this agenda.

4. Media Breakfast July 6th

The breakfast brought together media and the clergy creating an opportunity for the church to enlist the support of the press in the campaign; this, in recognition of the important role of the media in creating public awareness and goodwill.

5. Public Forum/Debate

Devolved funds have been taunted as the most effective way of fighting poverty on the strength of their ability to bring governance closer to the people thereby addressing their priorities. Despite the numerous claims of mismanagement of devolved funds especially the Constituency development fund, Local Authorities Transfer Fund, and the Constituency Bursary Fund, the funds are said to have achieved much in improving the lot for the poor. There is however a need for public interrogation of the extent to which the devolved funds are helping realize the MDG's.

On July 6th, a public forum was convened for this purpose. In the panel were the clergy who argued that while taking application of funds closer to the consumers- the people is desirable, financial support to community efforts such as church sponsored schools and churches could be quick gains. It is worth to note that in the 70th, the government took over running of educational institutions formally founded by the church. A Members of Parliament was invited to argue the case for the current structure but did not turn up. In the panel was voice to chair experiences of a development partner in applying funds closer to the people.

6. Blow the half time whistle events

- a. The Evangelical Alliance of Kenya in conjunction with the Global Call to Action against Poverty and United Nations Millennium Campaign mobilized Christians for 'a blow the half time whistle' campaign. Churches were mobilized to fast for twenty four hours on 7.7.7 to thank God for his blessings and give a part of the daily meal to the needy among. In one church, Christ is the Answer Ministries, over Kenya shilling three million was raised to support work around goal 7, target 10 on improvement of the living standards of the slum dwellers. On 7.7.7, the Christians gathered at City Stadium from 8.00 -11.00 am to blow the half time whistle and call the attention of the leaders to the need to fast track the MDG's campaign.
- b. On 777, Destiny Africa will partnered with AAR- a private medical insurance company and the provincial medical office among others, in a medical camp in Kisumu. The medical camp was preceded by a 'Boda Boda cyclists' competition that raised public awareness and goodwill towards MDG's.

7. Media Campaign

Campaigners took part in talk shows with Fm radio stations Radio Simba, Radio Waumini and Kameme FM. Between 5th and 7th July, FM radio stations were contracted to raising public awareness through presenter mentions. Advertisement for activities were carried in print media on 5th and 6th July.

The campaign received a wide media attention. A detailed media monitoring report is yet to be received and it will be circulated as soon as it is radio and newspaper reports are received. Below is the TV report.

DATE	MEDIA	SUMMARY	TIME	LENGTH	SLOT
5 th	KTN	Clergymen said leaders are loosing their goals to implement the MDGs	1308 hrs	1 min 25 sec	News
5 th	KTN	Clergymen said leaders are loosing their goals to implement the MDGs	1602 hrs	1 min 25 sec	News
5 th	KBC	Conflict & corruption are the main challenges facing Africa in achieving 2015 MDGs	1308 hrs	115 sec	News
6 th	CTV	Bishops in Evangelical Alliance says Kenya may not reach millennium goals due to insecurity	1304 hrs	110 sec	News
6 th	CTV	Bishops in Evangelical Alliance says Kenya may not reach millennium goals due to insecurity	2113 hrs	110 sec	News
6 th	CTV	Bishops in Evangelical Alliance says Kenya may not reach millennium goals due to insecurity	1605 hrs	80 sec	News
7 th	NTV	Religious leaders call on gov't to help realise MDGs	2119 hrs	130 sec	News
7 th	CTV	Bishop Mark Kariuki says Kenyans should avoid politicians who don't work to fight poverty	1611 hrs	60 sec	News
7 th	KBC	Millenium Development Goals taking stock of progress so far	2114 hrs	120 sec	News

8. Upcoming events

Preparations are underway to perform the poverty requiem as a central mobilization strategy around the International Day for Eradication of Poverty, October 17th. Two events have already been registered one in Molo through the guidance of Center for Rural Support Initiative and Network for Eco-farming in Africa and the other one in Nairobi Spearheaded by Education for Life Institute in conjunction with the SDA Choir. All the performances are being organized with support from KYCEP, GCAP Kenya, UNMC, Will art Promotions and Oxfam Novib, the poverty requiem campaign is targeted to mobilize 500 000 Kenyan's to 'stand up and raise their voices against poverty.'

9. C-CfA

C-cfa stand for commission for Africa Affairs. With a membership from 22 African countries, the commission was created to bring the voice of the African civil society to the Japan's Tokyo international Conference for Africa Development- TICAD. 2008 will see japan host TICAD IV in May and later on in the year the G8. C-CfA, to which GCAP-Kenya is an executive committee member is working to ensure that the voice of the African people are heard in the TICAD IV and ultimately keep Africa a priority in 2008 G8 summit in Tokyo.

C-CfA will be meeting in Nairobi in September to put together a policy white paper. We in Kenya are in the consultative stage on ways of capturing the voice of the Kenyans in the area of foreign support for development. Your comments are welcome.

Appendices: Activity Reports

App 1: Report of the Consultative meeting on GOK/CSOs partnership

Report of the Consultative meeting between Civil Society Organizations and the Kenya Government

Introduction

Kenya is one of the eight pilot countries implementing the Millennium project, an effort by the UN to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since 2000, the Kenya government has put a lot of work and effort in the MDGs process. It is employing strategies that will enable the country move closer to achieving the MDGs. One of the strongest recommendations that came out of the New York UN Summit was that Government partnership with diverse stakeholders including the Civil Society is vital in achieving the MDGs. It was further recommended that countries develop homegrown strategies to promote local understanding and appreciation of the MDGs and therefore action by stakeholders to achieve them.

Though there are many stakeholders in the Kenyan process engaged in various MDGs initiatives, there is evidence of disharmony that manifests in duplication of efforts and consequently less impact of the applied interventions. To achieve the harmony and to incorporate more stakeholders within the MDGs debate, the Civil Society Campaign on MDGs (GCAP-Kenya), in partnership with the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Action Aid International Kenya and the MDGs Implementation Unit at the Ministry of Planning and National Development (MoPND) convened a consultative meeting to deliberate on a government/CSOs partnership on the MDGs. This report captures the proceedings from the consultative meeting held on 29th June 2007 at the All Africa Conference of Churches. The meeting was attended by representatives from MoPND, UNDP, Embassy of Finland, NGOs, churches, trade unions, CBOs and Organized groups within community.

Session One: Opening Remarks and Speeches

In the opening session, keynote remarks were made by Ms Grace Banya on behalf of Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative; Mr. Elifazi W. Baraza for the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Planning and National Development (MoPND) and Ms Saida Maki-Penttila on behalf of the Ambassador of Finland.

I. Welcoming remarks by Mwangi, the GCAP-Kenya Coordinator

In his remarks, Mr. Mwangi, stated that the meeting between the government and CSOs was on basis of common purpose. Both government and CSOs are involved in the battle against poverty. The meeting presented a forum to take stock of the country's progress on the MDGs, what the Government and CSOs are separately doing towards the MDGs and explore the idea of working together in order to accelerate achievement of the Goals. The meeting will work towards identifying strategies for inclusive participation in the MDGs process by the Government and CSOs to eradicate poverty. 2007 is particularly important since it is the midpoint of attainment of MDGs. The remaining half of the timeline (2007-2015) to attainment of MDGs should now aim beyond merely halving poverty since this is minimalist. There is greater need to harmonize and coordinate the efforts geared towards attainment of the Goals. This should be undertaken both among and within the CSOs themselves and between government and CSOs. He said that the meeting was particularly aimed at discussing the issue of partnership, especially strengthening partnership between

government and CSOs to ensure MDGs are exceeded. The discourse on MDGs itself should be taken to the grassroots for greater ownership.

II. Remarks by Dr. Edward Sambili, Permanent Secretary, the MoPND

In his remarks, titled *'Partnering with CSOs in Kenya for the MDGs,'* the Permanent Secretary took pleasure in participating in debate on forging a common front with the CSOs in the fight against poverty and how to intensify Kenya's efforts in order to enable the country achieve the MDGs not later than 2015. He reminded participants in the meeting that they were important actors in development and it is upon their shoulders that the burden to take Kenya to the threshold of the MDGs largely rests.

The PS stated that the MDGs are embodied in the Millennium Declaration of 2000 that was adopted by all UN Member States including Kenya. The benefits that accrue from achievement of the Goals serve the very basic needs of humanity and are fundamental to any form of human progress. Additionally, the MDGs aim at addressing such needs for the entire nation without leaving out any section of the society. He noted that while the UN Member States jointly committed to the Millennium Declaration and achievement of the MDGs, it is upon each individual country to identify strategies that will enable it to achieve the MDGs. It is in this regard that the Government of Kenya has been working with a growing number of different stakeholders at different levels in development aspects that are pertinent to achievement of the MDGs.

The PS disclosed that there has been deliberate effort by the Government aimed at addressing the MDGs since inception of the process in the country beginning from 2002. Such efforts gained momentum in 2004 during the MDGs Assessment and Costing Study and intensified after publishing of the findings of the Study in 2005. He noted that in December 2004, the Treasury issued circulars to all the Ministries to ensure that Core-Poverty Programs received first priority in resource allocation and MDGs second. On the strength of the circulars, resources allocated to the MDGs cannot be reallocated to other activities. It is important to note that Core-Poverty Programs basically address the MDGs. In related effort, the Government issued a memo in March 2005 to all ministries with clear instruction to mainstream the MDGs in their development programmes.

The PS noted that the subsequent effects of these moves have been stable and consistent increase of investment from 2004/2005 to date in sectors of Agriculture, Education, Health and Environment, which are all covered under the MDGs. It is expected that as the economy continues to improve this trend will be sustained to a point that is commensurate with the level that is desirable to support the country to achieve the MDGs.

He further explained that currently, the Government is piloting a District-based approach on MDGs, which includes consultations with Government Departments and other development actors at the district and lower levels. The approach intends to bring together local stakeholders including CSOs and Private Sector to identify strategies and specific interventions relevant to each district for fast tracking. This initiative is first on pilot basis in nine Districts commonly known as the Millennium Districts, which are Bondo, Suba, Siaya, Bungoma, Turkana, Murang'a, Meru South, Garissa and Kilifi. He promised that best practices from these Districts would be scaled up to all other districts.

On cooperation with CSOs since the process began, the PS said that the Government acknowledges the important role in development that CSOs in Kenya continue to play at all levels and especially at the grassroots level. It was in recognition to their invaluable contribution to development that during the first stakeholders' forum on the MDGs held in 2004 they were invited to participate.

During the preparation for the country's participation at the UN Summit on MDGs held in New York in 2005, the Government worked closely with the CSOs producing various important documents such as the MDGs Needs Assessment and Costing Report and the Kenya MDGs Status Report of 2005. He said that both the government and CSOs have involved each other on many other MDGs-related activities at both the national and lower levels. During all the consultative and capacity building exercises at the Millennium Districts, the Ministry has always made arrangements for the participation of local CSOs. The PS admitted that there was greater need for continued government cooperation with CSOs, arguing that the challenge to achieve the Goals faces not only the Government but also all other development players including the CSOs. The core programs of most CSOs by some coincidence address issues directly related to the MDGs.

The organizations also command a lot of respect especially among communities where they offer exemplary services. Further, he appreciated that there is plenty of resources in terms of both expertise and capital possessed by these organizations.

The P. S. noted that while the Government is stepping up effort on MDGs within its institutional arrangements, it would also be important to forge alliances with other stakeholders whose mandates are also closely linked to the MDGs. If all stakeholders tune respective programs to directly respond to the MDGs, then the country can be sure to achieve the Goals by the year 2015 or even earlier. It is in this regard that the Government considers cooperation with the CSOs pertinent. The two sides can achieve greater results if they work closely and in harmony than when they work in disregard of each other. Experiences of the past here in Kenya and even other countries have proved this case to be true. The PS concluded therefore by urging the participants to use the meeting to share ideas and deliberate on the best way of working together with sustained effort not only to 2015 but beyond as well.

III. Remarks by Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

In her remarks, she stated that the UNDP was rethinking ways of engaging CSOs on MDGs. She noted that MDGs were important in the fact that they provided opportunity for engaging poverty and hunger among other issues that affect humanity. She stated that all stakeholders were important in attaining MDGs, adding further that CSOs have become important players in the modern state as part of three state sectors but particularly targeting the creation of space for broad-based participation. She extolled CSOs as better suited to engage communities in issues of development and this is why they should be engaged by policymakers and get involved through the entirety of policymaking processes.

The representative noted that CSOs' interest in MDGs has grown over time, with over 85% of them globally interested in the Goals. This therefore called for deepening of the CSOs engagement with other players. This could be through a number of strategies, among them localizing development goals, decentralizing policies and budgets, ensuring participation of all local actors and recognizing their roles, promoting access to information and building capacity and alliances among other measures.

She isolated the possible areas of working with CSOs, pointing out in particular the localization of MDGs to relate closely with the needs of people. This could be through a variety of activities by CSOs that raise awareness, among them consultations, and public forums and hearings. Since CSOs usually serve intermediary role between citizens and states, successful localization of the MDGs can link together national and sub national development. She was of the opinion that

CSOs involvement would enhance local ownership of development processes and make them key partners in development and achievement of MDGs. She concluded by stating that CSOs engagement at the sub-national level would enrich MDGs work at the national level. She ended her speech by paying tribute to work done on MDGs in Kenya by GCAP, United Nations Millennium Campaign, Actionaid International Kenya, the MoPND and other development actors.

IV. Remarks by Ms Saida Maki-Penttila on behalf of the Ambassador of Finland to Kenya

Beginning with the note that MDGs are a responsibility of all stakeholders including CSOs and government, she said that the Finnish Embassy was greatly involved in the MDGs work. She expressed concern that persistent poverty was an indicator that approaches adopted by the MDGs campaign so far have not worked. She therefore urged for appropriate reforms to be carried out in order to have effective approaches that can tackle poverty once and for all. The consultative meeting between government and CSOs was a step in the right direction. There is however need for much more to be done, particularly the engagement of local community knowledge to enrich MDGs. She noted that the consultative meeting was important in showing why it is good to work collaboratively. She said that Finland recognizes and appreciates CSOs in their efforts to improve livelihoods and is in this regard supporting about 30 CSOs in Kenya, besides working with the MoPND and the UNDP in MDGs. She thus concluded by calling for more collaborative efforts towards the achievement of MDGs.

V. Plenary Reactions to the presentations

Questions and Comments

- Is Kenyan interest on MDGs waning?
- Is the Kenyan budget geared towards MDGs, as it was a few years ago?
- How are the poor coping with the economic growth and globalization?
- How for instance are the increases in pricing affecting the poor?
- Is it possible that the exclusion and marginalization of the poor by the economic growth escaping the official statistics on development?
- Why is change not coming and CSOs not coordinating for better results?
- How did the government choose the 9 MDGs districts?
- Has the criterion used in choosing the districts failed the Government?
- How could we link our MDGs language with the language used by the communities in addressing the same issues?

The UNDP speech calls for more focus on communities and urges much deeper reflection on community engagement. Approaches of engaging communities should be participatory and should avoid the pitfalls of the District Focus for Rural Development, which though meant to decentralize planning; it ended up in the recentralization of planning to the detriment of the communities.

There is need for peoples' budgets to be linked with state budgets. Although it is noteworthy that Government has noticed the central role of CSOs in localizing MDGs, other development actors such as the UNDP should seize this opportunity and deepen the engagement between CSOs and Government. They should get hold of all CSOs in the country and engage them in MDGs, instead of only working with a few. The government should further ensure that the Provincial Administration supports CSOs at the grassroots in streamlining the MDGs.

The Finnish embassy speech urged for an end to the business as usual attitude in the handling of MDGs. Indeed Finland's interest in MDGs is high since it has assisted Kenya for a long period in MDGs. It has facilitated the streamlining of the MDGs at the national, provincial and district levels. The embassy currently supports government engagement with communities.

CSOs coordination is problematic since they lack clear coordination mechanisms of their work leading to duplication of services, unnecessary competition among themselves which is inimical to development. In spite of the opportunities the many meetings they have, they rarely speak of their real challenges. They have to find a way of talking to communities on MDGs in a language that communities would comprehend. Although communities may have access to information, this is ineffective in the long run since there is little follow up from communities.

The Kenyan government is doing a good thing in supporting CSOs on MDGs. However, in the past partnership between the government and CSOs has been ad hoc and needs to be issue-based and sustainable. Communities are still not yet aware of MDGs, while poverty level is still high. This can partly be reduced by localizing the MDGs. It is also important to note that the MDGs are not new phenomena as their aspirations correspond to ones stipulated in the first Sessional Paper of 1965 shortly after independence. The MDGs message must be taken to communities and development partners need to consider support to efforts geared towards this.

- Why has the discourse on partnership left out the business communities and the private sector?

There is an urgent need to involve this critical sector in partnership since it has the resources required to fund the MDGs. The Government should make deliberate effort to engage the key stakeholders of the modern state, among them the private, CSOs, self-help groups within the envisioned partnership. Since the Ministry of Social Services is in close contact with grassroots groups, the MoPND should engage it, as well as research institutions for effective partnership to take hold.

An effective way of localizing the MDGs would be to identify ways of having them addressed in electoral campaign visions and manifestos of political office contestants and have the contestants commit to them within their manifestoes. Ordinary people are not privy to the fact that the government committed itself to eradicating poverty. Streamlining the Goals within the manifestoes would therefore go a long way in popularizing the MDGs among the ordinary wananchi. Presidential, parliamentary and civic candidates should be made to commit to MDGs within their visions and manifestoes.

The localization debate has not taken root and there is a hiatus between MDGs and the local groups on MDGs. CSOs should hence find out what actions local groups are engaging in without referring to them as MDGs. The CSOs should understand how the groups have been able to internalize and interpret the MDG concept in their own language. Monitoring and Evaluation is the main challenge in localizing MDGs.

The MoPND should therefore come up with a policy on right to information since this would help monitor and evaluate MDGs activities at the community level.

Responses

I. GCAP Response

While dependency syndrome in funding is being discouraged, donors should be true to their funding commitment on MDGs. It is clear that efforts against poverty are not working. Although

GCAP is trying to make the engagement on MDGs very inclusive including inviting FBOs and the Private sector, it needs to go beyond this and even incorporate university and research institutions as well.

II. MoPND Response

The Government acknowledges that there is need for active engagement between it and CSOs especially on the MDGs. There is therefore need to develop structured framework to support partnership between the two sides at all levels in order to enhance participation and therefore increase pace towards attainment of the MDGs.

III. UNDP response

The UNDP has also noted the duplication of funding to activities and seeks to avoid this. It shall engage actors within the MDGs work in a participatory manner so as not to leave out other players. It shall also endeavour to involve the private sector at a more heightened level. The UNDP also acknowledged that there are lots of development and poverty eradication activities by CSOs taking place at the community level without being necessarily referred to as MDGs. The CSOs need to be well coordinated amongst themselves for greater impact.

IV. Finnish response

There is need to critically look at statistics on development beyond the official figures given by the government. Partners should observe each other and collaborate for effective outcome.

Session Two: Reflections on Government/CSOs Engagement

I. Government Work in MDGs – By Elkana Ong’uti, MoPND

The presentation highlighted on the genesis of the MDGs, their value and the process since its inception in the country and the opportunity they present in development.

It made comparison of the MDGs to other development initiatives since independence in a way suggesting that there is not so much new in MDGs in terms of substance. They address similar challenges the Government has been addressing since independence. It compared the MDGs to development plans as Sessional Paper No 10 of 1965, which focused on poverty, ignorance and disease, various National Development Plans, Sectoral Policy Papers and more recently the PRSP and NPEP. Currently, the ERS has a fairly good focus on MDGs, while most of the development cooperation/support that Kenya has received has had strong elements of poverty reduction.

The presentation indicated that for the country to achieve the MDGs it needs to grow the economy at 7% and above from the current 6.1%. It further has to reduce poverty to 21.7% by 2015 (based on 43.3% in 1990). There are wide differentials in poverty between the few rich and the majority poor, with the lowest 10% of Rural Households (HHs) controlling 1.63% of total expenditure while top 10% take 35.9%). There are also wide regional differentials between regions for most indicators (Absolute poverty: Turkana is 94.9%; Mandera 89.1%; Kajiado 11.6% and Kiambu 21.6%), besides differentials among sub groups (Rural Women 50%; Rural Men 48.8%; Urban Women 46.2%; Urban Men 30%). Continuing capacity and resource constraints among government and other stakeholders are also among the challenges faced in attaining MDGs.

There are however a number of opportunities at the local levels that can be turned into advantage in achieving MDGs. Among these, a conducive policy environment exists, indicated in the enormous political will for development that has been seen through improved governance, results-based management in the public sector, improved business environment with more revenue, more ambitious targets such as Vision 2030 being set, increased devolved funding through the

Constituency Development Fund, the Local Authority Transfer Fund, the Constituency Bursary, the HIV/AIDS Fund and Fuel Levy among others. Affirmative action on gender issues has also been undertaken.

The main aim for the Kenyan government in the MDGs process is to mainstream the Goals in policy, planning and budgeting and rally all stakeholders to focus on the Goals. Already, MDGs have been mainstreamed in the ERS, but still a lot needs to be done.

Other activities already undertaken to strengthen effort towards achievement of the MDGs include publishing Kenya Needs Assessment and Costing Report in 2005, the first Progress Report for Kenya 2003, which was launched in July 2003, the launching of the MDG-Based planning at a multi-stakeholder forum in May 2004, the publication of the MDG Status Report in 2005 and the March 2005 Cabinet directive to mainstream MDGs in development activities in all ministries. Additionally, there have been various capacity building workshops have been held for planning and budgetary officers and the provincial and district officers. To promote general awareness, the MDG Information, Education and Communication strategy has been undertaken through Bulletins, Brochures, Fliers, Posters, T-shirts, Calendars and Newspaper supplements, while TV and Radio programs have been used to reach to wider audiences.

Already, a number of results are emerging from the MDGs process, chief among them being that the Budget Strategy Papers have projected to increase resources to agriculture, health, education and infrastructure from 56 per cent in 2004/05 to 66.5 percent in 2008/09. The education sector gets more than 28 per cent of the national budget; the Health share stands at 8.9 per cent and will increase to 9.4 by 2008/09, while Infrastructure share has risen from 15.6% in 2004/05 to 19%.

There are ongoing activities on MDGs and these include preparation of National MDG-based long-term plan, deepening the IEC Strategy to reach people at the local levels, building capacity for planning and implementing MDGs at the local levels, the Millennium Villages Concept run by Kenya's development partners and the Millennium Cities Initiative, currently targeting Kisumu City.

Piloting MDGs in selected districts is an ongoing activity and its objective is to build capacity for stakeholders in the district to fast track implementation of poverty related initiatives, including the MDGs and mainstream MDGs by identifying and implementing MDG related interventions using already available resources and identifying gaps in the districts. The piloting of the initiative is being undertaken in 9 districts, namely Murang'a, Meru South, Garissa, Kilifi, Turkana, Bungoma, Bondo, Suba and Siaya. The districts were selected in consideration of several disadvantages they face and regional representation. Already some initial work has been undertaken in Murang'a, Turkana, Kilifi and Siaya districts. The outputs emerging from this process will also feed into the strategic plans of the districts

Stakeholders are responsible to ensure that MDGs are mainstreamed in policy, planning and budgeting through the relevant avenues and to ensure that focus is given to the local levels where there are increased resources. They should also ensure that available resources are used efficiently and effectively.

II. Plenary

Questions and Comments

Was there a scientific basis in the selection the 9 pilot districts?

The presentation alluded to a MDGs long-term plan supposedly being developed by the government.

Who, besides government, is involved in the long-term plan?

Much of poverty in Kenya is structured and springs from structural deficiencies that do not allow for development. For instance, antipoverty budgetary allocation in form of CDF is directed towards development expenditure, and this does not address the root needs of MDGs like providing medicines, putting the girl child in schools etc. Similar structural difficulties are encountered in the policy on corruption, on education, which in particular emphasizes non-existent white-collar jobs and on agriculture where there is no policy on emergencies in the sector as drought and floods among many other policies. How well is the Kenyan policy environment suited towards addressing these structural deficiencies that are the main founts of the country's poverty?

MDGs remain minimalist in their outlook since having declared their purpose the halving of poverty by 2015, they do not take care of the critical segment of people who will still live in poverty even with the attainment of the Goals.

Responses

The selection of the 9 pilot districts was not scientific and was largely based on district's prior disadvantages. The districts were selected to serve as examples for other areas. At least each of Kenya's eight provinces has a district covered by the 9 pilot districts.

The MDGs long-term plan has so far been formulated by a consultant who has undertaken collection of data and views from various stakeholders to inform the plan. The MoPND will involve other stakeholders in consultations over the plan before it is finalized.

Indeed there are structural reasons for Kenya's poverty. However, far-reaching reforms are being undertaken to resolve these deficiencies. The national budget for instance has been improved to permit a balance between recurrent and development expenditures from the initial ratio of everything: nothing to a new ratio of 35:65 in operation currently. Reforms of a similar nature have been undertaken in other sectors such as the fight against corruption, in the education and agricultural sectors. The agriculture sector has initiated the *Njaa Marufuku* Program within its strategy for Revitalization of Agriculture for instance.

III. CSOs role in achievement of MDGs – by Mwangi, GCAP Kenya Coordinator

Although the MDGs work is not new for CSOs, they give a new crucial benchmark and have time bound indicators that were not existing prior. The Kenya government is doing a lot to finance campaigns in MDGs. This financial support is unfortunately not adequate. It can be argued rightly that CSOs in Kenya are providing up to 40% of social services for the poor.

The Kenya CSOs Forum on MDGs released a Strategy Paper in August 2006 and this contains proposals for coalition and linkage with other networks such as GCAP and Movement for Political Accountability (MOPA) among others. There is increasing need for the Forum to come up with shadow reports besides galvanizing members' efforts and engaging with the government on MDGs.

The Forum faces a number of challenges that must be taken into serious consideration. First among these is the challenge of poor leadership, both in government and among the CSOs themselves. There is a weakness in the area of leadership. From the government side, the engagement with the CSOs, localizing MDGs, and targeted interventions is impressive on some goals. However, in other

areas the progress is too slow and political will scanty. On their part development partners have not provided help to the CSOs Forum secretariat. The UNDP in fact pulled out its support for the CSOs working on MDGs. It instead channels support and resources through government. This presents problems of its own, given that democracy in Kenya has not matured to a stage where the government can be a trusted finance CSOs advocacy work and at the same time give space to the CSOs to play a watchdog role. Expectations and a strong dependency syndrome are other challenges encountered. CSOs do not invest their money in the Forum and are only content on blaming donors. The countries ability to absorb funds has also been wanting. Funds placed in the hands of the government for CSOs engagement have been the treasury for two years.

Will government procurement procedures lock out organized groups in society whose mode of accountability, though high acceptable deviates from the government recognized accounting procedures? There is an emerging challenge as well in the fact that development partners have begun to use commercial groups to channel funds towards social development. This trend will advantage the NGOs at the expense of other Civil Society in form of organized groups.

IV. Government – Civil Society Partnership for the MDGs – by Gideon M. Mailu

The presenter commenced by stating that the achievement of the MDGs is a responsibility of all the stakeholders. He noted that this has been the message coming out from the Millennium Declaration, the UN Millennium Summit of 2005. Every stakeholder should play a role where they have a comparative advantage. He disclosed that the government recognizes that CSOs have a comparative advantage in a number of areas for MDGs.

There are a number of capabilities among CSOs that make them important partners with government on MDGs. Among these include the facts that CSOs serve important segments of society in a manner which directly reflects and responds to felt needs of communities. They are good at advocacy on the importance of the MDGs and contribute ideas on policy formulation and design of MDGs strategies. They participate in service delivery under various MDGs and in monitoring of progress on MDGs. They could mobilize and build public awareness on MDGs besides sharing best practices and technical expertise for implementing the MDGs.

There are several strengths that CSOs have and one of these is that they have capacity to work and operate at grassroots level. Furthermore, being small, CSOs have smaller institutional structures with less bureaucracy. They have a contextual understanding of local situations, needs and people and have the capacity to fast track implementation of selected development programmes. They boost of trust and support of communities in which they serve besides being well placed to critique Government development programs.

There are however some challenges in working with CSOs. While CSOs possess unique strengths, few of them report adequately on the contribution and impact of their activities to local and national development. Additionally, despite the large presence of CSOs, there is little information on their geographical and thematic areas of their operations in the country. Their activities suffer uncoordinated implementation leading to duplication of services and competition among themselves. There is little involvement of other stakeholders in their planning and budgeting for development at the local level.

This notwithstanding, partnership between government and CSOs for the MDGs should be promoted. Objectives of such partnership for the MDGs would centre round the following:

1. Public Awareness

Heightening community awareness and utility of the MDGs

2. Mobilization

Educate communities on local strategies appropriate for achievement of the MDGs

3. Planning and Design of the MDGs Strategies

Contributing ideas, recommendations or best practices on appropriate service delivery strategies to reach the poor and vulnerable

4. Advocacy

Advocating for action on MDGs at the local level

This approach will entail undertaking activities at national and district/local levels to advance the MDGs agenda, as follows:

- a) National level campaign that targets all areas in the country with specific messages
- b) District level campaign on MDGs in nine pilot districts (Suba, Bondo, Siaya, Bungoma, Murang'a, Meru South, Garissa, Turkana and Kilifi)

Activities to undertake under each approach would be as follows:

1. Awareness Creation

Activities here would include dissemination and use of the Ministry's MDGs IEC materials to communities and interest groups through partners' frameworks, production and dissemination of IEC materials in local languages where the CSOs operate, performance of art shows on the MDGs, airing of the MDGs radio programs in vernacular FM stations and campaigns targeting schools and medical staff among others.

2. Mobilization

Activities here would involve making use of existing local structures to discuss poverty eradication, identifying common interests to generate action and promote development-driven alliances among CSOs, posting MDGs information at strategic local spaces and training local groups on various actions necessary for achievement of MDGs.

3. Designing MDGs Strategies

The main activity under this approach would be to collaborate with Government Departments to identify best practices for scale up in other areas.

Other Activities would include sensitizing/training local decision-makers and opinion leaders on MDGs, advocating through local leadership and development committees for utilization of devolved resources in MDGs-related programs and advocating in the political, economic and social decision-making areas for allocation of resources to MDGs priority.

In concluding, the presenter pledged that the government would revise its approach in MDGs to incorporate views from the consultative forum.

V. Plenary

Questions and Comments

What happened to government bulletins on MDGs that the government used to give out to CSOs? What happened to the Shadow Report of 2005 and what can the CSOs learn out of it? Can this past experience inform the new partnership with the government?

There is need to discuss issues of partnership, especially the approaches and the strategies of mobilization. The discussion should focus on the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the government partnership with CSOs in localizing MDGs in Kenya. There is need for a coordinated partnership, as GCAP Kenya has been attempting to do in coordinating CSOs' work in MDGs. District level campaigns are critical and these can be done through taking the 9 pilot Millennium districts concept all over the country.

The beginning point in strengthening the partnership should be to incorporate the experiences of the past 7 years so as to use them in improving plans for future partnership. The achievements of the past 7 years should be reflected upon and brought to bear on the new partnership with government. From this reflection, a new partnership can be built.

Responses

The beginning point for the strengthened partnership would be to build on existing institutions and structures. The Provincial Administration structures were not very familiar on how to receive CSOs but today they should be since the whole debate on MDGs begins from government. The initial CSOs Coalition on MDGs should not be let to die and attempts should be made to bring on board all stakeholders who was around then.

If the initial government taskforce on MDGs still exists, it should give direction on the way forward. Government is keen on partnering with CSOs to ensure better service delivery and achievement of the MDGs. There is need and political will to accelerate them. At the same time, the government has to take note of CSOs' achievements and aims before engaging the CSOs on MDGs.

The Government is exploring and consulting on the best framework to partner with CSOs for lasting and meaningful partnership on the MDGs. There is no office within government where the MDGs buck stops. Although MPs receive a lot of resources to facilitate community development, they are still unaware of the existence of the MDGs.

On comparative advantage, the government is working towards integrating the private sector to participate actively in the MDGs process. It was in this regard that it held an investment consultative forum for them recently in Kisumu and plans to hold several such meetings with CEOs of the private sector in other major towns.

The meeting observed that there is need to have development programs that target the real poor noting that there has been tendency to work with the "elite" in poor communities in fear of failure to show results. Mobilization should therefore go beyond the elite at the grassroots. There is need to critically consider joint plans and budgets between communities, government and the CSOs since these can achieve a level of effectiveness good for the MDGs.

VI. The Way forward

The consultative meeting resolved to constitute a team to work on the way forward on partnership between the government and CSOs. The composition of the proposed team would have representatives from interest groups as follows:

- People with disabilities - APDK
- UNMC (Sylvia Mwachuli)
- INGO- AAIK
- National NGOs – 2 slots- FAN & Ufadhili
- Youth –
- Women- MYWO
- Children – Jamhuri High School
- Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) - KANCO
- FBOs – EAK & SUPKEM
- Development partners- Finnish Embassy & UNDP
- Government/MoPND-
- Marginalized communities/groups- CEMIRIDE
- CBOs – Kaswasha
- GCAP Coordinator

The team's major aim is to work on modalities for Government-CSOs partnership that can be sustained up to 2015 and beyond. Civil Society Campaign on MDGs- GCAP secretariat to provide be the secretariat for the team with Mwangi and Mailu co-chairing.

The team would also work on terms of reference and activities for implementation under this partnership. It shall define the role of each of the stakeholders/partners including targets and deliverables. In working on this framework, it shall take stock of existing initiatives around MDGs by the CSOs and the Government.

App 2: Report of the Bishops/Media Breakfast meeting held on 6th July 2007 at the Panafric Hotel

'The Faith-based organizations are not just keen on getting people to heaven but to get them there in good shape.' Dr. Mutiso

In marking the halfway mark to 2015 when the MDGs should have been achieved, GCAP Kenya, coalition member- the Evangelical Alliance, with support from the United Nations Millennium Campaign, KYCEP and Education for Life Institute organized a series of events. Among these was the breakfast meeting between Bishops who are members of Evangelical Alliance of Kenya the media. this was later on followed by a public forum at the AACC building on Church Road Nairobi. The breakfast meeting was held at the Panafric Hotel on the 6th of July 2007. In attendance were members of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, journalists from different media houses in Kenya, alongside GCAP Coalition members. This is a report of the deliberations during the two events.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Wellington Mutes, the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya Secretary General urged the media fraternity in Kenya to give a helping hand in keeping the MDGs campaign alive as we enter the second half from declaration in 2000 to achievement in 2015. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to elaborate to the media the 'Michah Challenge- blow the MDGs half time whistle' campaign. Dr. Mutiso said that the CSOs were represented in the meeting by GCAP and UNMC, with the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) as part of the CSOs. The board members of

the EAK present in the meeting included Bishop Dr. Boniface Odoyo and Pastor Dr. Mark Kariuki. Dr. Mutiso explained that the Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) are interested in the MDGs because they are a realistic and achievable commitment of the government to the people.

Dr. Mutiso explained further that to mark the half mark of MDGs on the 07/07/07, Micah Challenge Global would symbolically blow the half time whistle as a wakeup call to a need for a increase in sustained efforts towards realizing the ultimate finish line reward. He expressed concern that there is a growing asymmetry between the North and the South, with poverty concentrated in the South. This is also the concern of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), which was invited by the UN to be watchdog to hold governments accountable in terms of availing and properly utilizing resources needed in the realization of the millennium goals. The WEA came up with the Micah Challenge and Micah Network (based on Biblical Micah 6:8) to bring Christian organizations in the work against poverty. WEA has mobilized the organizations towards working to ensure achievement of MDGs. Among these organizations include Tearfund, World Concern, World Relief and World Vision among others. The Micah Network is holding governments accountable to reduce poverty by 2015. In the South, the Micah Network is holding governments to account. It urges proper use of public and global funds. The EAK is the Kenyan chapter of the WEA and it is trying to restore human dignity and lobby churches to engage in matters of development so as to reduce poverty by 2015. He noted that FBOs provide 45% of education and 40% of health services and they are scaling up their engagement with the poor.

Statement from Bishop Dr. Mark Kariuki, Vice Chairman, Kenya Evangelical Alliance

Bishop Kariuki read a speech on behalf of the Faith based Organizations. In his remarks prior to the speech, Dr. Kariuki stated that each person has a purpose in the world and it would be good therefore to direct that purpose towards bringing progress and change to people. He stated further that the church is interested in the fight against poverty because Jesus Christ urged it to do so.

The bishop noted that half time is a moment of turning the scores. He remembered once watching a football game between AC Milan and Liverpool. At half time, Liverpool was down 3-0. Whatever transpired in the changing rooms at half time should be an inspiration to the MDGs campaign. Liverpool came back to equalize the game 3-3 by fulltime. They ultimately won in a post match penalty shootout. Bishop Mark faulted critics and observed that time is still on our side and all we need is to turn the 'political wont' into a 'political will.'

The following is the verbatim speech from the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya as read by Bishop Kariuki.

African Religious Leaders Calling for a Shift from Charity to Justice: Mid-term Reflections on the Millennium Development Goals, So Near Yet so Far.

Introduction

We religious leaders, convened in Nairobi compelled by our spiritual values, declare:

Our **commitment** to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,

Our **obligation** to achieve universal education

Our **duty** to promote gender equality and promote women

Our **dedication** to reduce child mortality

Our **responsibility** to improve maternal health

Our **commitment** to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Our **devotion** to ensure environmental sustainability and

Our **responsibility** to develop global partnership for development

As we mark the mid-term on the MDGS, we wish to renew our unwavering support for the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 by world leaders in which they committed themselves to 'free all, women and children from abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.' 2015 is only seven and half years away. Are we going to achieve the eight goals outlined in the MDGs by then?

Affirmation

Religious Leaders and the Faith Communities can mobilize their vast assets – spiritual, moral and social, to achieve the MDGs broadly and effectively if empowered. In Africa, more than 50% of all social services in health and education are provided for by the Faith Communities, significantly complementing and supplementing those of governments' and other service providers. In some areas, particularly in armed conflict situations, Faith Communities are the only providers of basic services.

For the first time in the history of humankind, Leaders of the Global Community, came together to outline quantifiable and measurable goals with deadlines.

All this put together constitute the most effective ways to build sustainable peace at all levels – locally, nationally and globally. We commend this action and its promise to the human family wholeheartedly.

Standing on the halfway mark set to achieve these lofty goals encompassed in the MDGs, we- the Religious Leaders- wish to reflect on the following:

Goal One: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

All faith Communities and their teachings focus on the injustices brought about by extreme poverty, and the obligation to act. We the Religious Leaders note the importance and the urgency to go back to our religious traditions in order to achieve this goal. Thirty thousand children still dying daily globally, as a result of poverty, halfway the MDGs while military spending quietly surpasses the One Trillion US Dollars mark is an indictment to humanity – all of us.

Most countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will in fact not halve extreme poverty by 2047 if we go by the current trends. We remind all concerned, and ourselves, that halving the proportion of people in extreme poverty and hunger, is in fact a protection of their fundamental human rights – and therefore an act of justice – never to be oversimplified as that of charity. We underline that this is an OBLIGATION for ALL as outlined in our sacred texts. And we take note that achievement or non-achievement of this particular goal will determine whether all the other goals will be achieved.

Goal two: Achieve universal primary education

Ensuring that all boys and girls get best quality and relevant education is a central tenet of all religions. Education is the greatest hope for achieving long lasting peace and social justice, and a concrete means to achieve all the other MDGs. We laud the efforts made by some governments in

abolishing fees at the primary level, and even commend those that have gone a step further to make secondary education free.

Goal three: Promote gender equality and empower women

Achieving this goal is also contingent upon achieving goals four, five and six. We the Religious Leaders commend the steps already undertaken to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education so far, and are asking all concerned to redouble efforts to achieve this goal by 2015.

Goal four: Reduce child mortality

We commend the tremendous strides in reducing child mortality rates thus far. But even with the equally tremendous accomplishments in modern medicine and medical care, we still are faced with the unacceptable situation in which every three seconds a child aged five dies from a treatable or preventable cause. We the Religious Leaders consider this the greatest injustice to our children, and therefore call for urgent efforts to reduce and then end the loss of children's lives.

Goal five: Improve maternal health

Reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio will not only ensure that the society and our families are healthy, and those of children born and unborn are taken care of. We laud the efforts and clear goals espoused in the MDGs.

Goal six: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

We commend the efforts made so far in efforts to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. The efforts are however still not satisfactory, and we see no reason why deaths attributable to preventable causes such as malaria are still rampant in Africa.

Goal seven: Ensure environmental sustainability

Let us not forget that we are simply the custodians of the earth for future generations. We cannot afford the unabated destruction of mother earth at this rate, and still expect future generations to have quality living. We consider the earth as sacred, and therefore must be cared for and respected.

We will strive to, and are calling upon all partners to reverse the loss of environmental resources. We wish to point out that reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015, and to significantly improve lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 will take more than words and promises.

Goal eight: Develop a global partnership for development

These partnerships must increase effective aid and sustainable debt relief, focus more on fair than free trade and good governance. Our faiths have extensive experience establishing and working through partnerships that cut across borders. The MDGs offer an important opportunity to work with members from diverse Faith Traditions on issues of common humanity and of responsibility to care for one another.

We call upon all governments, bilateral and multilateral institutions to commit to good governance and transparency. We call the Religious Communities and the civil society to advocate for open and fair trading, putting in place open financial systems that are rule-based, fair, predictable and nondiscriminatory.

Our Appreciation and Concerns

By adopting the MDGs in 2000, Heads of State and government recognized that in addition to their separate responsibilities to their own individual societies, they had a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, justice and equity at the global level, and declared poverty alleviation as an overarching goal in need of international attention.

We welcome the steps taken by a number of governments in their efforts to realize the MDGs. We salute the efforts of many governments that strive to better the lives of their people. We appreciate that by setting up the MDGs, our governments and the international community affirmed that for the first time in the history of humanity, it was possible to achieve such goals using the resources, knowledge and technologies now available to humankind.

We however register our deepest concerns about reports indicating that 'at the midway point between their adoption in 2000 and the 2015 target date for achieving the MDGs, sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to achieve any of the goals.'

We are concerned that there is still a huge gap between rhetoric and reality. We are concerned that the rhetoric and commitments have not been adequately translated into action. And we remain concerned that the MDGs campaign has not adequately reached the grassroots communities.

Call to Action

Religious Leaders and faith Communities in Africa can advocate for African governments with the development partners to work together to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Let us bring the full weight of our moral convictions to bear on behalf of the poor and the voiceless, the invisible and the excluded. The suffering of one billion of our brothers, sisters, children, mothers and fathers when few are enjoying unprecedented – is contrary to what we believe in.

We reaffirm that eradication of poverty is not merely an ethical and moral imperative, but also political. There is a direct link between poverty and injustice. The present inequality gap between the haves and have-nots is unsustainable as clearly demonstrated in the recent happenings when the youth of this nation have been recruited into clandestine movements disturbing the security of the people of Kenya.

And so today, we commit ourselves to join with thousands of people around the world as part of a global movement to advocate for an end to the crises of poverty through achievement of the MDGs. We are here to answer to this call, to put our Faith into action again. We will pray, reflect and act in collaboration with other Faith Communities in Kenya, Africa and around the globe.

And we repeat that achieving the MDGs is a moral duty and responsibility of each and everyone. We remind the governments and all institutions concerned that working for the achievement of these goals is a protection of the fundamental human rights, as such, must be seen as an act of justice and not charity.

Endorsed by:

- Anglican Church of Kenya
- Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims
- Hindu Council of Africa
- Catholic Church
- Organization of African Instituted Churches
- Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa

- All Africa Conference of Churches
- Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa
- Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa
- Inter Religious Council of Kenya
- Eastern Africa Muslim Leaders Forum
- Evangelical Alliance of Kenya
- Hindu Council of Kenya

In closing his remarks, Pastor Kariuki stated that there is need for continued encouragement on MDGs especially at this halfway mark since half time is a critical time for reflection and recommitment. He reiterated that the role of FBOs is critical since they can mobilize assets at their disposal for the MDGs. They provide services and goods that states and the private sector cannot provide. In some places, they are the only ones who provide these services. He urged stakeholders to commence campaigns at the small, local and sub national levels.

The chairman of the board of members of the Kenya Evangelical Alliance, Bishop Dr. Boniface Adoyo

Bishop Adoyo read a speech titled Africa and the Millennium Development Goals, 2007 Update. The following is a verbatim version of the speech.

At the midway point between their adoption in 2000 and the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, sub-Saharan Africa is not on track to achieve any of the Goals. Although there have been major gains in several areas and the Goals remain achievable in most African nations, even the best governed countries on the continent have not been able to make sufficient progress in reducing extreme poverty in its many forms.

Poverty and Hunger

While the proportion of people living on one dollar a day or less has declined from 45.9 per cent to 41.1 per cent since 1999, reaching the MDG target of halving the extent of extreme poverty by 2015 requires that the current pace is nearly doubled. At the same time, despite a high regional population growth rate of 2.3 per cent a year, the rising number of extreme poor has leveled off, increasing only marginally from 296 million in 1999 to 298 million in 2004.

Progress for children has been excruciatingly slow towards the target of halving the extent of hunger, as the proportion of under-fives who are underweight declined by not much more than one tenth between 1990 and 2005, from 33 per cent to 29 per cent.

Education

There has been progress towards universal primary education, with enrolment increasing from 57 per cent in 1999 to 70 per cent in 2005 – but a gap of 30 per cent remains, and the number of school age children is increasing daily. In 2007, there are 348 million youngsters in sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 14, up from 237 million in 1990. The number is expected to reach 403 million in 2015.

Gender equality

Although the share of parliamentary seats held by women has increased substantially, from 7 per cent in 1990 to 17 percent this year, the share of women who earn a salary, aside from farming, still stood at less than one-third in 2005.

Child Mortality

Under-five mortality rates dropped from 185 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 166 per 1,000 in 2005 – hardly making a dent in the objective of a two-thirds reduction by 2015, and now at twice the rate in the developing world as a whole. One positive step: due to extensive vaccination campaigns, measles cases and deaths on the sub-continent fell by nearly 75 per cent between 1999 and 2005.

Maternal Health

Maternal health remains a regional and global scandal, with the odds that a sub-Saharan African woman will die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth during her life at 1 in 16, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world.

AIDS and Other Diseases

The number of people dying from AIDS continues to mount, reaching 2 million in 2006. Although prevalence rates have leveled off, the number of new cases, especially among women, as well as the number of people with advanced HIV infection continues to grow and is rising faster than treatment services are being scaled up. There is no evidence that the very high rate of new TB cases in sub-Saharan Africa is starting to level off.

Environmental Sustainability

Only 42 per cent of people in rural areas had access to clean water, according to the latest 2004 data, and 63 per cent of the entire population lacked access to basic sanitation facilities – down only barely from 68 per cent in 1990, and far from the target of cutting this proportion in half by 2015.

The effects of climate change, which are already being felt, will only make achievement of the MDGs on the sub-continent more difficult.

According to projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change between 75 and 250 million people will be exposed to an increase of water stress. Without adequate preparation, the impact could be devastating to rural economies and the livelihoods of the poor.

A Window of Opportunity

While it is well known that the continent is the only region in the world where the number of extreme poor has risen over the past fifteen years, it may be less well known that African countries have experienced major improvements in key development fundamentals. Fuelled by improved economic policies and rising commodity prices, annual economic growth has averaged close to 6 per cent for the last three years. This growth has been spread fairly evenly among countries, and the IMF now envisages a short-term trend rate moving toward 7 per cent per year. There is a downward trend in the number of civil conflicts. Export receipts have improved current-account balances in many countries, and recently granted debt relief has reduced macroeconomic imbalances in the poorest nations. African enterprises are generating stronger domestic investment and productivity gains. Many governments in the region have continued to become more transparent, less corrupt and more democratic. Yet this progress remains fragile, as it is driven in large measure by a boom in commodity prices. African countries continue to depend on few primary commodities for export and lack the essential public investments in agriculture, health, education and infrastructure that are needed to strengthen capacity for production and trade, sustain high growth rates and create employment.

Some Success Stories

Countries across Africa are demonstrating that rapid and large-scale progress towards the MDGs is possible when strong government leadership and good policies are combined with adequate financial and technical support from the international community. Recent examples include:

In one year Malawi's voucher program for fertilizers and seeds has led to a doubling of agricultural productivity during the 2006/7 growing season.

Ghana is successfully implementing a national school-feeding program using locally produced foods. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and many other countries have abolished fees for primary schools resulting in dramatic increases in enrolment during the space of a few years.

In 2006 Zambia cancelled fees for basic rural health services and Burundi introduced free medical care for mothers and children. With support from the Red Cross Red Crescent, WHO, UNICEF and the US Centers for Disease Control, African countries such as Niger, Togo and Zambia have successfully launched national campaigns for measles vaccination and distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated anti-malaria bed nets. These campaigns were rolled out nation-wide within a period of two weeks and led to at least a halving of malaria incidence.

In Niger, hundreds of thousands of people in rural communities greatly improved their livelihoods and reduced their vulnerability to droughts through large-scale reforestation driven by national policy reforms.

Senegal is on track to achieving the water and sanitation goals through a national investment program financed with donor support.

Many African governments, with growing donor support, are now taking to national scale the lessons of the Millennium Villages – that local leadership and a combination of interventions can transform poor communities in a short period of time.

Meeting Commitments:

The Global Partnership for Development

Most African countries are ready to replicate and scale-up these successes, but they require more and better-quality official development assistance to finance public investments in the MDGs. Yet, while aid to sub-Saharan Africa increased during the first few years of the Millennium, it has remained virtually unchanged since 2004, if one excludes one-off debt relief and humanitarian assistance.

Donors need to accelerate their plans to scale up assistance, to maintain the credibility of their 2005 pledge to double aid to Africa by 2010. Moreover, donors need to issue country-by-country timelines for how they are going to increase aid, so that African governments can plan for essential investments and prepare supporting macroeconomic frameworks.

Not only the developed but also many developing countries are granting duty free access to least developed countries in Africa, in accord with the Millennium Declaration principle of creating an environment "conducive to development and the elimination of poverty". But even the African LDCs suffer from supply-side constraints and often-unreasonable rules of origin on their products. On a broader scale, progress on the Doha round of talks to create a development-friendly world trade regimen has stalled and must move forward.

Despite the lack of progress towards the MDGs, the Goals remain achievable in most African countries. Yet time is running out to make the needed practical investments. Existing commitments made and reaffirmed by world leaders at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles and the 2005 World Summit

are sufficient to meet the Goals. At the midway point of 2007, these commitments must be urgently translated into practical plans with systematic follow-through.

Statistical analysis and charts in this publication are an advance excerpt from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007, based on the most up-to-date and comprehensive statistics available on global and regional MDG progress. More than 20 UN funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations, including the World Bank and the OECD, contribute to this annual report, which is coordinated and published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division.

In his off-cuff remarks, Bishop Odoyo reiterated that the Church is committed to blowing whistle on the 07/07/07. Referring largely to the Bible, the Bishop stated that 7 is a prophetic number and as such it is the perfect time to reflect and review achievements in MDGs. Jacob in the Bible laboured for 7 years only to realize that he had been shortchanged by the father-in-law Laban in the 7th year. Using this example, he urged for a serious interrogation and reflection on MDGs during 07/07/07 to find out if the poor have been shortchanged once again. He said further that the 7th year is biblically a time to cancel debts and urged that Goal 8 should be based on this reality.

The bishop also urged the developing nations to utilize well the resources they receive for development. They must stop the habit of squandering the resources through unnecessary expenditure. On Goal 3, the Bishop called upon churches to ordain woman and have women in decision-making positions.

Both Bishop Odoyo and Pastor Kariuki then gave account of what each of their churches does in the fight against poverty. Pastor Kariuki reported that his Deliverance Church has invested in both Goal 2 through owning a number of schools in different parts of the country and will soon expand into higher education and Goals four, five and six on Health. The church is active in getting people into farming. It has established a cooperative society 'Ukombozi', to help people start small businesses. It is giving them training in micro businesses. It owns the 'Mkombozi' coaches plying the Nairobi – Busia route, with a vision of expanding into the Nairobi – Kampala and Nairobi – Dar es Salaam routes.

Bishop Odoyo on reported that his Christ Is The Answer Ministries (CITAM) has set aside funds for relief and capacity building. It has set up a micro financing co-operative society, 'LANYAVU', whose role is to get small businesses started. In the education sector, the church runs schools, and recently acquired Buru Buru High School in Nairobi. It runs a number of children's homes as well. On the Goal on gender, CITAM has ordained women and made them part of its staff. In fact the assistant to Bishop Odoyo is a lady, as well as the church's Director of Programs. On the overall, CITAM does not wait for government but carries out empowerment from the very grassroots.

Commenting on the intervention of churches in society, Dr. Mutiso remarked that indeed Evangelicals are both a saving mission and a socially responsible engagement. 'The idea is not only to get people in heaven but to get them there in good shape,' he quotably remarked.

Remarks from the UNMC

The UNMC Africa Communication Coordinator, Sylvia Mwichuli read a short speech from the UN Secretary General. The following is a verbatim version of the speech.

Message in Support of the Millennium Development Goals by the UN Secretary General

'The international community has committed itself to reaching the MDGs by 2015. This year marks the halfway point for the time we have given ourselves to reach them. Pessimists say we will not make it. I say we still have time. Let's keep the promise.

The Goals are the responsibility of all of us. I hope you will demonstrate your commitment to reaching them, and share that commitment with others. For the next seven and a half years, please remember that every day is a new day for you to make a difference for the millions of people around the world. In this, you have my wholehearted support.'

In her own remarks, Sylvia stated that MDGs would not be fulfilled by the UN but by individuals, FBOs and other critical groups. She observed that although growth has been noted in African economies, poverty has continued, and this is mainly due inequality. She said that poverty is not about statistics; it is about the lived realities of real people. Women still die at childbirth, while school going-age children are not able to go to school.

Reflecting on Sylvia's remarks, Dr. Mutiso regretted that the African woman is an endangered species when it comes to giving birth. He wondered why Christian countries are the most unequal. He explain that this comes from structural deficiencies that allow one person in Kenya to earn Ksh. 2 million while a woman in a factory in the Export Processing Zone(EPZ) who works for 14 hours in a day goes home with Ksh 3,600 at the end of the month.

In giving a vote of thanks, Mr. Mwangi Waituru of GCAP Kenya urged the media to copy the example of Mohammad Amin who used his camera to stop starvation in Ethiopia. He urged the media to pick up the battle against poverty and take it to every household. 'Make every Kenyan hold the government accountable on MDGs,' he concluded.

App 2: Report of the public forum held on 6th July at the AACC

Panelists

Sahida Pentilla-Finish Embassy in Nairobi

Dr. William Ambuka

Mwangi Waituru-GCAP Coordinator

Dr.Mutiso-Secretary General EAK

Dr.Solomon Kimuyu-EAK

Bishop Robert Mahuri-EAK

Background on GCAP and Devolved Funds-Mwangi Waituru

Noting that during independence, the government's pledge was to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and disease, the commitments in MDGs are therefore not new. However, 40 years down the line, the poverty levels in Kenya sky rocketed to 56% up from 20%- this despite the government's commitment to eradicate the three evils.

MDGs provide targeted intervention to areas that require specific attention with clearly indicated outcomes within specified time lines. It noteworthy therefore that though we are not on track in achieving the MDGs, our efforts have resulted in arresting and indeed reversing the growing levels of poverty. The development is historical and clearly illustrates that the goals are achievable and that they can be exceeded if supported with an accompanying political will.

The Government of Kenya's intervention through the establishment of devolved funds is praise worth. It is based on the principle of applying resources closet to their consumption point. The poor

know their needs, priorities and have ideas of how best to break the chain of poverty in their environment. The idea is to empower people at local level through the management and utilization of these funds. Acknowledging the prudence of the idea behind the funds, questions need to be asked on whether they are actually helping eradicate poverty at those levels. CDF for example is a development budget fund that is legally restrictive in addressing the needs of MDGs. It is helping put up various structures such as hospitals and classroom. Such classrooms and hospitals lack personnel and materials which unfortunately fall on recurrent expenditure side of the budget. What is needed targeting such funds to the immediate poverty needs of the community such as employment medical staff who could use available structures in the community to reduce maternal mortality.

There is also the question of the funds management structures. Traditionally, social services for the poor have been provided by organized groups in community including religious organizations and self help groups. Unfortunately for this tread, in the early 70s, the state took over the management of many schools established by the communities and faith based organizations. Considering that the politicians in Kenya have been known of promoting dependency through giving of handouts and buying of votes, would a devolved funds model geared towards supporting the efforts of organized groups in society result in large scale MDGs gains as opposed to the current structure of putting funds into a politicians lead framework?

We are not on track in the achievement of MDGs. Though we are doing well in some areas, in most cases the progress is so slow that no movement is observable. It is urgent for us in Kenya to therefore strengthen the targeting of resources so as to reach the poor and deliver on needs and services.

Historical Background on MDGs and the Role of the Church-Dr.Mutiso

The church in Kenya, under the umbrella of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), consisting of:

Evangelical conservatives, Pentecostal churches and Charismatic churches. The background on MDGs is tied with the other international campaigns towards ending poverty and debt relief. The World Evangelical Alliance, because of its ministry to the poor through out the world was called upon to play a watchdog role so as to hold nations accountable in their commitments towards the achievement of MDGs.

Consequently, churches in the North would inform churches in the South in among others: the provision of funds that have been earmarked for development purposes in the South. Therefore, churches in the South would have knowledge of funds released to their governments for the implementation of these commitments. Armed with this information therefore, the church would hold governments accountable.

The EAK is guided by the following premises, christened *The Micah Challenge*:

- To Act justly.
- To have mercy upon the poor.
- To walk humbly with our God.

The EAK is therefore part of the *Micah Network*-a consortium of Christian organizations involved in development and relief through focusing resources to meet MDGs.

The Role of the Church

In Kenya alone, 45% of all educational services is provided by the church.

The church also provides 40% of all healthcare services.

Church is also involved in various micro-financing initiatives.

The '*Blow the whistle campaign*'-07.07.2007 is a message to government to fast track progress and improve delivery of the MDGs.

William Ambuka-Evangelical Alliance of Kenya

Just like the Americans acknowledged for many years that slavery was a serious ill but did not eradicate it, the international community has not shown the required commitment to eradicate poverty. To the contrary, the west has continued to exploit Africa's poverty for its own gain.

In the same breath, in Kenya, the political class has continued to exploit the poor for their own good.

It is therefore, the obligation of churches to see to it that the state is pushed to deliver on pledges. It is paramount to synergize our capacities to reach/meet the goals.

Role of Diaspora in realization of MDGs-Dr Solomon Kimunyu (Baptist Convention in Kenya)

The Diaspora present a 9 point agenda for the realization of MDGs

- Rejection of the personalization of politics.
- Absolutely zero tolerance against corruption.
- Rejection of political parties that use the tribe as an end to achieve political power.
- Fairness and equity in the access and utilization of resources.
- Celebration of diversity and the rejection of tribalism, nepotism, cronyism.
- A Kenya with a sound and structured approach to issues-where reason prevails.
- Think nationally and globally.
- Instill public accountability in all levels.
- A country driven by fairness.

The definition of politics along the above premises would support and promote the achievement of the MDGs.

Bishop Mahiri

MDGs are intended to uplift livelihoods in the South. The issues of justice, mercy and love are very important and should be articulated by the church as the nerve centre of the churches pursuit of the realization off MDGs.

In the 2nd half of the 2015 period, the church should stress its energies on promoting advocacy so as to enable people understand their positions, rights and responsibilities.

Sahida Pentilla-Finnish Embassy in Kenya

Noting that the MDGs are not new to Kenya, there is only the inclusion of a commitment and specific time frame. The Kenyan government should in essence therefore seek to mainstream MDGs in the overall development processes. The embassy is currently supporting projects with such focus in various parts of the country.

There is therefore need for a joint effort shared by bilateral and multi lateral institutions, the state, civil society and government towards the achievement of MDGs. There is need to also act differently and fast, embrace reforms and abandon the business as usual attitudes. A corresponding change towards the adoption and promotion of good governance, coupled with proper policies are the only sure ways towards achieving the MDGs.

PLENARY DISCUSSIONS (General Comments, Questions and Recommendations)

Josephine Gikoyo

Injustice, human rights violations and bad governance continue to hamper progress in the achievement of MDGs. Poverty must be looked at as a violation of Human Rights.

There is need to take the MDG debate further to the ground through an innovative strategy to make them as popular as devolved funds.

Nimrod Mulei

Question on whistle-blowing. To who? Is there someone listening or are we blowing to the air?

There is need to separate institutions from politics.

The church cannot absolve itself from blame as in certain occasions it has failed to question the actions of politicians.

Nyanjom

International debt-amount of interest is higher than amount borrowed. Countries in the South are therefore constantly repaying the interest amount.

Decentralized funds are not backed by an internal logic. It is managed by ad-hoc decisions that are hard to integrate in the national development structure. There is therefore need to rethink decentralization and devolution.

What is the church doing to lobby western nation to cancel debt?

There is need to redefine poverty to more practical terms, contrary to theoretical perspectives of it.

The Kenya Community Abroad need incentives to channel their massive investments abroad, back home. They also need recognition as Kenyans with entitlements and rights like as it would be at home.

Conclusion

Public urged to support and complement the church, rather than support efforts that tear it apart.