

## MDG7 – key issues and recommendations

1. **Strengthen relation between local and national governments.** This relationship is not equal. Local governments often lack human and financial resources and the power to act. Nevertheless they have to work together and coordinate, to avoid overlap of policies and actions eg. in the area of planning. Therefore, need to include local governments into policy development in the areas of poverty reduction and environmental management.
2. **Promote decentralization** – to give local authorities the opportunities and responsibilities to implement MDG7; local authorities need the power to enforce laws and they need human and financial resources.
3. Financing of public service and infrastructure for MDG7 is a key issues – **alternative options, and innovative mechanisms and investments should be explored**, eg joining funds from different sources, applying user pays principle, solidarity principle
4. **Local authorities need to be strengthened to deliver MDG7 services and they can also find additional capacities through partnering** (private sector, civil society and other partners)
5. **Increase cooperation between local authorities**, also at regional level, need to establish networks between local authorities (eg Lake Victoria initiative)
6. **Local political leaders must be held accountable for providing public services with support of the citizens** e.g. water and sanitation
7. Local authorities can increase **their actions** today to localize the MDG7, however they need financial and policy support from the national and global level