



PROCEDURES SPECIALES DU
CONSEIL DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTREME POVERTY

**Questionnaire on lessons learned, progress and challenges to achieve the Millennium
Development Goals for the most vulnerable
addressed to Governments by the Independent Expert on the question of human
rights and extreme poverty**

I- Introduction

This questionnaire is designed to obtain information from Governments for the preparation of a report by the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda.

The next report to the General Assembly of the Independent Expert will review **states' lessons learned in achieving the Millennium Development Goals for the most vulnerable parts of the population through social protection interventions, and their compliance with core human rights principles**. The report would address how social protection measures can play a significant role with a number of the MDG targets ensuring that it is the most marginalized that are reached and helped.

II – How to answer the questionnaire

The Questionnaire raises three principal questions for each of the MDGs, namely:

1. **WHO?:** Identification of the *most vulnerable*, based on the most disaggregated data available (such as women and girls, indigenous peoples, lowest income quintile, minorities, persons with disabilities, refugees, children, older people or any other relevant populations/groups relevant to the country context)
2. **WHAT?:** *The formulation and implementation of policies and programmes* designed to benefit those identified as most vulnerable such as fee waivers, access in minority languages, child care. In particular please include any social protection measure such as cash transfer programmes, social pensions, or school feeding programmes.
3. **HOW?:** *Participatory processes and accountability mechanisms* that facilitate the participation of the most vulnerable in the design, implementation and monitoring of the programmes; improved the transparency and access to information, guaranteed redress etc. (e.g. score cards or social audits, access-to-information legislation, collective bargain mechanisms)

For the purpose of this questionnaire social protection initiatives refer to policies and programmes that aim to enable people to respond to various contingencies and manage levels of risk or deprivation that are deemed unacceptable by society. These schemes aim to offset the absence or substantial reduction of income from work, provide assistance for families with children, provide people

with health care, housing, water and sanitation, education or social work. Among the most relevant social protection schemes addressing those in extreme poverty we have: cash transfer schemes, school stipends, social pensions, food vouchers, food transfers, user fee exemptions for health care or education or subsidised services.¹

When answering the questionnaire, States are asked to provide information on **any and all** types of policies and programmes adopted and implemented between 2000 and 2010 that have either managed to contribute to achieving the country's MDG targets or which - while intending to do so - were not as successful as expected but provide useful lessons for future interventions.

If the information requested in the questionnaire has been provided by the Government in another context (e.g. in a report to one of the UN human rights treaty bodies) reference to the specific report or document should be provided. There is no need to repeat the information provided elsewhere. Additional appropriate information, above and beyond that which is specifically requested would be welcome.

Governments may wish to identify a **focal point** responsible for coordinating the response to the questionnaire, and make this focal point known to the office of the Independent Expert for further follow up.

Submission of responses

Due to the limited capacity for translation, we kindly request that you submit your answers, if possible, in a UN working language. Responses should be sent (in hard copy or electronic format) by **4 June 2010** to the below address.

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CH – 1211 Geneva 10
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¹ Cf, United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Enhancing social protection and reducing vulnerability in a globalised world, Report of the Secretary-General*, E/CN.5/2001/2, para 6-8.

Questionnaire on the achievement of MDGs addressed to Governments by the Independent Expert

[For all questions, if available, please provide relevant assessments, baseline studies, programme outlines, programme evaluations etc.]

MDG 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

1. Hunger

- 1) Who are those in the country most likely to face food insecurity and why?
- 2) Please describe specific social assistance policies and programmes that ensure those most vulnerable have access to food.
- 3) What processes and mechanisms designed to ensure participation of civil society in decision-making as well as transparency and accountability have been most useful in improving access to adequate food for the most vulnerable, and which have been less useful.

2. Decent work

- 1) Who are those most likely to be working poor or those who are engaged in vulnerable work?
- 2) Please describe specific policies and programmes that are designed to benefit the most vulnerable.
- 3) What processes and mechanisms designed to ensure participation of civil society in decision-making as well as transparency and accountability have been most useful improving decent work for the most vulnerable, and which have been less useful.

MDG 2 – Achieve universal primary education

- 1) People from which population groups are most likely to drop out of primary school in your country and why?
- 2) Please describe specific social protection policies and programmes that have been put in place to prevent school drop-outs among the most vulnerable. Are there any social protection policies that have had an impact on the withdrawal rate of children from primary and secondary education?
- 3) What processes and mechanisms to ensure participation of users in decision-making as well as transparency and accountability have been most useful in preventing school drop-out of the most vulnerable and which have been less useful?

MDG 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women

- 1) From which population groups are girls and women least likely to attend secondary or tertiary education and to work in wage employment?
- 2) Please describe social protection policies and programmes that facilitate access for the most vulnerable women to secondary or tertiary education and wage employment
- 3) What processes and mechanisms to ensure participation of women in decision-making as well as transparency and accountability have been most effective?

MDG 4 (reduce child mortality), MDG 5 (improve maternal health) and MDG 6 (combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases)

- 1) Which population groups have the highest child and maternal mortality rates and the highest prevalence of major diseases?

- 2) Please describe specific policies and programmes that ensure access to health care services for those most vulnerable. In particular provide information on how social protection mechanisms have directly impacted child mortality rates and maternal health, especially amongst vulnerable groups, and how social protection systems have lessened incidence of preventable diseases through improving access to health care.
- 3) What processes and mechanisms to ensure participation of beneficiaries in decision-making as well as transparency and accountability have been most useful in improving the coverage and quality of health services to the most vulnerable and which have been less useful.

MDG 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability

- 1) Which population groups are most affected by biodiversity loss, have least access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and are most likely to live in slums?
- 2) Please describe specific policies and programmes for the benefit of the most vulnerable to: reduce biodiversity loss; increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation and ensure safe shelters. Please detail how social protection mechanisms have directly improved the vulnerability of slum dwellers and helped provide secure access to adequate housing.
- 3) What processes and mechanisms to ensure the participation of those most vulnerable in decision-making as well as transparency and accountability have been most effective

MDG 8 – Global partnership for development

Please describe how ODA is impacting the MDG results in your country. Are the quantity and quality, transparency and predictability of aid appropriate?