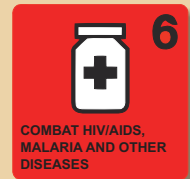


# Frequently Asked Questions on Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals

*Madurai Symposium 2009*

A Joint Initiative by  
**INFOS & INAFI-India**



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on  
Microfinance and Millennium  
Development Goals**

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# Preface

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Microfinance is globally recognised as an effective instrument to address poverty and women empowerment. Microfinance is not a mere financial instrument but a powerful tool for development to address multiple dimensions of poverty by addressing the issue of health, education, gender and environment. The experience across India and other countries has shown a robust potential of Microfinance to integrate with the development issues thereby significantly impacting the lives of poor.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are globally-adopted targets for reducing extreme poverty by 2015. They address income poverty, hunger, and disease; lack of education, infrastructure and shelter; and gender exclusion and environmental degradation. The unique framework in which microfinance drives specific development outcomes creates a remarkable opportunity for the achievement of the MDGs. There exists always a natural interconnection between Microfinance and the MDGs as Microfinance fosters the achievement of many MDGs and plays a key role in many strategies.

In this backdrop, Indian Network of Federations of Microfinance Self Help Groups (INFOS), a national network of Microfinance SHG Federations and International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI-India), an International network of Microfinance practitioner NGOs takes the initiative to bring together the women leaders of various SHGs and Federations from across the country and other development stakeholders in “National Summit of SHG Federations” scheduled during September 16-18, 2009. The National Summit of SHG is designed with the focus on Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in view of its paramount importance in the priorities of the Development sector.

As part of this Summit, INFOS in association with INAFI-India takes an initiative to create awareness and sensitise the community federations and NGOs the need for MDGs and the role of Microfinance in contributing to achievement of MDGs through this booklet on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in Microfinance and Millennium Development Goals. FAQs in MF & MDGs are listed questions and answers, all supposed to be frequently asked with regard to MDGs, and pertaining to role of Microfinance in achieving MDGs.

**INFOS**  
**Madurai**

**INAFI-India**  
**Madurai**

## **ABOUT THIS BOOKLET**

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### **Why**

*It provides basic answers to questions related to:*

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Microfinance
- The role of Microfinance in achieving MDGs
- Connecting Microfinance and MDGs

### **For whom**

This document is intended to SHGs, SHG Federations, NGOs, MFIs, Voluntary Organisations and other stakeholders such as Banks, Academia, Donors/funding agencies and Government institutions involved in Microfinance programmes.

### **By whom**

This FAQ booklet is a joint initiative of Indian Network of Federations of Microfinance Self Help Groups (INFOS) and International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI-India).

### **Supporters and sponsors**

- Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai
- Ford Foundation, New Delhi
- HIVOS, Bangalore
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Chennai

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# **FACTS AND FIGURES ON POVERTY**

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## **1. What is the status of Poverty and hunger in India?**

As per the central government statistics 27 in every 100 people live BPL. That is to say 42% of the people earn less than Rs.50/- day and the percentage of people earning less than Rs.100 is 85%. 25% of the populations are from Scheduled caste and tribes and in this 42% are very poor. Due to the inflation the prices of food articles have gone up and because of this there is actual food shortage leading to poverty.

## **2. States which have serious issues of poverty and hunger?**

Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are really suffering out of poverty.

## **3. How many people in India are living without food and proper health care**

In India out of the total population of about 116 crores 20 crores live without food and proper health care.

## **4. How many children in India are weak?**

50% of the children are weak and in this 20% have basic problems due to lack of food, shelter and clothing.

## **5. What is the ratio of women to men in India?**

As per the statistics of 2001 the ratio of women to men is 1000:927

## **6. What are the issues faced by women in India?**



There is no priority for women in the society in the areas of culture, economy. There is also no adequate law to protect women and dowry related deaths are more.

## **7. What are the steps taken by the Government of India in solving issues faced by women?**

The Government of India is taking steps to inform the women as to their legal status and to avoid female infanticide. Plans are afoot to ensure the ratio of women to men at 1000:950 during the year 2016-17 and to reduce infant mortality rate (For example if 1000 children are born 67 children die before the age of 5 at the Indian level it is 122 during 2008).

## **8. What is the status of maternity in India?**

As per the statistics of 2005, out of a 10,00,00 pregnant woman, 450 died during delivery of birth. Government of India has planned to reduce this to 100 before 2011 and 2012.

## **9. Status of HIV/Aids in India?**

As per the statistics, around 2.5 crore people are affected by HIV and this is predominant in states like West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan and Bihar. TamilNadu has about 45% affected by HIV, this has a serious say amongst the women in rural and urban areas

## **10. Status of Tuberculosis in India?**

As per the Government of India statistics of 2003, 33 people die due to TB and this disease is more amongst the poor people.

## **11. What type of security is needed for poor people?**

Security from the point of view of society, income and food is the basic requirement for people living Below Poverty Line.

## 12. Define famine and hunger death?

If a person did not get food for atleast 3 times a day then he is supposed to be living in poverty. It is a saddening thing that large amount of population take or get only 1 to 2 time food daily.

## 13. Why women are affected in majority out of poverty.

- a) Women are not given adequate share in education and they are not employed in bigger organizations
- b) Majority of the women are engaged only in agriculture and agriculture related works
- c) Women gets lesser salary than men
- d) Job security is not there in those jobs where women are predominantly employed

## 14. Progress towards MDGs in India?

Millennium Development Goals - INDIA at a Glance	Facts
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	
Employment to population ratio, more than 15 years, total (%)	61
Employment to population ratio, ages 15-24, total (%)	45
Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	14
% of the over all work force is employed in the informal economy	90
% of the over all work force is employed in the informal economy (Women)	96
Of the total population of the farmer % of population of the farmer is indebt	48
of the total population of India % of the	27

population is having the accesses to formal credit system	
National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme of Government is implimentated in India ( No. of District)	604
Of the total population of chronically poor women in India % women are ST	43
Of the total population of chronically poor women in India % women are SC	36
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>	
Literacy rate, youth female (% of females ages 15-24)	87
Literacy rate, youth male (% of males ages 15-24)	91
Primary school enrolment ratio, Male	109
Primary school enrolment ratio, Female	90
% of central government expenditure allocated to Education (2006)	4
Secondary school enrolment ratio male	59
Secondary school attendance ratio female	49
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	18
Child marriage total (%)	47
Child marriage urban (%)	29
Child marriage rural (%)	56
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality</b>	<b>26</b>
Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)	82
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	47
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	68
Rank of India in Child Mortality	49

Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	64
Birth registration total (%)	41
Birth registration urban (%)	59
Birth registration rural (%)	35
Children Underweight (below 5 years) %	<b>46</b>
<b>Goal 5: Improve maternal health</b>	
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	52
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	65
Contraceptive prevalence (% of women ages 15-49)	60
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)	450
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women ages 15-49)	–
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)	57
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases</b>	<b>Reverse the spread</b>
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)	139
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)	0.7
Prevalence of HIV, male (% ages 15-24)	–
Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)	0.8
Tuberculosis cases detected under DOTS (%)	63
People from across India provided with training and services to improve their capacity to deal with the HIV (in million)	16
% of transmission happens through unprotected sex	87
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability (Access to fresh water and Forest)</b>	<b>78 &amp; forest cover rivers loss</b>

Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	<i>60</i>
Improved water source (% of population with access)	<i>89</i>
Improved water source (% of population with access), Rural	<i>86</i>
Improved water source (% of population with access), Urban	<i>96</i>
People not having access to improved sanitation (in millions)	<i>1.0</i>
<b>Source: 1. World Development Indicators 2008, NFHS 32005-2006, and World Bank's ' INDIA at A Glance</b>	
<b>2. InfoChange News and Features, March 2009</b>	
<b>3. Hindusthan Times, September 10, 2008</b>	
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# **THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)**

## **1. What is MDG?**

MDG stands for Millennium Development Goals – a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, diseases, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. It consists of 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators, covering the period 1990 to 2015

## **2. When and how did MDG start?**

In September 2000, member states of the United Nations (UN) gathered at the Millennium Summit to affirm commitments towards reducing poverty and the worst forms of human deprivation. The Summit adopted the UN Millennium Declaration which embodies specific targets and milestones in eliminating extreme poverty worldwide. A total of 189 countries, including the Philippines committed themselves to making the right to development a reality for everyone.

## **3. Can the UN member states achieve the MDGs?**

For most nations to achieve the MDGs, they must get not only additional financial resources from both domestic and external sources, but should also formulate policies and set up an institutional environment that will ensure that the resources are used efficiently and effectively

## **4. Specifically, what are the MDGs?**

The UN aims that by 2015,

- the proportion of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger will be halved;
- all children will be in primary school;
- girls will have the same educational opportunities as boys;

- the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water will be halved;
- the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria will be stopped;
- a child's risk of dying before the age of five will be reduced by two-thirds;
- a mother's risk of dying while pregnant will be reduced by three quarters;
- the world's ecosystem and biodiversity will be better protected from destruction;
- at least 100 million slum dwellers will get better housing, health care, and new opportunities for education;
- people in developing countries will have greater access to essential drugs;
- the benefits of new technologies, especially information technologies, will flow to more countries and more people; and
- wealthy countries will support developing countries with debt relief, more financial aid, and greater market access.

## **5. How can the attainment of the MDGs be measured?**

The attainment of the MDGs can be measured through a set of indicators defined by the UN that will be able to assess progress over the period 1990 to 2015.

# **MICROFINANCE**

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## **1. What is Micro Credit?**

Micro Credit is defined as provision of thrift, credit and other financial services and products of very small amount to the poor in rural, semi-urban and urban areas for enabling them to raise their income levels and improve living standards. Micro Credit Institutions are those, which provide these facilities.

## **2. What are the interest rates applicable?**

The reform of the interest rate regime has constituted an integral part of the financial sector reforms initiated in our country in 1991. In consonance with this reform process, interest rates applicable to loans given by banks to micro credit organizations or by the micro credit organizations to Self-Help Groups/member-beneficiaries has been left to their discretion. The interest rate ceiling applicable to direct small loans given by banks to individual borrowers, however, continues to remain in force.

## **3. What are the terms & conditions for accessing micro credit?**

Banks have been given freedom to formulate their own lending norms keeping in view ground realities. They have been asked to devise appropriate loan and savings products and the related terms and conditions including size of the loan, unit cost, unit size, maturity period, grace period, margins, etc. Such credit covers not only consumption and production loans for various farm and non-farm activities of the poor but also include their other credit needs such as housing and shelter improvements.



#### **4. What is a Self-Help Group (SHG)?**

A Self-Help Group (SHG) is a registered or unregistered group of micro entrepreneurs having homogenous social and economic background voluntarily, coming together to save small amounts regularly, to mutually agree to contribute to a common fund and to meet their emergency needs on mutual help basis. The group members use collective wisdom and peer pressure to ensure proper end-use of credit and timely repayment thereof. In fact, peer pressure has been recognized as an effective substitute for collaterals.

#### **5. What are the advantages of financing through SHGs?**

An economically poor individual gain strength as part of a group. Besides, financing through SHGs reduces transaction costs for both lenders and borrowers. While lenders have to handle only a single SHG account instead of a large number of small-sized individual accounts, borrowers as part of a SHG cut down expenses on travel (to & from the branch and other places) for completing paper work and on the loss of workdays in canvassing for loans.

#### **6. What role does a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) play in provision of Micro Credit?**

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is a voluntary organization established to undertake social intermediation like organizing SHGs of micro entrepreneurs and entrusting them to banks for credit linkage or financial intermediation like borrowing bulk funds from banks for on-lending to SHGs.

#### **7. Why Microfinance?**

- Poverty reduction is possible on a large scale through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods – by providing easy and affordable (yet non

subsidized) access to credit and related service required for promotion of livelihoods, micro finance has not only harnessed the latent entrepreneurial abilities of the poor but also enabled them to combat poverty in a sustainable manner.

- Empowerment of women can occur through social and collective action at the grass roots – the clout and solidarity provided by the SHGs and other forms of groups and collectives, pioneered by micro finance movements across the world, have helped the poor and women fight and secure their rights, both at home as well as outside. Thus, in a way, microfinance has strengthened democracy as the grass roots
- Enterprise development and large scale employment generation, as an end in themselves, can be promoted in remote rural areas – many of the poor who were eking out a living doing wage work have become entrepreneurs (in their own right) due to a wide variety of services that they can access through the microfinance system
- Local capital (resources) can be tapped in a significant manner to fund poverty alleviation programmes – many microfinance programmes deliver credit and related services to the poor out of their own savings
- Most importantly, all of the above can be achieved by the poor themselves

### **Why is Micro Finance growing?**

- It promises to reach the poor: support income generation activities for their enterprises
- It can help in building financially self sufficient locally managed institutions
- It builds on the traditional systems of savings and storage. It provides similar services with greater flexibility, at a more affordable price and on a sustainable basis

- Microfinance activities can strengthen existing formal financial institutions by expanding their markets for both savings and credit
- It has received a lot of impetus by the growing number of success stories both in extending its reach to rural poor and becoming self sustainable institutions
- Over the years, it has been able to offer innovative products like using group based collateral, use of social and peer pressure and promise of higher repeat loans, reducing transaction costs drastically, achieving greater outreach and high loan repayments.

### **Who are the beneficiaries of Microfinance?**

Poor women, small and marginal business entrepreneurs, small and marginal farmers, landless laborers and coolies, craftsman, Those who earn less, those who are deprived of basic amenities & those living in backward villages

### **Why is micro finance spreading fast amongst poor people?**

1. Due to self less service and aims at providing basic infrastructure
2. To make the masses economically independent and helps the people to develop
3. It serves the people through various beneficial schemes
4. It ensures that through Micro finance the banking sectors performs effectively
5. It ensures all round development for people living BPL
6. Development and implementation of common toilet and toilet for every house

# **CONNECTING MICROFINANCE AND MDGS**

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## **1. What are the roles of Microfinance in alleviating poverty and hunger?**

- a) Organizing all the people living below BPL
- b) Timely distribution of finance to the needy people
- c) Enlightening the people as to the various facilities being offered by the banks
- d) Permanently relieving them from poverty by giving them guaranteed employment and to enable them to protect them from starvation and famine.
- e) Formulating new action plans to safeguard them from poverty
- f) Making them understand about their future and plan their finances accordingly
- g) Planning their family and make them aware of the various savings and other free loans schemes and to ensure that they do not fall on the debt trap once again. This may be done by segregating them into 1) newly married couple 2) married with young children 3) married with earning children 4) married with married children 5) Old aged

## **2. What Microfinance has to do for improving livelihood for their member for poverty reduction?**

- a) Each MF Federation have to work out the economics of livelihood and expected income of activities depend upon the geographical context
- b) Each MF federation has to collect data of membership profile and youth details of members' family
- c) Wage details of Agriculture and Non Agricultural activities of particular block/District data to be collected
- d) Those who are promoting vocation skill training like Government and Non government organisation to be identified.
- e) New activities possibility has to be analyzed and possibility of employment opportunity has to be studied

- f) Livelihood activities details of members families have to be consolidated
- g) Poverty clinic centre to be upon at District level and it has to do counseling for the members for vocational training or education and vocational training or education and suggestion for new and existing livelihood activities
- h) The loan and saving product have to be design according to context of federation and poverty situation
- i) The MF federations have to link with nearby Industry for getting employment opportunities. It leads to ensure the employment opportunity for member's family.
- j) MF has to give training to the members for new livelihood activities and upgraded training to those who are doing existing livelihood activities
- k) Mf has to arrange market facilities through joining with MF Network organisation. So Mf could learn approaches, and get good benefit out of it.
- l) MF has to be create a separate MIS package for livelihood activities, in term of progress and impact and it has to be published the impact in annual report
- m) MF has to create primary produces groups among members separately and it has to link with marketing network for market the product.

### **3. What are the challenges in livelihood promotion?**

- a) Functioning of SHGs for longer run
- b) Doing livelihood activities for longer run and not skipping to the other activities
- c) Producing good quality of product and getting good identity for their brand
- d) Creating/ ensuring market facilities for members product
- e) Participation in livelihood /vocation training without fail
- f) Co-operation among members husband

#### **4. What are the roles of Microfinance in providing elementary education?**

- a) Increasing the family income through Microfinance and to ensure them the basic elementary education
- b) Not allowing them to borrow fund at a higher interest for the purchase of books etc and to meet the expenses relating to their education within their income.
- c) To spend money for the development of children From the common fund generated through Microfinance
- d) Assisting members of Micro finance in getting the various schemes being offered by Government and Non Governmental agencies
- e) Focusing not only in educating the members of Micro finance but also the entire rural people
- f) To discourage child labor and enlighten the parents about the importance of educating their child
- g) Apart from the above said services, the following services can also be provided:
  - i. To take classes for the children in the evening
  - ii. To ensure continuance of education for those who have discontinued their studies
  - iii. To appoint teaches, wherever they are in shortage and pay them their salary
  - iv. For those not willing to go to school help them in getting atleast vocational training in various trades
  - v. Start new schools, if there is no school and implement new methods in teaching

#### **5. Steps to be taken to impart elementary education through Microfinance programmes?**

- a) To get the details of number of schools and number of teachers available in the respective areas
- b) To computerize the details of children not going to schools and to find out the reasons for the same.

- c) The members of the Micro finance group should also be included in the PTA.
- d) To convene a meeting every 3 months and to plan for the development of the school
- e) To lend money for the members through micro finance and discourage them from borrowing at higher interest from unscrupulous people.

## **6. How to assess whether the members have given their children the basic elementary education?**

- a) During every Annual General Meeting a census should be taken as to
  - i. How many students were enrolled for elementary education?
  - ii. How many students were re admitted into elementary education?
  - iii. How was the funds spent on education?
  - iv. The deposit and lending ratio should also be considered.
  - v. How are the schemes implemented with or without Government or Non Governmental organizational support?
- b) To encourage the students going to schools by offering them various prizes.
- c) To encourage people in increasing their livelihood through involving them in various activities
- d) To ensure proper flow of funds
- e) To encourage people in safeguarding and maintaining the assets of the public in their respective villages
- f) To impart leadership and decision making skills in the members

- g) To elect the leaders in rotation thereby giving everybody equal chances for leadership.
- h) In the event of purchase of land or building the same should be done in the name of the members
- i) To introduce proper insurance scheme for the members in lieu of absence of income
- j) To create market or merchandise the products produced by the members
- k) To brand the goods produced by the members and market the same effectively in the proper market
- l) To conduct periodical seminars and meetings for imparting not only education but also other developmental activities

## **7. What is the role of Microfinance in women and child development?**

- a) To compute the complete details of the family members of the Micro finance
- b) To distribute the various medicines etc to the pregnant women along with government
- c) To ensure that the pregnant women delivers the baby only at hospitals
- d) To make plans for Micro finance during the pregnancy days and for the hospital expenses
- e) To inform the members about the importance of family planning and to ensure we two ours two principle in every family
- f) To conduct various seminars and camps for the reduction of anemia.
- g) To ensure that the family members take proper health insurance and life insurance
- h) To advise the members that the killer disease of anemia may be because of giving more berths also.
- i) To bring the poor people under one single forum of Micro finance so that their standard of living is uplifted



- j) To make them aware of the various schemes being offered by the government for Safety of mother and child and also maintenance of children

## **8. What Microfinance institutions shall do for women development?**

- a) To collect information about the members and consolidate the same
- b) To collect the details of total investment done in the respective areas
- c) To ensure proper training and development for engaging them in business
- d) To plan properly as to the tie ups to be made with trade bodies
- e) To join hands with governmental agencies for imparting training in trade and business
- f) To collect information as to education and health issues of the girl child and plan to address the same.
- g) To ensure that the members of the Micro finance become self sufficient to manage business by imparting adequate training in leadership and management
- h) To exchange ideas between the leaders of various forums by conducting periodical brain storming sessions
- i) To make known to people as to the various achievements by the members, which will act as an impetus for other members.
- j) To focus not only on alleviating poverty but also try to form a big union for the up liftment of women.
- k) To take steps to decrease the child mortality rate
- l) To collect information as to the transportation and health facilities available in the respective areas for the pregnant women and to inform them about the various schemes being offered by government
- m) To make them know the importance of the various safeguards that the pregnant women should take during their pregnancy and the various medicines and its importance.
- n) To stop the infant mortality rate due to poverty

- o) To teach the pregnant women about the importance of delivering baby at the hospitals
- p) To join hands with the government during Breast milk week, Polio plus week and mother's day Celebrations
- q) To inform them the importance of not being weak which will again force them to go to poverty level.
- r) To insure every family to ensure that they don't fall under the poverty line again.
- s) To get in touch with the various governmental agencies like Primary health centre, health office at the taluk and district level so that the benefits of various schemes reach the people at large.

## **9. What are the roles of Microfinance in HIV and Malaria Eradication?**

The killer disease of HIV spreads through the male and it spreads to more women through men. Because of this the entire humanity is facing the problem of extinction. Proper steps should be taken to protect the members from the above killer diseases. Few steps are as below

- a) To take a census on the various disease that has affected the villages and the reason for the same
- b) Identifying the symptoms of the above diseases and take adequate steps through government and non governmental agencies and village heads etc by conducting awareness camps etc.
- c) Steps should be taken to insure them against health hazards and if needed they can establish a hospital to address these issues through micro finance groups at the district and state level and also to ensure the availability of medicines to the people

## **10. What are the steps to be taken for protecting environment?**

- a) To ensure clean house and the importance of living in a clean environment
- b) Separate individual toilets for each and every house
- c) Proper drainage facility
- d) To impart the knowledge of importance of water and proper handling of water
- e) To ensure clean water sources
- f) To avoid plastic bags and adopt the usage of paper make products
- g) To enable the farmers to use natural manures
- h) To use smokeless stoves instead of wood stoves for cooking etc and thereby saving energy
- i) To make loans available to the members for the construction of separate toilets and proper drinking water facility
- j) To make them understand the importance of cooking through cylinder gas so as to avoid eye related ailments and headaches.
- k) To administer the oath of NO TO PLASTICS
- l) Safe drinking water and to protect all the water resources in the villages
- m) To implement safe drinking water to places where there is water shortage
- n) To implement housing loan schemes so that it will give them proper toilet and safe drinking water.

## Madurai Symposium 2009

The Madurai Symposium is a development platform where development stakeholders Community Institutions, Civil Societies, the Government, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Financial institutions and Academia converge at Madurai for conventions, conferences and a development carnival. Three biennial symposiums were organized in Madurai in 2003, 2005 and 2007. The 2009 Madurai Symposium focuses on advancing development towards MDGs. People conventions, conferences and workshops will be organized on themes such as poverty, women and children, environment and global partnership. The Symposium is an opportunity for all the stakeholders of development to consolidate their experiences and field practices, share what they have learned, and establish an agenda for realizing the MDGs.

## Millennium Development Goals

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 member countries of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the commitment pledged by governments of sovereign states to achieve 21 development targets and 60 indicators by 2015. The MDGs consist of eight specific goals to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, ensure all boys and girls complete primary education, promote gender equality, improve the health of mothers and children, reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, protect the environment, and create a global partnership for development.

## INFOS

INFOS is a national network of Microfinance SHG Federations promoted with the mission of strengthening and sustaining SHG Federations in India. The Network aims at sharing a common mission of contributing towards growth of the member federations through capacity building and policy advocacy initiatives, facilitating co-learning and through inculcating self-regulation. INFOS was incorporated in June 2006 and has come to gain an identity among the SHG federations in the country and position itself as a strong and vibrant network engaged actively in building the social capital of the poor by enabling the demand stream comprising of SHGs and Federations through networking.

## INAFI-India

INAFI INDIA is the country chapter of INAFI global network of development organisations active in support of savings and credit programmes of member organisations in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. In realizing this vision, INAFI-India recognizes the critical role of microfinance interventions as part of the development strategy in eradicating root causes of poverty. For INAFI-India, microfinance is a 'means' to the larger end of poverty reduction and the interventions of INAFI and its members go beyond microfinance. As a network, INAFI and its members are challenged by the Millennium Development Goals and we are committed for a long-term work to connect microfinance with the MDGs.