

In September 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the Millennium Declaration to address global development issues, setting 8 Millennium Development Goals with 21 targets and 60 indicators to be achieved by the end of 2015. Four of the MDG goals pertain to Health and Nutrition; they are: Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Reducing Child Mortality, Improving Maternal Health, and Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB.

India is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration. The National Population Policy 2000 and the National Health Policy 2002 were framed taking into account the MDGs. The Five Year Plans were also formulated taking MDGs into account and provided the needed funds for implementing programmes and enabling the country to progress towards MDGs. The progress towards MDGs has been monitored through the national statistical system. India has dropped some of the targets such as the one relating to proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption because of non-availability of national data. Some goals were modified, e.g., prevalence of underweight was mapped in children under-3 years of age instead of those under-5 years of age because of lack of data in 1990, the base year for the computation. An annual MDG Report published by the GOI highlighted progress towards MDGs.

In September 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations reviewed the performance of the world and the member countries with respect to MDGs, considered Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030 (drafted over a two-year period by a group of seventy countries) and approved them. SDGs envisage that a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive should be achieved by 2030. It has been emphasised that SDGs are a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and that the components of the plan are integrated, indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Right from the stage of initial discussions some concerns were raised. Over 50% of the targets set in MDG were not achieved. In this context can the world successfully move from MDGs with 8 goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators, to SDGs with 17 goals and 169 targets? Out of the 4 MDGs pertaining to Health and Nutrition, only 1 was achieved. In SDGs, only one out of the 17 goals pertains to Health. Will this lead to dilution of the focus on Health and Nutrition? Is the shift from the erstwhile narrow area of disease control and death prevention to the broader agenda of promoting healthy lives and well-being appropriate? The major responsibility for financing SDGs rests on the countries themselves. Will countries whose needs are the greatest be able to finance the ambitious programmes aimed to achieve the SDG Targets?

The lessons learnt in the last fifteen years in India's efforts to achieve MDGs will have to be taken into account as we move on towards tackling the more exhaustive and ambitious goals under the SDGs to be achieved in the next fifteen years. With this in view, NFI is organising a symposium on "MDGs: lessons learnt and way forward to SDGs".

*The President and Members of the Governing
Body of Nutrition Foundation of India
cordially invite you to attend the
NAMS- NFI Symposium on*



*MDGs: lessons learnt and
way forward to SDGs*

*Venue: Kamla Raheja Auditorium
J S Bajaj Centre for Multi-professional Education,
NAMS House, Ansari Nagar New Delhi - 110016*

Date: 27.11.2015 9.00 AM-5.45PM