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POVERTY ALLOCATION:
In the year 2000, the leaders of the world decided to launch a concerted attack on poverty and the problems of literacy, hunger, and discrimination against women, unsafe drinking water, and a degraded environment.

The United Nations at the dawn of the new Millennium, leaders from virtually all countries agreed to a set of eight ambitious Goals called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Developing countries, have been taking the lead in this campaign, particularly regarding the first seven Goals concerning direct improvements in human well-being.

The eighth Goal includes steps that developed countries need to take for supporting the campaigns of developing countries to win the struggle of eradicating poverty.

Sri Lanka is one of the 189 member states that adopted the Millennium Declaration and in doing so committed itself to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The report provides a comparison of the expected achievements against the targets set for 2015. An initiative is now under way to ensure that the data from surveys and censuses conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics are regularly updated and used to monitor progress towards MDGs.

The first Goal is poverty eradication. While all MDG goals are interrelated, the primary goal of other MDGs is poverty. Poverty permeates all sectors and holds back progress.

There are two targets set for this Goal. Target 1 is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people below the poverty line.

For international comparison, the poverty line is set at US $1 a day. However, the national government has decided to use this poverty line as the basis for calculating the national poverty headcount ratio and this is the indicator presented here.

As measured by this indicator, as at 2002, about one-fifth of the population in Sri Lanka was living in poverty. Given the trends over the past two decades, it is likely that this percentage will continue to rise in the future.

Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon and a direct impact of the MDGs. Government expenditure on primary and secondary education, health care, and nutrition, aid, and international remittances have contributed significantly to improve economic welfare in the country.

The MDG indicators for tracking progress in achieving the MDGs were also released with this publication. This database has been prepared by using the software DevInfo which is offered by the United Nations for monitoring MDGs.

Data on MDG indicators together with a set of tables, charts and maps presenting the trends and patterns of the indicators is included in this database.

Data available in this database can be retrieved and presented satisfying user needs easily.

The global MDGs are to be achieved over a 25-year period with 1990 as the base year and 2015 as the final year for most of the targets. Following are the data from surveys and censuses conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics. Data are available for this publication. This database provides data mainly for two years, one year from the Sri Lanka 2000 data, depending on the availability of data.

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