



United Arab Emirates
Ministry of Economy



United Nations Development Program
Abu Dhabi

Millennium Development Goals **United Arab Emirates Report**

(Second report)

March 2007

Believing in the social and human dimension of development, United Arab Emirates (UAE) has dedicated its efforts for several decades to providing its people with economic and social services, and has raised their standards of living to some of the highest in the world. The UAE now matches many advanced countries, both in the income and social welfare levels and in the level of infrastructure and services provided indiscriminately to all residents of the country.

Based on the UAE commitment to the Millennium Declaration and its social and economic Goals that have a direct impact on economic development, this second Report has been prepared to briefly illustrate the measures taken by the country towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the achievements attained in various fields.

The MDGs reinforce the state orientation to concentrate on the set of Goals, placed by the international community at the top of its development priorities, and to achieve these Goals in accordance with the postulates of the State and the development status of the country. The Report clearly demonstrates that the UAE has made great strides in achieving the MDGs, to an extent it can be asserted that most of these Goals have been actually reached. And, having made big achievements in the remaining Goals, it is believed that the UAE would be able to meet them by their set deadline, if not sooner.

Achieving these high-aiming Goals requires the partnership and cooperation between various organs of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, as set by the Millennium Declaration. This will secure the participation of all concerned in implementing the global declaration in the service of the country under the wise leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayid Al Nahayyan (may God protect him), and his brethren, their Highnesses the Emirate rulers and members of the Supreme Council.

Finally, we extend our thanks to all those who have worked on preparing this Report, and promise to work continuously on the follow-up process towards achieving the Development Goals in such a way that enables us in the future to shed light, with more details, on all posed issues. Thus, the Report would serve the purposes it has been created for.

Lubna bint Khalil Al Qasimi
Minister of Economy

Forward

At the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held in September 2000, world leaders agreed to save mankind from poverty and underdevelopment, making every effort to enhance the principles of liberty and dignity, spreading peace and welfare among nations and achieving human development to promote human capabilities and improving the living condition of all people.

Accordingly, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set-up, stressing the need that all countries are committed to and work for achieving them by 2015. This Report documents the achievements made by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in the past few decades and illustrates the commitment of the State to its people, in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The United Nations Development Program in the UAE is honored to partner with UAE government on this important endeavor and milestone achievement and congratulates the government its commitment to the State to its people, in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The United Nations Development Program in the UAE is honored to partner with UAE government on this important endeavor and milestone achievement and congratulates the government its commitment to the MDGs in the past few decades. Furthermore, the United Nations Development Programme in the UAE reiterates its commitment to work with the national authorities in the UAE, to overcoming some of the existing challenges that remain in the United Arab Emirates in the years to come.

Khaled Alloush
UN Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative

Towards the end of the 20th century, the world witnessed rapid economical, social and environmental developments characterized by an increasing mode of economic liberalization; as well as by the gradual withdrawal of the public sector from engaging in direct economic activities, the pursuance of privatization policies and the handing over to the private sector a larger role in creating development. To deal with the consequences generated during that phase, especially those related to poverty, health, women, education and environment, several World Summits and conferences were held in the 1990s to discuss the challenges involved and to find suitable ways for meeting them. In September 2000, the Millennium Summit was held at the United Nations in New York and was attended by the Heads of State and Government of 147 countries in the world. As a result of that Summit and previous efforts, the participants unanimously approved and signed the Millennium Declaration that concentrates on the social dimensions of development, and contains a number of measurable, time-bound development goals. The world leaders committed themselves to achieving these goals by the year 2015.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has ratified the UN Millennium Declaration and taken upon itself to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that include combating poverty, hunger, sickness and illiteracy; empowering women; improving environmental conditions; and activating the global partnership for development. The UAE has also outlined its concept of achieving the MDGs in the first follow-up Report, which was prepared in 2004 by the Ministry of Economy, with the collaboration of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the participation of various economic and social authorities, as well as by the country's civil society.

This Report is a continuation of efforts aiming at providing decision makers, and those concerned in the public and private sectors, with analytical and transparent information about the state's achievements, its weak points and the challenges it faces. The 2006 Report enables the relevant authorities to determine future policies for each of the listed Goals, especially those of pressing importance that are still facing some challenges, and to take appropriate measures for speeding up their achievement and re-directing resources towards the Goals that still need more effort and work. The Report also aims at demonstrating the progress witnessed by the UAE within the framework of its international commitments to achieve the MDGs.

It is noteworthy that the economic indicators used for this Report cover all the residents of the UAE, irrespective whether they are citizens or not, particularly because the 2005 general and household census results show that non-citizens constitute 79.9% of the population.

The preparation of the Report required the use of data and information available at government departments, and looking into the efforts of governmental and non-governmental bodies to achieve those goals, and their future plans to reach the relevant targets. It should be noted here that the present Report has paid extensive attention to the priorities of national development for the United Arab Emirates that have been found in harmony with the Millennium Development Goals.

This Report includes the major challenges that are still facing the State in the development field: to work on diversifying sources of income and expanding the production base, so as not to depend primarily on crude oil production and export; to further activate the role of the private sector as an important and effective partner in the development process; in addition to transferring and owning of technology, and developing national human resources to perform their full role in the development process. These challenges, in fact, are a part of the basic matters that face the State, which is on the verge of entering a new economic world order and, at the same time, capable of achieving the global MDGs by 2015. The United Arab Emirates has been able to meet the majority of the Goals, and is continuing to meet the remaining Goals and their targets.

I: Main features of the State

The United Arab Emirates is located in the eastern part of the Arab World, along the shores of the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf . The area of the UAE is about 83,600 square kilometers, approximately 80% of which, especially in the western region, is desert.

The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates – the former Trucial States - that was formed in 1971, with the city of Abu Dhabi as the political capital of the Federation. The seven emirates are: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Quwain, Ras al-Khaimah and al-Fujairah. The sovereign authority governing the State is the Supreme Council of the Federation, comprised of the UAE President and ruler of Abu Dhabi, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayyan, and the rulers of the other six Emirates. The Federal National Council is the legislative branch, and the Council of Ministers is the executive branch. Local governments manage internal affairs of each emirate, in coordination with the federal government.

According to the 2005 general census, the population of the State has increased from 2.4 million in 1995 to around 4.1 million, with around 66% of the UAE population being concentrated in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. This annual population growth rate of about 5.5% is attributed mainly to the large influx of foreign workers, who have been brought in to meet the rapidly increasing needs witnessed by UAE during the past decades. Statistical data show that the number of workers has more than doubled from 1.2 million in 1995 to around 2.6 million in 2005.

During the period of 1990-2005, the national economy has achieved a noticeable growth, where the gross domestic product (GDP) has increased, in current prices, from 125.3 billion dirhams in 1990 to approximately 485.5 billion dirhams in 2005; an average annual growth rate of about 9.5%. This increase is attributed to the contribution of non-oil sectors to the GDP, where the State concentrates its efforts on diversifying economic activities. With the continuing rise of oil prices, and the increasing growth of non-oil economic sectors, it is anticipated that the GDP – and consequently the national income – would continue to increase.

At the same time, the State has been devoted to raising the level of services provided to the population in the fields of education, healthcare and social welfare. It has also been dedicated to conserving and developing the environment, preserving security – both internally and along the borders – and running the society on the principles of equity and justice. These measures are reflected positively on the high standard of living being enjoyed by people in the United Arab Emirates.

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II: Development goals and follow-up mechanism

The MDG Report has eight Goals, which have been agreed upon during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The eight MDGs, which emerged from the UN Millennium declaration and should be met during a period of 25 years (1990- 2015), break down into 18 quantifiable targets. The Goals and their targets have 48 indicators, which measure the progress achieved by countries towards meeting each target and the follow-up on it.

MDG Reports are based on major principles that call for giving the follow-up process a national characteristic quality. This is accomplished by building national capacities capable of preparing follow-up reports, measuring their outcomes and determining the appropriate steps to meet the Goals in accordance with the available capacities and the institutional capabilities. It is also accomplished by following specified development strategies that work on developing national capabilities and by facing the political leadership and decision makers with the realities and challenges that are encountered in achieving the Goals.

In addition, the process of monitoring developments related to the various indicators necessitates the provision of a broad database. This requires a scientifically advanced statistical system, supported by a sound national statistical system and a general database characterized by transparency. The availability of detailed, precise databases, based on field research and surveys, will also help improve global databases about the UAE.

In this context, it can be stated that the United Arab Emirates recognizes the human and social dimension of development, and the necessity of having development benefits enjoyed by the whole population of the country. Hence the importance of the general, household and facilities census, which has helped produce detailed data according to demographic characteristics of all the MDG indicators. The outcome will make it possible to measure the variables and determine the level of economical and social development that each group of the society has reached.

Authorities in charge of accomplishing the MDGs have been entrusted with the task of determining the extent of the state's capabilities to achieve the Goals, as well as the possibility of following-up and evaluating. This decision has been based on the status of these institutions and their future plans, as well as on their previous experience in carrying out required tasks, the statistical data available to them and their capability of following-up and coordination.

One of the present Report's most important features, with regard to following-up on the indicators, is its highlighting quantitatively the challenges that face the achievement of the MDGs. Drawing upon what has already been accomplished during the past five years, the Report estimates the annual average of advancement that should be achieved from now on, to meet what is left of the MDGs.

The data needed for this Report have been obtained from government organs, both federally and locally, and from a number of non-government organizations (NGOs). In conformity with the directives of the relevant guidelines, many bodies participated in preparing the present Report. They were represented by a committee that included delegates of government institutions concerned with development in the public and private sectors, NGOs, other planning groups and the United Nations Developing Program (UNDP) in the UAE.

III: Accomplishments towards achieving the MDGs

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (not applicable)

To achieve this Goal, two targets were set:

- 1- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than 1US\$ a day (not applicable)
- 2- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (not applicable)

Due to the particularly high standards of living in the United Arab Emirates, another target that is more compatible with reality, maintaining and enhancing the population's standard of living, has been used. Other appropriate indicators, such as the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, the median wages for workers and the average of private consumption per capita, have also been used to monitor progress towards this Goal.

The economic boom witnessed by the UAE in the past decades, and reflected on the various sections of the society, raised the standards of living and the average GDP per capita.

Economic data in Table 1 indicate that GDP per capita has risen from 68,000 dirhams a year in 1990 to around 118,000 dirhams in 2005; i.e. an annual growth of 3.7% during that period. This GDP per capita is not only one of the highest in the region, but is also comparable to that in many other countries worldwide.

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The data also show that the median income of workers has increased from 35,000 dirhams per annum to about 40,000 dirhams during the same period; i.e. an annual growth of approximately 1%.

Consumption per capita has also grown from 26,000 to 54,000 dirhams, with an annual growth of 5%; thus keeping its proportion of the GDP that amounts to about 46%.

Table 1

Average per capita of some economic variables (1990-2005) in thousand dirhams

Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005
Per Capita GDP	68	65	80	118
Average Wages per labor	35	33	34	40
Average Private Consumption	26	31	35	54

Source: Ministry of Economy, Planning Department, Annual Economic Report 2005

The government has adopted a number of policies that help increase the citizens' income and provide a lasting source of income, especially for low-income people. These policies include:

1. Allocating farmland to farmers of limited income; supporting agricultural needs for seeds, saplings and pesticides; availing free veterinary services; and providing fishermen with financial and material support.
2. Providing citizens and economic utilities with their needs of water and electricity services at support prices.

3. Providing land and public housing, at no cost, for new and extended Emirati families. Up to 2005, grants and loans have been provided to build more than 65,000 housing units.

To organize the social welfare system in the UAE, a comprehensive social affairs system, set up through the Ministry of Social Affairs, has been in place since 1972. In 2001, the welfare law was amended to provide aid for widows, divorced women, the disabled, the elderly, and others with special needs. As a result, aid has risen from 530 million dirhams in 1995 to around 783 million in 2005. And, it amounted to 1.1 billion dirham in 2006 after a decision to increase this assistance by 75%,

In the 1980s, this aid was provided to around 40,000 families. In 2005, the number of families receiving such aid dropped to about 31,000, because some of those covered by social security either joined the labor market or had private projects that provided them with appropriate incomes.

In proportion to the gross domestic product, social security dues range between 1% and 2% of the GDP; a low ratio in comparison with a number of countries in the world. This, in fact, is a positive indicator that attests to the decreasing numbers of those in need of welfare support, and is attributed to the increasing level of income in the UAE.

In addition, the State provides financial aid, in the form of regular monthly salaries, to those of special needs who have no incomes. In 2005, the financial aid given to this group totaled around 44 million dirhams.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

The state educational policy instrument has included a number of basic conceptual directives, which consider education as a key factor in development, as well as in achieving stability and national security. The document also emphasizes the role of education in developing people's capabilities to keep abreast with regional and international changes, increasing the suitability of education to national and societal needs – especially in linking the educational output with the economic, social and cultural development needs, promoting cultural belonging and asserting the cultural identity of the educated. Table 2 refers to the improvement witnessed by the education sector in the period 1990-2005.

Table 2**Development of education indicators for 1990-2005****Percentages**

Indicators (*)	1990	2005	Achieved annually	Targeted annually	2015 Targeted *	Challenge
Net enrolment ratio in primary education	97.1	98.0	0.06	0.12	100	0.20
Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	95.0	96.8	0.13	0.21	100	0.33
Literacy rate of 15- to 24-year-olds	95.5	98.6	0.21	0.18	100	0.15

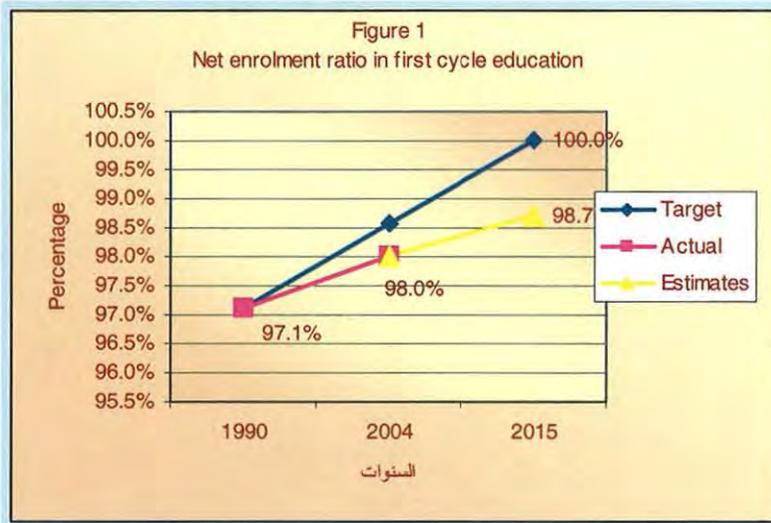
* Reaching a full 100% is a theoretical Goal, for there will inevitably be a fractional ratio of students unable to enroll in schools for natural reasons such as severely handicapped children.

Since its inception, the seven states have been promoting public education; hence increasing the growth of education indicators in all stages of schooling. In the period 1990-2005, the number of students increased at annual growth rate of 10.3%, and the education budget jumped to 1.7 billion in 1994 and to about 6 billion dirhams in 2005. To illustrate the progress towards achieving this Goal, 3 indicators were set:

a. Net enrolment ratio in the first cycle (grades 1-5)

Data relevant to education indicators show that the net enrolment ratio in first cycle education (grades 1-5) rose from 97.1% in 1990 to 98% in 2005; a growth with an annual rate of 0.06%. To reach the targeted ratio of 100%, it is needed to achieve an annual growth rate of 0.20% between now and 2015.

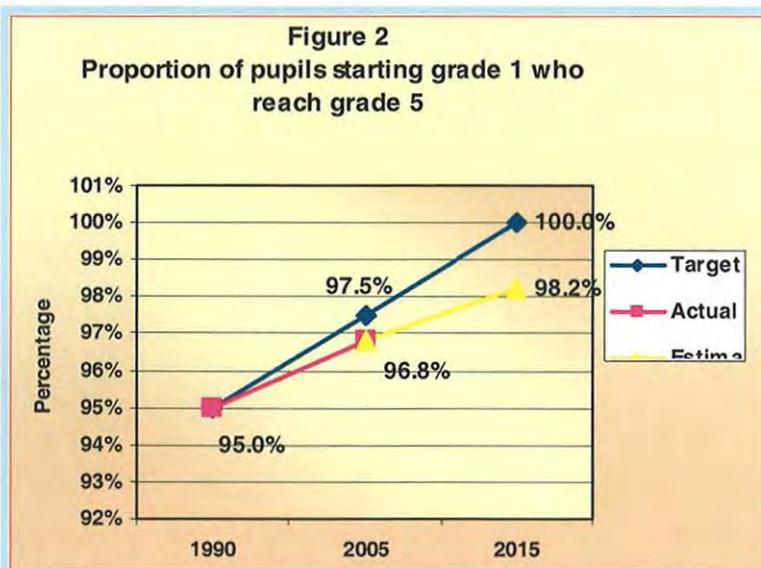
Figure (1) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of net enrolment ratio in first cycle education reach approximately 98.7%.



b. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5

This indicator shows an increase from 95% in 1990 to 96.8% in 2005, an annual growth rate of 0.13%. Reaching the targeted proportion of 100%, however, would necessitate an annual growth rate of 0.33%.

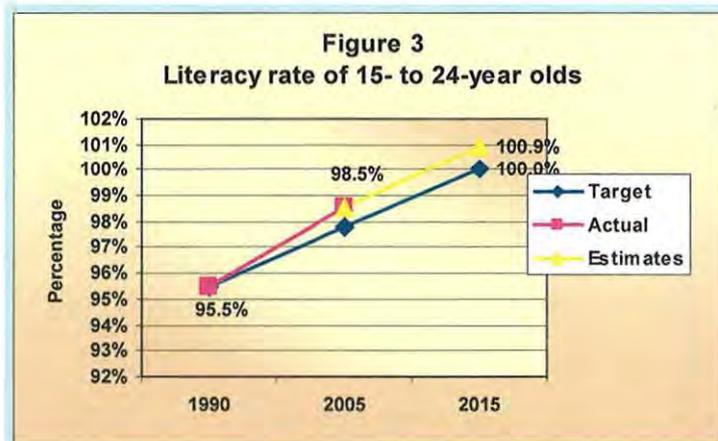
Figure (2) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 reach approximately 98.2%.



c. Literacy rate of 15- to 24-year-olds

This indicator has witnessed a noticeable growth during the past years: from 95.5% in 1995 to 98.6% in 2004, an annual growth rate of 0.21%, which is higher than the targeted 0.21% annual average. This indicates that, if the growth average continues like the previous patterns, the targeted rate would be achieved during the required period.

Figure (3) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of literacy rate of 15- to 24-year olds reach approximately 100%.



What has helped to increase the rate of this indicator is the state's concentration on teaching adults who have missed the opportunity for schooling. A special educational administration has been created that provides the opportunity for education from grade one in the first cycle to the third secondary, for anyone who wants to get educated. In 1989, the State also launched a nation-wide literacy and adult education campaign, which resulted in decreasing the illiteracy rate among the total population to around 9%. Efforts have been expanded as well to combat computer illiteracy, by introducing computers to the schools and mandating that government employees obtain the International Computer Driving License (ICDL).

In general, it could be said that the State has advanced in great strides towards providing education for every student in the country, in urban and rural areas alike, underlining the possibility of achieving universal second cycle (grades 6-9) education in the UAE by 2015, after achieving universal education in the first cycle.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women make up around 32.4% of the total number of residents in the UAE, and account for 49% of the total number of UAE nationals. The country's legislations do not differentiate between women and men with respect to education, employment or the quality of services provided. The political leadership of the country asserts that the comprehensive development process, in which both men and women take part, is the only way to promote the status of society and attain an advanced level of development.

Educational indicators show that women's share of education has reached its targeted levels. Women have sometimes exceeded men in this respect because of men's desire to join the labor market, the army and the police force at an early age, even before completing their secondary or tertiary education. The indicators in Table 3 show the ratios of females to males in the various phases of education:

Table 3

Development of gender equality in educations indicators for 1990-2005

Percentages

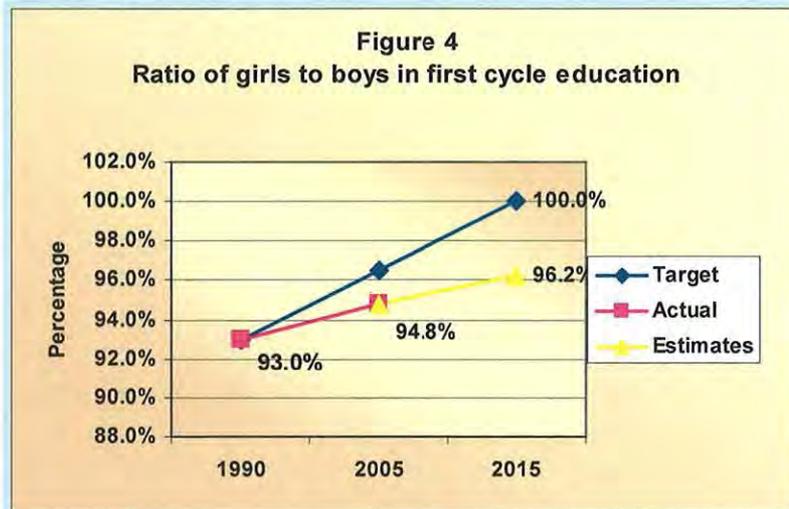
Indicators	1990	2005	Achieved annually	Targeted annually	2015 Targeted *	Challenge
Ratio of girls to boys in the first cycle	93.0	94.8	0.13	0.29	100	0.54
Ratio of females to males in the second cycle	106.0	92.9	0.88-	0.23-	100	0.74
Ratio of females to males in secondary education	115.0	106.7	0.50	0.56-	100	-----
Ratio of females to males in tertiary education	200.5	181.0	0.73-	2.74-	100	-----
Ratio of literate women to men ages 15-24	100.5	110.0	0.60	0.00	100	-----

Source: Ministry of Education

a. Ratio of girls to boys in the first cycle

The ratio of girls to boys in the first cycle schools has increased to about 94.8% in 2005 compared to 93% in 1990. This indicates quite a small yearly average increase of around 0.13% during that period. In order to achieve the targeted levels, an annual growth averaging 0.54% should be attained until 2015.

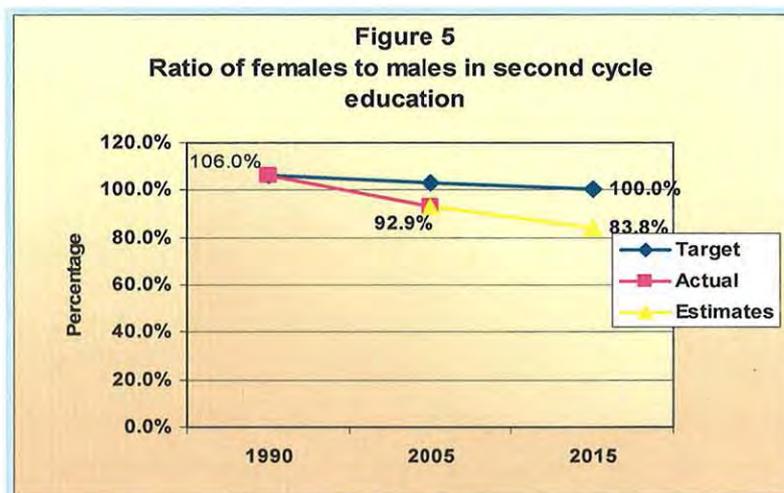
Figure (4) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of ratio of girls to boys in first cycle education reach approximately 96.2%.



b. Ratio of females to males in the second cycle

Despite the decline of the ratio of female to male students in the second cycle education from approximately 106% in 1990 to around 92.9% in 2005, a decrease averaging -0.88% annually, it continued to be around the expected levels. This signifies that the targeted rate has been virtually achieved.

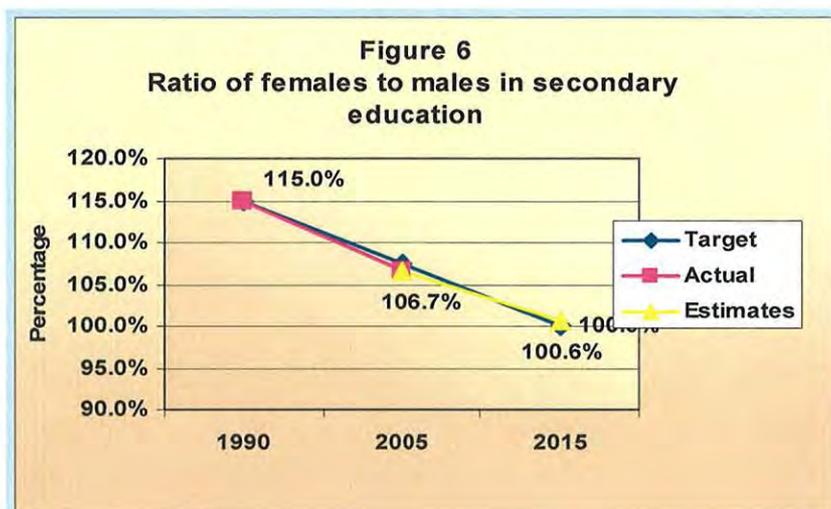
Figure (5) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of ratio of females to males in second cycle education reach approximately 83.8% by 2015.



c. Ratio of females to males in secondary education

The ratio of female to male students at the secondary stage dropped from about 115% in 1990 to about 106.7% in 2005, i.e. at an annual average rate of -0.53%. However, the proportion remains higher than the targeted average, which means equal rates of males and females.

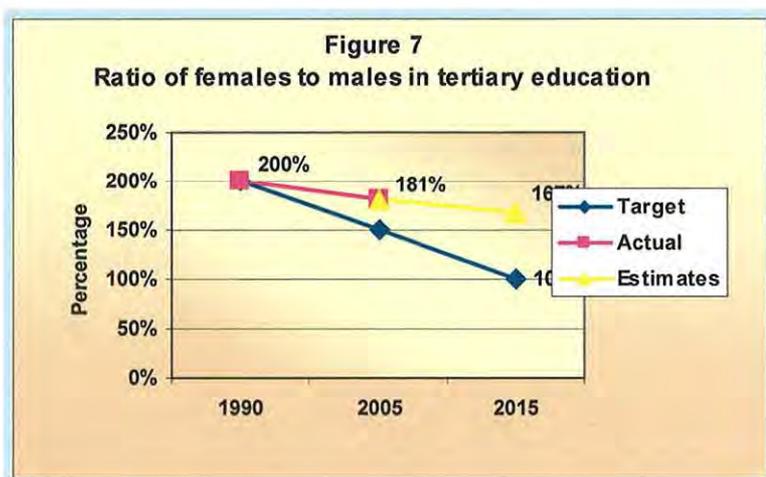
Figure (6) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of ratio of females to males in secondary education reach approximately 100% by 2015.



d. Ratio of females to males in tertiary education

The proportion of females in higher education has risen remarkably, at a rate that has not been achieved in any other country in the world. During the years 1990 to 2004 the number of female university students has grown to double that of male students. This is the result of the promotion and encouragement of women's education by state and family. In addition, a large percentage of males feel satisfied with secondary education and with what qualifies them to join the labor market at an early age.

Figure (7) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of ratio of females to males in tertiary education reach approximately 167% by 2015.

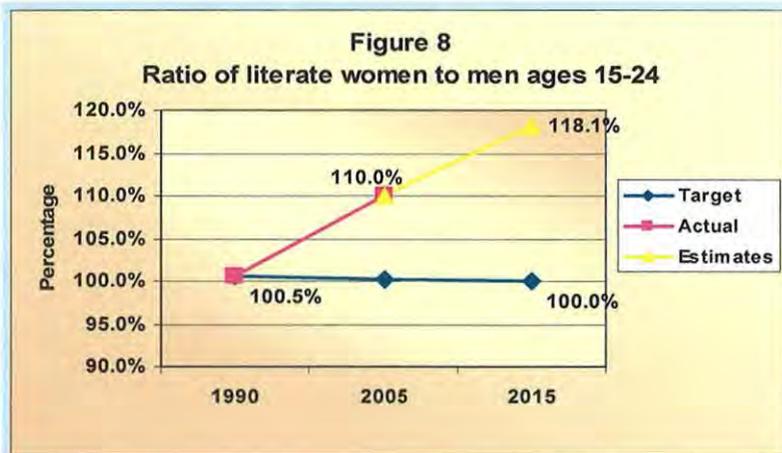


e. Ratio of literate women to men ages 15-24

UAE is one of the few countries where the proportion of literate females exceeds that of literate males of the 15- to 24-year-olds. The ratio became 110% in 2004, in contrast with 100.5% in 1990.

One can generally say that most educational indicators have actually been attained, or may be achieved during the determined period. It is therefore necessary from now on to focus on the first cycle and the quality of education, particularly with respect to developing curricula and upgrading teachers' skills and capabilities.

Figure (8) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of ratio of literate women to men ages 15-24 reach approximately 118% by 2015.



f. Share of women in economic activity

Available data about the labor market indicate a remarkable improvement of women's participation in economic activity, where the ratio of female state employees has increased from 11.6% in 1995 to around 22% in 2005, the ratio of professional females in all sectors has reached about 4%, and women constitute around 43% of the investors in Abu Dhabi's stock market; in addition, the businesswomen association has approximately 14 thousand members. But despite the improvement in women's education, further efforts are required for encouraging women to enter the labor market in a way that reflects their advancement in education. .

The State works according to specialized policies and programs in order to enable and activate women's role in economic activity. It is expected that women's participation in labor market will grow gradually, after the newly established colleges and universities start to graduate large numbers of qualified young women, capable of joining the labor market. Women's training and enabling programs proposed by the Department of Citizens' Human Resource Development and Employment are expected to consolidate the conviction that women's participation in all kinds of careers is advantageous and beneficial.

g. Women's share in the national Parliament and their social role

Year 2007 witnessed an important progress in the participation of women in the political field when 9 women enter the Federal National Council (FNC), to comprise around 23% of the 40 parliament member.

Women account for approximately 17% of the members of Sharja's National Consultative Council, acquire the membership of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Abu Dhabi, hold ministerial posts and senior administrative positions, as well as comprise around 10% of the diplomatic corps. However, the brighter and more representative picture of women in UAE is not confined to these limits. It goes beyond that to include women holding high-ranking offices, representing the country at international organizations, obtaining degrees of higher education and occupying middle-ranking administrative jobs. Women have been noticeably involved in social work and civil society organizations; such as the women's union, utility societies and professional associations. Restrictions limiting women's freedom of movement in labor market and education have diminished.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality by two thirds

Since the formation of the federal state, UAE has witnessed spectacular growth in the sector of health services. The government has succeeded in building a wide network of hospitals, health care centers and diagnostic clinics. It provides all aspects, stages and specializations of health care all over the country.

In the field of maternal and early childhood care, the government has been keen to achieve normal rates of population growth through developing health programs that seek to maintain the rates of live newborns, and decrease the average number of newborn and infant mortality. Table 4 refers to the levels archived in reducing child mortality.

Table 4
Indicators of children mortality in 1990-2005

Indicators*	1990	2005	Achieved annually	Targeted annually	2015 Targeted *	Challenge
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 children)	14.0	9.4	-2.8%	%4.3-	4.8	%7.0-
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	11.40	8.70	%1.8-	%4.3-	3.8	%8.0-
Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles	%66	%94	%2.8	%1.7	%100	%0.6

* Reaching very low levels in the child mortality indicators is a theoretical goal, for there will inevitably be a normal ratio of mortality.

The government efforts to improve those indicators have been based upon the health policy adopted during the past decades. It seeks to achieve the following targets:

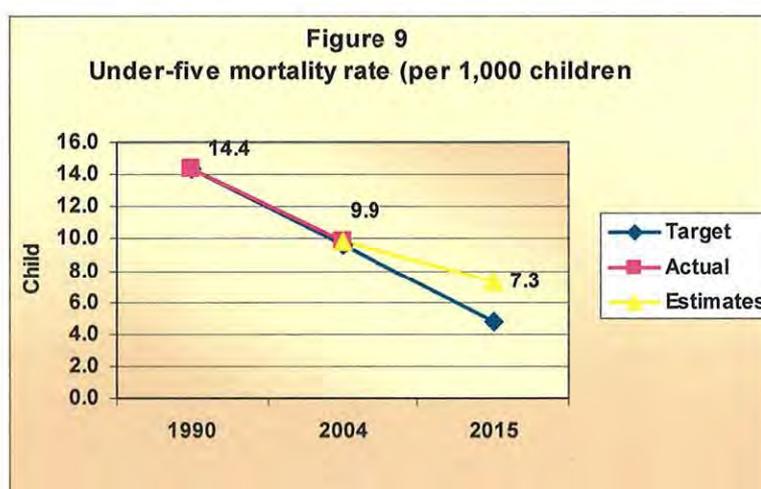
- 1- Provide the highest level of sustainable primary and secondary health care.
- 2- Reduce mortality average in general, and the incidence of disease and different accidents.
- 3- Fight and eliminate contagious and parasitic diseases, particularly among children and school-age population.
- 4- Detect and treat chronic diseases at an early stage.
- 5- Provide the necessary care for the persons with special needs

The MDGs include the following three indicators that demonstrate the progress towards achieving the Goal of reducing child mortality:

a. Under-five mortality rate

The MDGs require reducing mortality rate among under-five children in the UAE from 14 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 4.8 children by 2015. This implies a targeted decline averaging 4.3% annually. Statistical data show that the under-five mortality rate reached about 9.4% by 2005, implying a decline averaging only 2.8% a year. The annual average required from now until 2015 should be around 7.0%.

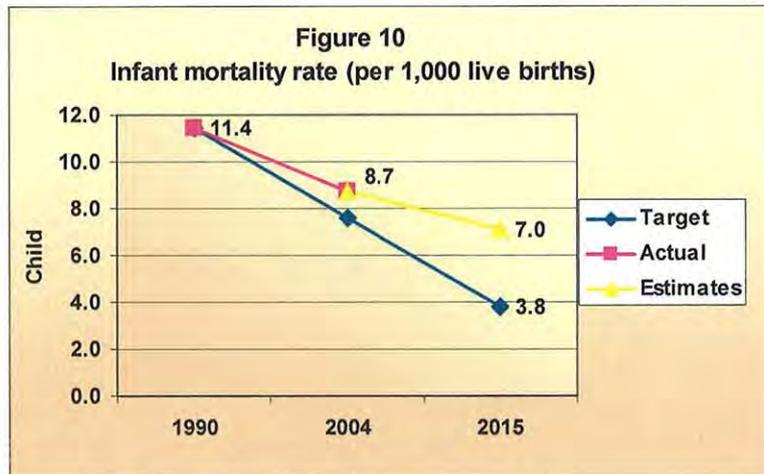
Figure (9) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of under-five mortality rate reach approximately 8.5 per 1,000 live births by 2015.



b. Infant mortality rate

The MDGs demand reducing infant mortality rate from 11.4 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 3.8 children by 2015; i.e. a targeted decline averaging almost 4.3% annually. Statistical data show that the average of infant deaths was 8.7 children in 2005. This signifies a decline of only 1.8% a year, and implies that the required yearly average from now up to 2015 will have to be around 8%.

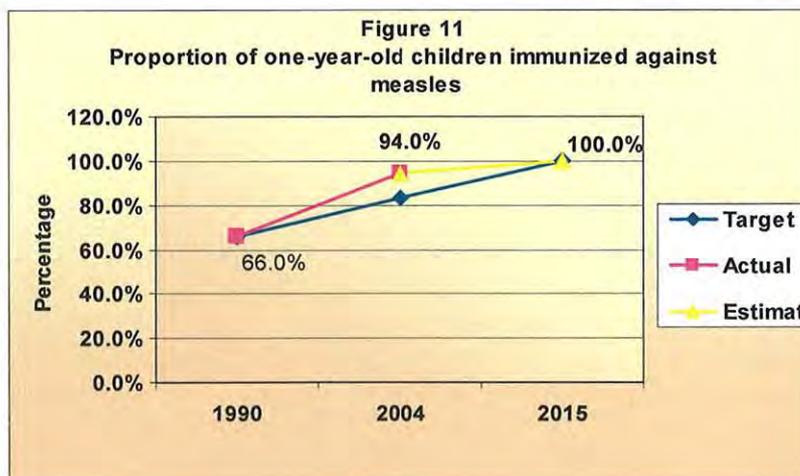
Figure (10) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of infant mortality rate reach approximately 7 per 1,000 live births by 2015.



c. Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles

Immunization against measles has been set within the extensive program of immunization carried out throughout the country in 1981. In 1990, the coverage rate was 66% and rose to 94% by 2005; i.e. an annual increase averaging about 2.4%, which is more than the average required to attain full coverage, 1.7%. This means that it is possible to achieve the target of vaccinating all one-year-old children by 2015.

Figure (11) shows that continuation of the present trend would lead to having the indicator of proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles reach approximately 100% before 2015.



Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Ever since the formation of the Federation, the state's health policy has aimed at providing full coverage of basic health care. General awareness raising campaigns, health centers and women's education have all contributed to modifying the behavior that used to directly affect reproductive health care.

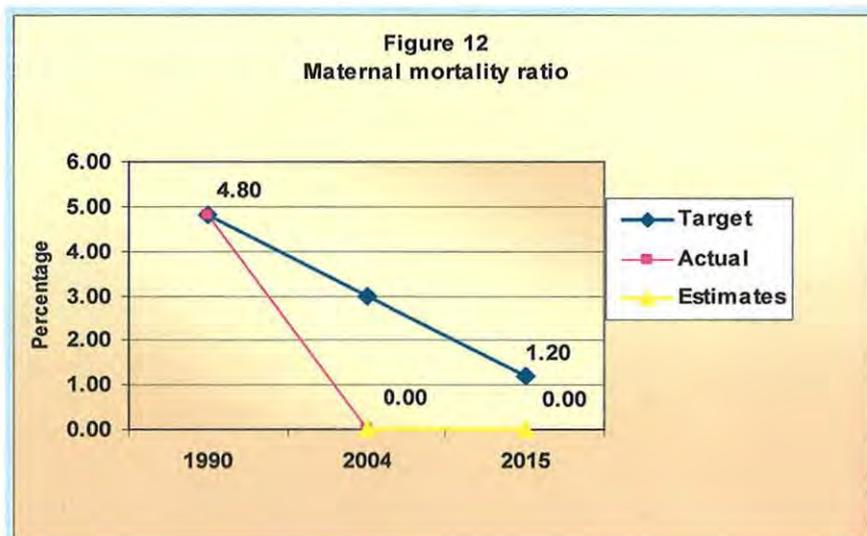
The State has paid special attention to improving maternal health, because of its positive influence on the overall health of the society and its effectiveness in enhancing it. This improvement is carried out through maternity and child health centers allotted to all primary care centers and hospitals, so as to extend such service to all the parts of the country. The State has extended its policy by establishing maternity and delivery wards in all hospitals, as well as a specialized hospital accommodating 300 patients. They are all well equipped to provide safe and comprehensive care for mothers and children.

Two indicators have been chosen to follow up on the pursuit of this Goal. They are:

1- Postpartum mortality rate:

The UAE has achieved this goal, when postpartum mortality rate has dropped to zero per cent in 2000 and remained so since then.

Figure (12) shows that the indicator of maternal mortality ratio has already reached zero in 2004, and is expected to remain so.

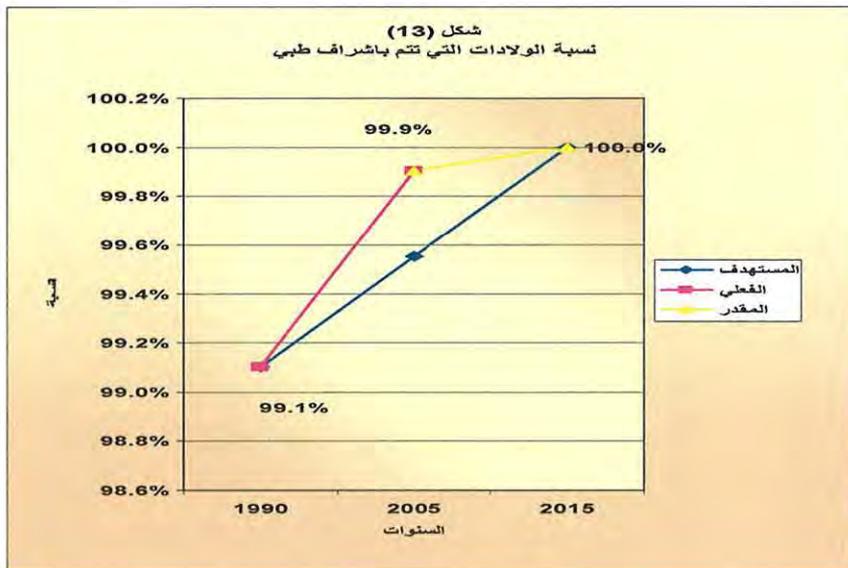


2- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel:

This proportion has been equal to 99.9% annually in 2005. One can even say that it has been achieved earlier, as it was equal to 99% or more from 1993 onwards.

Accordingly, it's obvious that UAE has fully attained the Goal of improving maternal health.

Figure (13) shows that the indicator of proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has already reached 100% in 2004, and is expected to remain so.



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

a. Eradicating the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

AIDS is a rare disease in the UAE, for two major reasons: the conservative nature of UAE's national society rejects practices that help spread the disease; **permanent** expatriates are subjected to rigorous tests.

The HIV/AIDS Combating Program of the UAE was initiated in 1985 in order to check the entry and outbreak of this serious disease throughout the country, and to protect the whole community against its dangers. Effectively administered the program has

established controls and measures aiming at preventing entry of the disease, ensuring its preliminary prevention and early detection, as well as providing health insurance for all workers. The UAE is among the first countries in the region to start such a program, and it has been classified among the world's least affected countries in the number of registered cases.

b. The elimination of malaria and other infectious diseases

UAE was declared free of malaria in 2002. The following two indicators, related to this Goal, have thus shown a zero value:

- 1- Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria.
- 2- Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures.

As for tuberculosis, the following two indicators have been selected:

- 1- Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis.
- 2- Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS).

With respect to mortality rate due to tuberculosis, it came down from 0.60 per 100,000 of the population in 1990 to only 0.13 in 1995. This is a decline equal to 78%. However, as the world trend of tuberculosis incidence and mortality increased, the rate rose to 0.32 and 0.42 per 100,000 for 1996 and 1997 respectively. Nevertheless, the disease declined again thanks to the combating policy of the State. The rate registered in 2001 and 2002 successively was 0.1. This decline of 76.2%, in comparison with the rate of 1997, is a result of applying the DOTS system and the Program of Combating Tuberculosis.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Since its formation in late 1971, the State of the United Arab Emirates has been witnessing a comprehensive development upswing that has had an impact on all aspects of life in the country. In that early stage, the State concentrated its efforts on implementing its comprehensive development plan. But being fully aware of the close relationship between the environment and development, the State persisted in having its efforts for protecting the environment accompany development step by step. In 1975, the Higher Committee for Environment was established as a body reporting directly to the Council of Ministers. One of the most important missions of this committee was to “link environmental considerations to the planning and development policy,” a principle that,

since then, has become a basic element in the development policy of the UAE. By implementing a balanced environmental policy, the State has had notable successes.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and dubbed as the Earth Summit – and its resolutions, especially Agenda 21 for global sustainable development, constituted an important turning point for the advancement of development action in the UAE. The following year, 1993, witnessed the **emergence** of the first independent, federal government body to handle environmental affairs, the Federal Environmental Agency. This was followed by establishing many environmental bodies and reinforcing environmental protection institutions throughout all the emirates. Numerous achievements were made during that period, the most important being the issuance of a number of environment laws and regulations. In the forefront was the 1999 Federal Act 24 for environment protection and development, and the environmental regulations that were introduced based on it.

After three years of work that involved all bodies concerned with the environment and development, the United Arab Emirates made important progress in 2000 by developing its National Environmental Strategy (NES) and National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) action plan. This significant project, which complied with the Earth Summit appeal, aimed at promoting the state commitment to protecting the environment and adopting the principles of sustained development. The State emphasized that environmental considerations should be taken in all national development plans, and bolstered opportunities for achieving sustainable development. The Council of Ministers endorsed the NES and NEAP in 2000 as the future environment action program in the State. The strategy outlined the priorities of environmental matters in five main issues: (1) Fresh water, (2) pollution, (3) marine environment, (4) urban environment, and (5) earth resources and biodiversity. Both the strategy and action plan have set up aims, policies, plans and projects that should be carried out for dealing with a priority issue and other issues as well.

In order to implement the objectives, policies, programs, plans and projects included in the national strategy and action plan, the Council of Ministers approved in 2002 the formation of the National Committee for Environmental Strategy and Sustainable Development which is presently engaged in outlining the details of implementing projects proposed in the environment action plan. It is to be noted, though, that many proposed projects have already been executed.

To monitor the extent of achievement of the goal of environmental sustainability, the following three targets and some quantitative measuring indicators were set:

1- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources

The following indicators have been specified to get acquainted with the extent of achieving those targets:

a. Proportion of land area covered by planted forests:

The land area covered by planted forests rose from 202,000 hectares in 1990 to almost 311,000 hectares in 2003 - a growth factor equal to 54%. In a country with low rainfall and desert climate such as the UAE, this growth proportion is deemed a remarkable feat. It reflects the great efforts made to plant and care for forests, while ensuring their sustainability.

Table 5

Development of forested and cultivated land areas in 1990-2003

Year	Total forested area (hectares)	Total cultivated land area (hectares)
1990	202,112	61737
1995	258,585	78105
2000	310,971	246718
2003	310,971	230841

Source: Reports of the Ministry of Environment and Water

b. Indicator of protected areas to maintain biological diversity:

UAE enjoys a pioneering experience with respect to maintaining biodiversity. This is manifested in establishing a large number of land and marine protected areas, or nature reserves, drawing up numerous plans and programs that are designed to protect certain species threatened with extinction, and promulgating laws aimed specifically at preserving the environment. The most important of such legislations are the federal laws

concerned with organizing the exploitation of UAE's water resources, protecting and developing environment, as well as monitoring and managing the trade of certain animal and plant species threatened with extinction, plus many other relevant legislations, decisions and decrees.

In a legal sense, the UAE nature reserves are divided into two groups:

1- The declared reserves, i.e. those that have been declared by decisions compatible with applied international laws and conventions.

2- The undeclared reserves, i.e. those that are considered as such without decisions to declare them so.

The study conducted by the Federal Authority for Environment indicates that the UAE nature reserves amount to 61 (38 land, 22 marine and one land-marine), with a total area estimated at 6,204 square kilometers; i.e. about 7.42% of the UAE area of 83,600 km².

The number of declared reserves in the country is 15 (7 land; 7 marine; and one land-marine), with a total area of 4,436 square kilometers, i.e. about 71.5% of the total area of nature reserves.

The area of undeclared reserves is estimated at slightly more than 1,768 square kilometers; constituting approximately 29% of the total area of the UAE protected areas.

c. Ratio of cultivated to arable land:

Increasing the area of cultivated land is one of the most important goals of the UAE. Despite its arid climate, the country has succeeded in developing its arable land and is enjoying self-sufficiency in certain farming products.

The area of cultivated land grew around fourfold between 1990 and 2003, rising from about 61,737 hectares to about **230,841** hectares which accounting for . 89% of the total arable land. This does not include wide areas cultivated with ornamental plants inside and outside cities and in public gardens, most of which are irrigated with treated waste water.

Treated waste water is a significant source for irrigating ornamental plants, particularly in and around cities. The amount of treated water increases with the growth of the size and population of the cities. The production capacity of waste water treatment

plants is equal to **193** million cubic meters a year. There are **38** plants for treating waste water.

2. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation

The United Arab Emirates depends on seawater as a main source for fresh water production. For this purpose, it has built several desalination plants to satisfy the water needs of various sectors. The experience of the State in this field is enriched by the accomplishment of unique achievements that turned it into one of the big producers of desalinated water, providing 70% of the country's needs of fresh water, and around 12.5% of world's production of desalinated seawater.

Demand on fresh water in 2004 was equal to 727 million gallons a day, versus 471.5 million gallons a day in 2000; an annual average increase of about 11%. Despite that, 100% of the population has a sustainable access to safe drinking water in the country. It is expected that enhancement of the desalination capacity, to constantly meet the future needs of the population, would continue.

3. Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers (not applicable)

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Since its inception, the State has adopted a free economic system that is open to all the countries of the world, whether in freedom of trade and investment, or in attracting and bringing in foreign workers. UAE has also sought to establish regional and international trading and investment partnerships, represented by its joining the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1981. and joining other regional and international agreements.

The Customs Union Agreement of the GCC came into effect in 2003. It paves the way to the common market projected to be established by 2007, and the expected use of a single currency for the GCC member states by 2010.

The UAE has also contributed to the regional and international efforts to attain global partnership by joining numerous United Nations world conventions and regional agreements. UAE is a member state of economic agreements, including the World Trade

Organization (WTO), the Agreement of Joint Economic Assistance of Arab Gulf Countries and the Agreement of Arab Free Trade Organization. It is also a signatory to a number of important social conventions, such as the Convention on the Rights of Child and The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

To determine the accomplishments achieved with respect to global cooperation for development, a number of targets have been adopted along with certain indicators that reflect such achievements in the following manner:

1- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

The extent of openness and non-discrimination in the UAE trading and financial system can be measured through the following two indicators:

a. Average tariffs imposed:

Most goods imported from anywhere in the world are subject to equal tariffs up to 5% at most, one of the lowest rates of customs duties imposed in the world. At the same time, UAE does not impose any restrictions on its imports.

b. Ratio of imports and exports to the gross domestic product (GDP):

The size of UAE's foreign trade (imports and non-oil exports) in 2005 was around 264 billion dirhams, which is equivalent to 54% of the GDP. Imports from the least developed countries comprise 43% of the country's total imports.

2- Address the special needs of the least developed countries

a. Development assistances:

Since its inception, UAE has offered many loans and grants to numerous poor countries in order to finance development and philanthropic projects and to deal with crises. Several institutions and foundations concerned with such activities, the most important ones being Abu Dhabi Development Fund and the Shikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahian Foundation for Charitable and Humanitarian Assistance, and Sheik Mohammed Bin Rashed Al Maktoom Foundation for Charitable and Humanitarian Assistance and the UAE Red Crescent. During the period (1990- 2005), UAE's contributions in this respect amounted to 13.1 billion dirhams to finance development projects overall the world such

as building houses, roads, ports, airports, electrical power plants, Islamic culture centers studies and researches centers medical care and education institutions, etc. These assistances constituted about 1.9% of GDP.

b. Proportion of ODA to social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water):

The Zayed Foundation for Humanitarian Assistance contributed 400 million dirhams to charitable projects in the country and abroad, including the establishment of Islamic cultural centers, scientific research and health and educational institutes. It also supports countries suffering from disasters and catastrophes.

c. Other assistance:

UAE's taking in of around 2.6 million workers, the majority of whom are from poor countries. This is also considered as a positive contribution to the international effort seeking to alleviate severe poverty and unemployment in these countries through the remittances of the expatriates that, in 2005, were worth around 20 billion dirhams, or 4% of the GDP. In addition, workers are provided with health insurance services, end of service bonuses and banking facilities.

3- Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

a. Unemployment rate of 15- to 24- year olds:

The unemployment rate among the 15- to 24- year olds was only 2.7% in 2004. It is one of the lower unemployment rates of this age group in the world and across the region. Nevertheless, the rate of unemployment among the citizens greatly exceeds this percentage; as it reaches approximately 13.3%. The government works hard to secure appropriate jobs for UAE nationals by organizing the labor market and by retraining and rehabilitating the national workforce.

4. Cooperate with pharmaceutical companies to provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

a. Population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis:

The proportion of the population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis is 100%.

5. Make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

a. Telephone line subscribers per 100 people:

In the UAE, there are almost 41 telephone lines per 100 people. The country also has a good network of public telephone lines. However, the use of such lines has declined considerably in the last few years because of the widespread use of cellular phones.

b. Cellular phone subscribers per 100 people:

The use of cellular phones is considerably widespread in the UAE, with 84 per 100 people using these phones.

c. Personal computers per 100 people :

The average number of computers is 15.4 per 100 people.

d. Internet users per 100 people:

Around 8 per 100 people use the Internet service. Telecommunication companies provide the service at reasonable prices by means of several subscription programs, including the provision of service to homes, government institutions and private companies. Internet cafes provide the service to their customers.

4- Most important challenges with respect to development:

First: The goal of reducing child mortality ratio to two thirds of what it was in 1990 presents the government with a challenge; high rates are required from now on if the desired targets are to be achieved. All indicators, however, reveal suitable grounds enabling the State to promote health care to the highest levels. In order to achieve that, the State has to develop, enhance and emphasize the efficiency of health care by taking on the following challenges:

- 1- Emphasize the continuation of postnatal care
- 2- Develop and enhance the Safe Maternity Program, in particular with respect to pregnant women's care, good nutrition and physical fitness
- 3- Protect women by immunization against contagious diseases, and provide them with proper premarital counseling as regards safe health practices and tests
- 4- Increase vaccinations for children and the proportion of beneficiaries to achieve 98% coverage during the coming five years
- 5- Fight diseases by increasing vaccinations to children against all contagious diseases, and by creating programs to reduce the incidence of infections with diseases such as malaria, as well as by keeping the country free of them during the next five years.

Second: The main challenge in relation to maternal health is the pursuit to maintain the record rates and proportions registered in previous years. Maternal services have to be developed and extended systematically to meet the growing needs resulting from normal population growth.

Third: It is known that there are some issues in the United Arab Emirates that represent a challenge with respect to development. These issues are receiving great attention and interest at conferences and debates held at state level. However, security and development are mutually supportive of each other. While security is the indispensable foundation of comprehensive development in the country, development is deemed one of the most significant pillars of security, which is an extremely important requirement for the stability of the society and strengthening its development orientations. The following are most important issues that require adopting specific policies and developing relevant strategies:

1. Diversification of income sources:

Oil is the major sector of most GCC economies. The GCC member states have recognized that dependence on this sector endangers national economy, exposing it permanently to fluctuations resulting from changes in the oil market, such as little demand and low prices.

The UAE has succeeded in the past years to significantly reduce its dependence on oil. This is clear from examining the contribution of non-oil sectors to the GDP that rose from 54% in 1990 to 68% in 1995, and to more than 73% in 2005. This indicates

that the oil sector accounts only for 27% of the GDP, signifying the success of the state policy to diversify income sources.

On the other hand, the oil sector still accounts for approximately 80% of export and re-export revenues. Its yield continues to form the basis of financing the national economy and budgets. Because of oil revenues, the State provides the basic infrastructure necessary for advancing growth in other sectors, and funding investments in them.

It is expected that the manufacturing sector will play an important role in the future due to several reasons that include the availability of basic components and supportive services for the sector, such as the infrastructure, telecommunications network and the availability of the funding needed to obtain the required technology. These industries have already proved to be successful in the free zones of the country.

2. Activation of the role of the private sector:

It is generally noticeable that the UAE follows a free economic system and gives the private sector a great opportunity to perform its role in economic development. Since its inception, the State has indirectly supported the private sector by building an infrastructure that establishes the suitable environment for growth. The private sector now contributes around 41% of the gross national product, most of which is focused in the sectors of transport, telecommunications, transforming industries and real estate.

As for the implementation of the privatization policy, it will take some time and require further study by specialists because of the novelty of the experience in the State.

However, putting the privatization policy into effect does not generally imply the State giving up its active role in economy. The success of such a policy requires more concentration by the State on the processes of managing and organizing the economy, and promoting legislations to find the components needed for rendering the success of this policy - such as developing stock markets, and remaining in charge of providing the necessary social infrastructure.

3. Human resource development and technology transfer

Human resource development and technology transfer are major issues of the economic and social development. There is a strong relation between the educational system and the issues related to the effective use of resources, efficient investment, production, technology transfer and the internalization of the culture of work and consumption.

The state recognition of the value of human resources is in fact the main incentive for taking care of education and training, as well as thinking of the effective means that

ensure the best opportunities of education and training for individuals according to their abilities and aptitudes. These opportunities should give all members of society their share of education and training through the processes of various forms of vocational training that will enable them to develop their human resources.

In order to satisfy the needs of labor market for skilled technical workers, the State has moved in the direction of establishing specialized vocational and technical schools and institutes. As a result of establishing a number of state and private universities, the number of enrolled university students in the country rose by 1.6% in the 2004/2005 academic year, compared to the previous year.

4. Activation of efforts to empower women

Although Emirati women have been lucky to have the political administration that believes in and supports all programs aiming at empowering women and ensuring equal opportunities for males and females on all levels, hopes are still pinned on activating those efforts to increase the participation of Emirati women in the developmental, social, economic and political process of the State.

The Emirati society, like other Arab societies, has some practices, cultural legacies and prevalent traditions that may lead to limiting women's role in the society. Therefore, the major challenge that faces the State is to change the society's perspective of women's developmental roles. Such an endeavor would necessitate the mobilization of all societal capabilities to ensure the effectiveness of strategies developed for empowering women.

Overview Of Progress Towards Achieving The MDGs*

Goals	Achieving the Goals				Status of supportive environment			
	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	Lack of data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
Preserving and raising the standard of living		x			x			
Achieving universal primary education		x			x			
Promoting gender equality and empowering women		x			x			
Reducing child mortality		x			x			
Improving maternal health		x			x			
Eradicating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other infectious disease		x			x			
Ensuring environmental sustainability		x			x			
Developing a global partnership for development		x			x			

*Estimated according to the previous experience of the relative institutions

Capacity for following-up and evaluation*

Goals	Data collection			Quality of Surveys			Statistical follow-up			Statistical information policy			Follow-up and evaluation		
	Strong	Fair	Weak	Strong	Fair	Weak	Strong	Fair	Weak	Strong	Fair	Weak	Strong	Fair	Weak
Preserving and raising the standard of living			x			x			x			x			x
Achieving universal primary education	x			x			x					x			x
Promoting gender equality and empowering women		x			x			x			x			x	
Reducing child mortality	x			x			x			x			x		
Improving maternal health	x			x			x			x			x		
Eradicating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other infectious disease	x			x			x			x			x		
Ensuring environmental sustainability		x			x			x			x			x	
Developing a global partnership for development	x			x			x			x			x		

*Estimated according to the previous experience of the relative institutions

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