



Preface

The Indian scenario of development trends in the MDG framework is vastly different from other developing countries, mainly due to the large size of its area and population. The attainment of goals for India at the national level is intimately associated with sub-national performance. This Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) captures India's challenges, achievements, policies and programmes from both the national and sub-national perspectives.

The Central Statistical Organization in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in coordination with the participating ministries has been tracking the MDGs. The task involves statistical reporting on the indicators for monitoring the progress of MDGs on the basis of a consensual data-set used by the line Ministries/ Departments. Accordingly, a consultation process was put in place through an Inter Ministerial Expert Committee. The consultation took into account the national development priorities embodied in the National Common Minimum Programme and the national development plans.

As in the last report, some of the indicators in lieu of those specified under MDGs were found better suited to the Indian context. In case of some of the indicators, the non-availability of sufficiently reliable data is the reason for dropping them. Important among those indicators are proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day, proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption, ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years, proportion of population with access to secure tenure, unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years and proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.

The MDGs recognize the centrality of gender equality in the development agenda and the Government has set it as an over-arching objective for the time-bound goals of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan of the country. Achievement of the gender equality is dependent on the integration of gender concerns within each of the MDGs - from improving health and fighting disease, to reducing poverty and mitigating hunger, to expanding education and lowering child mortality, to increasing access to safe drinking water and to ensuring environmental sustainability. It is therefore, pertinent that the national and sub-national statistics on MDG indicators present gender disaggregated analyses

The sub-regional profiles presented in this report are expected to lead to better understanding of the spatial variations. Although the MDGs are specified at the national level, their attainment is contingent upon an appreciation of the significant sub-regional variations that exist in such a vast and diverse country such as India. This report, while focussing on the role of governments at the Union and State levels, also acknowledges the importance of the complementary role that the private sector and civil society can play with the public sector in the provision of infrastructure and social services, as well as in developing financial innovation to widen access to financing for all segments of society.

The data gaps in measuring the MDG indicators help reveal priority areas for statistical capacity

building. No attempt is made to disguise the data limitations with imputed data in the Indian context. It is our belief that the national statistical system should respond to the needs of reliable estimates for sub-national/regional aggregates, and not resort to cosmetic treatment. The indicators presented in this report are, therefore, measured on sound statistical basis, using data that are comparable across States and regions. Achievement of goals numerically, however, may mask continued inequalities and other failings. This report takes into account all these factors and limitations.

I wish to place on record the valuable services rendered by the team led by Dr. S. K. Nath, Director General, CSO in bringing out this report. Shri S.K. Das, Additional Director General and Shri S. Chakrabarti, Director in the Central Statistical Organization of this Ministry deserve my sincere appreciation for their contribution.



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