

Climate Change Poverty Reduction and the MDGs



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Key objective of the UNFCCC

“To achieve...stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system...within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”

UNFCCC Article 2



The aims of climate policy

- ▶ To control the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases;
- ▶ To prepare for and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change; and
- ▶ To consider development and equity issues.



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Climate Change and Development

- ▶ Climate change fundamentally relates to development, poverty reduction, food security, economic growth and human rights. It is also an MDG issue!
- ▶ Key global justice challenge to the poor population
- ▶ Impact of climate change on poverty reduction
- ▶ Over 2 billion people in the world lack access to a reliable energy source
- ▶ MDGs, Goal 7 being the one focused on environment and climate change as a part of the **broader commitment to sustainable development**



MDGs and Climate Risks

Goal 1: Eradicate
extreme hunger &
poverty

Change in natural system and infrastructure will:

- ▶ Reduce the livelihood assets of poor people
- ▶ Alter the path and rate of national economic growth
- ▶ Undermine regional food security

Goal 2: Achieve
Universal Primary
Education

- ▶ Destruction of infrastructure (e.g. schools)
- ▶ Loss of livelihood assets (increasing the need for children to engage in income-earning activities)
- ▶ The displacement and migration of families



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MDGs and Climate Risks

Goal 3:
Promote gender
equity

Depletion of natural resources, reduced agricultural productivity and increased climate-related disasters could:

- ▶ Place additional burdens on women's health
- ▶ Limit women's time to participate in decision-making and income generating activities
- ▶ Reduce the livelihood assets of women



MDGs and Climate Risks

**Goal 4, 5, & 6:
Reduce child
mortality, improve
maternal health
and combat
HIV/AIDS, malaria
and other diseases**

Increase in child mortality, reduction in maternal health and the undermining of nutritional health needed by individual to combat HIV/AIDS :

- ▶ Extreme weather events
- ▶ Increase in prevalence of certain vector-borne and water-borne diseases
- ▶ Heat-related mortality
- ▶ Declining food security
- ▶ Decreased availability of potable water



MDGs and Climate Risks

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Climate change will have a direct impact on environmental sustainability because it:

- ▶ Causes fundamental alterations in ecosystem relationships
- ▶ Changes the quality & quantity of natural resources
- ▶ Reduces ecosystem productivity



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MDGs and Climate Risks

**Goal 8:
Global
Partnership
For
Development**

**Legitimate concern:
some of the promises made of Development Aid
might now go towards Climate Change
rather than MDGs.**



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Vigorous adaptation measures

- ▶ Improve **resilience of vulnerable communities** in the next few decades – implementation of adaptation through:
 - Vulnerability assessments;
 - Financial needs assessments;
 - Capacity building and response strategies;
 - Integration of adaptation actions into sectoral and national planning; and
 - The development of risk management and risk reduction strategies, including insurance, and disaster reduction strategies.



Mainstreaming adaptation and mitigation strategy

- ▶ Greater focus on local community engagement and participation in addressing the underlying factors of vulnerability and the critical need of the community
 - Can the need to adapt to climate change provide new momentum for development policy?
 - Can we look outside the UNFCCC platform to include the role of civil society, community-based organisations and other development agencies?



Climate change: unique opportunities

- ▶ To advance sustainable development
- ▶ To encourage more inclusive approach to growth
- ▶ To invent cleaner technologies to reduce emissions while promoting growth
- ▶ To counter the worst catastrophe, it will take shared understanding of long-term goals, effective leadership and an ability to build and facilitate concerted action among all players at every level



Thank you

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