

## **Abstract**

The purpose of the post-2015 development agenda is to not only build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but go further beyond their scope to reach the most vulnerable groups. In our fast paced and interconnected world, the international scene has grown all the more uncertain such that large scale change, disruptive innovations and multiple global crises constantly defy the expertise and imagination of decision-makers at all levels, including in the field of development. Intergovernmental organizations thus face the pressure to excel, especially as stakeholders – member States, civil society, and partners – are becoming ever more exigent in a context where public finances over the world are dramatically constrained by the impacts of and the responses to the global financial and economic crisis. Furthermore, a sole business approach is insufficient in delivering the desired development outcomes targeting the most pressing challenges of hunger and malnutrition, ending preventable maternal, new-born and child deaths and universal primary education. Thus, cross-sector partnerships – between government, business (and other private sector actors), civil society and/or UN agencies – are one of the primary modalities through which the necessary innovation could be created and delivered.

Even though such a framework has been brought into much discussion and has been seen as an effective modality for scaling up innovation, resources and action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), his paper takes a qualitative approach to assess the efficacy of this claim. The study assesses multiple case studies pertaining to three SDGs- Education, Health and Nutrition and, Water and Sanitation- to evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of MSPs concerning the Indian scenario. Additionally, a risk analysis of the said framework has been conducted by using the SWOT analysis approach, to be able to fully understand the gains and shortcomings of the approach. The analysis reveals that even though MSPs may be seen as the go-to mechanism for realizing development targets, they are constrained by issues of poor inception and ineffective implementation, thereby hampering realization of true potential and benefits of the collaboration. By harnessing the opportunities from these partnerships and, by identifying the shortcomings and addressing the threats posed by them, recommendations have been made in order to turn MSPs into a panacea for reaching the “unreached” and realizing the post 2015 development agenda.