This report is prepared by Directorate of Policy and Evaluation in General Directorate of Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation of Afghanistan National Development Strategy
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Economy
Kabul Afghanistan
Forward

I am pleased to present the fourth in series of Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Reports, for the first time prepared by the Ministry of Economy of Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. This report presents analysis of the status of progress on MDGs until 2012; analyzing advances that have been made as well as where progress is still lagging across all the goals by identifying gaps, challenges and highlighting prospects.

Emerging from decades of conflict, Afghanistan adopted MDGs in 2004, five years later than the Millennium Declaration, by joining the league of countries committed to pursuing policies and strategies to ensure every individual’s right to dignity, freedom, equality, a basic standard of living including freedom from hunger and violence, and to encourage tolerance and solidarity. Realizing the extent to which security overshadows socio-economic progress it was adopted as the 9th goal, while also certain targets and indicators had to be tailored to the realities in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan while strives to function as a state that provide for its citizens to the best of its ability, it continues to do so in insecure conditions. In addition, it faces a raft of challenges and obstacles associated to the circumstance it has experienced over the past decades as a result of war and instability, and as an under-developed country.

Notwithstanding, amidst all the odds Afghanistan has made tremendous progress and is transitioning socio-economically, politically, and the government continues to pursue institutional-building and governance reforms. Meanwhile, the major transition of the transfer of security responsibility to Afghan forces which continues to be successfully underway is already in its completion stage.

Progress of MDGs in Afghanistan is correlated to the larger ambit of factors and trade-offs with the overall well-being of the economy, political and security factors. Political will and commitment, institutional capacity and capability to deliver services, security, resource mobilization etc. to name few, invariably have an impact on the process of achieving MDGs. Afghanistan however continues to be on a forward-looking trajectory which lends further optimism and ensures that progress ahead on MDGs is prospective. This assertion can indeed be validated by reforms undertaken and progress made against the benchmarks and indicators set within the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF). Yet more reforms are underway and many will be pursued by the Government of Afghanistan.
Furthermore, the analysis of this report shows that to great extent persistent progress has been made across most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In broad, MDGs progress can be categorized as: 1) improvement has been impressive where progress against most indicators are either on-track or achievable (some already achieved); 2) where progress is prospective and may be difficult to achieve on time but nevertheless achievable in up to two years from the set time; and 3) where progress has either been marginal, non-satisfactory and off-track. Progress within the education and health related goals by in large falls in to the first category, while in part progress on gender equality, environmental sustainability as well as communications, and cooperation for development falls into the second category. However, where progress is significantly lagging is reducing poverty, improvement in women’s political participation and women’s literacy rate, as well as sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, slum dwelling, as well as resource allocation to MDGs sectors are areas that require policy and strategy re-assessment and adjustments.

With regards to poverty reduction, inter-alia, crucially within the agriculture sector harnessing increased level of growth and productivity is of utmost important given the sector absorbs the largest segment (60%) of the population. Afghanistan as least developed and post-conflict country feature limited productive capacities, which constrains its ability to produce efficiently and effectively and to diversify its economy. This handicap in turn translates into binding constrain and ultimately into weak export and economic potentials and limited productive employment generation and social development prospects. Therefore, to make substantial progress by 2020 to reduce poverty to the level of 21% increased investment and focus in agro-production productivity, improving agricultural infrastructure, access to finance, and market, private sector and SME development are necessary.

With political will and commitment, right policies and strategies, as well as adequate resources availability, I am confident that progress across all MDGs in the coming six years till 2020 will exceed that of the past advancements.

Last but not least, I would like thank all the line ministries and other government institutions for their collaboration with the Ministry of Economy in providing data and information while this report was being prepared. I would particularly like to thank and acknowledge the tireless efforts rendered by Farid Popalzai Director of Policy and ANDS Evaluation and his core team each Ahmad Shakil Hazem, Abdul Haseeb Arabzai, Jubair Ahmad Musazay, Izatullah Wardak, Khan Muhammad Alamyar, Rehan Miraj and Hewad Niazi in drafting the report. I would also like to thank Mohammad
Ismail Rahimi Director General of Policy and ANDS M&E for his input and assistance, and Silvia Radaelli for her incisive comments, and finally Mohammad Nabi Sroosh Director of Monitoring and Methodology and his team Abdul Hakim Noorzai, Abdullah Sarwary, Sayed Mawjood Mawji and Arif Sahar for their help and assistance in the process.

Abdul Hadi Arghandewal
Minister of Economy
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General Notes

Figures (Graphs): At the time when baseline was decided for the indicators under Afghanistan’s MDGs (in 2003, 2005 or even 2006 varying by target and indicator), target values were set only for 2015 and/or 2020. No specific value was set as target for the years between baseline and the final target of 2015 or 2020. Therefore, for certain figures in this report, an arrow-line is drawn to connect baseline directly to the target. The arrow-line which is connecting the baseline and the target is linear (increasing or decreasing depending on the target) illustrating an assumption of reaching target under an ideal case scenario in a progressive and sustainable method.

Marking and Numbering of Titles, Subtitles, Headings and Subheadings: As it can be seen in Table of Contents, to keep with MDG’s numbering, instead of standard marking and numbering, other notations are used. For example, MDG1, Target 10, Indicator 3a, 3a (alt.), 5b and so on.

Progress Legend: Titles of indicators in this report are color coded according to the status of their progress as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDG Achieved</th>
<th>On Track to achieve MDG</th>
<th>Achievable: 0-2 years behind target</th>
<th>Difficult: 2-5 years behind target</th>
<th>Off Track: &gt;5 years behind target</th>
<th>No Data Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. **Green**: The final target is already achieved
2. **Light Green**: The country is on track to achieve the target
3. **Yellow**: The indicator is 0-2 years behind the target, but achievable
4. **Orange**: The indicator is difficult to achieve because it is currently 2-5 years behind the target
5. **Red**: The indicator is more than 5 years behind the target
6. **Gray**: Insufficient data to assess progress (no baseline, no target or no data for the years between the baseline and target, irrelevant indicator, etc.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AACP</td>
<td>Afghan Anti-Crime Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAF</td>
<td>Afghan Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABP</td>
<td>Afghan Border Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACOP</td>
<td>Afghan Civil Order Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHS</td>
<td>Afghanistan Health Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMICS</td>
<td>Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMNEAB</td>
<td>Afghan Midwifery and Nursing Education Accreditation Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMP</td>
<td>Aid Management Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS</td>
<td>Afghanistan Mortality Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>Afghan National Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANBP</td>
<td>Afghanistan's New Beginnings Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>Antenatal Coverage</td>
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<td>ANDS</td>
<td>Afghanistan National Development Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANF</td>
<td>Afghan National Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANP</td>
<td>Afghan National Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANSF</td>
<td>Afghan National Security Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPF</td>
<td>Afghan Public Protection Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWCC</td>
<td>Afghanistan Wireless Communication Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>BHCs</td>
<td>Basic Health Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPHS</td>
<td>Basic Package of Health Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDMA</td>
<td>Code Division Multiple Access</td>
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<td>CFCs</td>
<td>Chlorofluorocarbons</td>
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<td>CHCs</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Centers</td>
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<td>CME</td>
<td>Community Midwifery Education</td>
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<td>CPR</td>
<td>Contraceptive Prevalence Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistics Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAC</td>
<td>Development Assistance Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>DDR</td>
<td>Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEWS</td>
<td>Disease Early Warning System</td>
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<td>DHs</td>
<td>District Hospitals</td>
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<td>DOTS</td>
<td>Directly Observed Treatment Short Course</td>
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<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Analysis</td>
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<td>EMOC</td>
<td>Emergency Obstetric Care</td>
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<td>ERW</td>
<td>Explosive Remnants of War</td>
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<td>ETISLAT</td>
<td>One of the telecommunication companies in Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUPOL</td>
<td>European Union Police</td>
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GDP  Gross Domestic Products
GHG  Greenhouse Gases
GIRoA Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
GSM  Global System for Mobile Communications
HIS  Health Information System
HIS  Institute of Health Science
ICP  International Comparison Program
IDP(s) Internally Displaced Person(s)
IMF  International Monetary Fund
IMR  Infant Mortality Rate
ISAF  International Security Assistance Forces
IT  Information Technology
LCD  Least Developed Country
LLNs  Long-lasting Insecticidal Nets
MACCA Mine Action Coordination Center of Afghanistan
MAIL Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MCIT Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MCN  Ministry of Counter Narcotics
MD  Millennium Declaration
MDG 7 Millennium Development Goal Seven
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MIS  Malaria Indicator Survey
MLSAMD Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MMR  Maternal Mortality Ratio
MMR  Maternal Mortality Rate
MoCI Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoD  Ministry of Defense
MoF  Ministry of Finance
MoI  Ministry of Interior Affairs
MoPH Ministry of Public Health
MRRD Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
MSF  Mobile Strike Forces
mt  Metric Tons
mt/capita Metric Ton Per Capita
MTN  Maritime Telecommunications Network (Afghanistan)
MUDA Ministry of Urban Development Affairs
NACP  National AIDS Control Program
<table>
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<th>Full Form</th>
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<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCAHS</td>
<td>National Child and Adolescent Health Strategy</td>
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<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Protection Agency (Afghanistan)</td>
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<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>NHNSS</td>
<td>National Health and Nutrition Sector Strategy</td>
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<td>NRVA</td>
<td>National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<td>ODP</td>
<td>Ozone Depletion Potential</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODS</td>
<td>Ozone Deleting Substance</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development</td>
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<td>PPP</td>
<td>Purchasing Power Parity</td>
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<td>ROSHAN</td>
<td>One of the telecommunication companies in Afghanistan</td>
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<td>SBA</td>
<td>Skilled Birth Attendants</td>
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<td>SOWM</td>
<td>State of the World’s Midwifery</td>
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<tr>
<td>sq km</td>
<td>Square Kilometer</td>
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<td>STDs</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</td>
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<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>TMAF</td>
<td>Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework</td>
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<td>U5MR</td>
<td>Under Five Mortality Rate</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nation Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nation Environmental Program</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States International Agency for Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>UXO</td>
<td>Unexploded Ordnance</td>
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<td>WB</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
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<td>WCED</td>
<td>United Nation’s World Commission on Environment and Development</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to encourage development by improving the social and economic conditions in the world’s poorest countries. The Millennium Declaration which the MDGs originate from asserts that every individual has the right to dignity, freedom, equality, a basic standard of living including freedom from hunger and violence, and encourages tolerance and solidarity. To this end there are set measurable targets to achieve each of the eight (in Afghanistan’s case nine) Millennium Development Goals.

While the MDGs centrally focuses on increasing the basic standard of living, it does so by valorizing human capital investments, improving infrastructures, and increasing social, economic and political rights. The goals under the human capital agenda focus on improving nutrition and healthcare in particular reducing child and maternal mortality, reducing HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria infections, improving child and maternal health, and last but not least improving education for both sexes. The objectives within the infrastructure agenda focus on improvement through increasing access to safe drinking water, sanitation, energy and modern information and communication technology, as well as preserving the environment. Lastly, objective for social, economic and political include empowerment of women, reducing violence, increasing political voice, ensuring equal access to public services, and property security rights.

Afghanistan officially adopted the MDGs during the post-Taliban era, almost five years after the Millennium Declaration. As a result, Afghanistan’s timeline to reach official targets was extended from 2015 to 2020. In addition, to reflect the critical role played by the security context in achieving socio-economic development, security was added as the 9th goal for Afghanistan, while other targets had to be tailored to reflect the country’s specific conditions. Afghanistan has fully integrated MDGs objectives into its National Development Strategy (ANDS) 2008-2013.

Understanding the progress and challenges experienced so far towards achieving the MDGs is important to evaluate the effectiveness of the Afghanistan Development Strategy (ANDS) expired in April 2013 and to possibly inform policy and strategy readjustment moving forward. In particular, in order to effectively overcome gaps and challenges, it is important to effectively streamline MDGs into the National Priority Programs (NPPs), which reflect the medium-term development framework endorsed by the government and its international partners. The findings from this report are a record of
achievements of Government of Afghanistan, donor’s and international agencies’ efforts in realizing the MDGs commitments, and a base of evidence on which to plan and tailor development strategies till 2020.

From previous reports and indeed from experience in other Least Developed and/or Developing countries we have learned that a simple assessment of the progress towards MDGs is not sufficient condition to evaluate human development progress. Challenges related to the political, economic, social, governance, and security contexts are of paramount importance for human development, particularly in Afghanistan. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth is vital for the attainment of the various elements of human development and to overcome inequalities and disparities in a manner that is sustainable. For several indicators, a broader analysis beyond MDGs reporting is necessary to possibly overcome data limitations in terms of both quality and timeliness.

Ending poverty is also not a one-off task and requires sustained effort by making sure that people don’t fall back into poverty again, whether because of insecurity and conflict, external shock, or many of the other hundreds of reasons, but importantly in Afghanistan it is the looming withdrawal of international forces and possible dwindling of donor funds. Around 50% of Afghanistan’s population according to available data is hovering just above the poverty line and vulnerable to a small shock which could fall them below the line. Healthy and inclusive growth, macroeconomic stability, and sound social policy are important basis for poverty reduction.

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Afghanistan does not participate to the International Comparison Program (ICP) and therefore no Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) estimates are available to compute the first indicator “Proportion of population below $1/day poverty”. Poverty monitoring in Afghanistan is based on the “Proportion of the population below the national absolute poverty Line”. The national absolute poverty line for Afghanistan was first set using the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007-08 and it was estimated following the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) approach. According to NRVA 07-08 estimates the proportion of population below the national absolute poverty line in Afghanistan is 36 percent, meaning that approximately 9 million Afghans are not able to meet their basic needs. While 36 percent of the population cannot meet basic consumption needs, there are many more people who are highly susceptible to becoming poor. In particular, more than half of the population is consuming at a level of...
less than 120 percent of the poverty line. One small, negative shock has the potential to move many individuals into poverty.

The fieldwork of the new NRVA 2011/12 survey was completed in October 2012 and the survey is currently pending its official release. While an update on the poverty situation in Afghanistan will not be available until the release of the NRVA 11-12, preliminary analysis seems to indicate that consumption patterns have not changed significantly since 2007-08, possibly suggesting limited change in both poverty and poverty vulnerability over time. If this result was to be confirmed with the official release of the new survey, the target of reducing the share of population below the poverty line to 24% by 2015 would be impossible to achieve. Concerns regarding the progress in poverty reduction are in line with the findings of other studies. According to the World Bank report ‘Afghanistan in Transition: Looking beyond 2014’ higher level of outside of government budget spending has had a modest effect on poverty, a situation which could deteriorate with transition unless appropriate policies are adopted. Based on these preliminary findings Afghanistan will increasingly face hardship in its attempts to reduce poverty in the coming years which would require focused efforts and specific policy interventions on the part of government and donors.

**ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION**

Achievements in education have been one of the main highlights Afghanistan’s successes post-2001. The sector has enjoyed unprecedented level of progress; 8.6 millions of children and youth are attending schools (over 5.29 million boys, and over 3.35 million girls), whilst hundreds of thousands attend universities, and similarly tens of thousands who for any reason were deprived from regular education are accessing literacy classes and vocational training. While gender gaps and disparity still persist, however, it has significantly improved over the years. Net enrollment ratio in primary education has seen steady improvement over the years with the data available for 2012 indicate the net enrollment ratio 77% and progress toward the 82% target set for 2015 is on track. Similarly, gross enrollment ratios in primary education have improved and progress is on track which is reflective of the improved absorption capacity (since 2002 to 2012) within the education system and the rate of attendance. Though, ratio of proportion of pupils starting grade one who reaches the last grade of primary education for 2012, 64%, is relatively lower and the target for 2015, 76%, is difficult to achieve. Moreover, primary completion rate is also improving and
the target of 80 percentage ratio completion rate for 2020 is achievable. Literacy rate has also improved; the target of 50% for 2015 is likewise achievable.

**PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN**

Gender equality has figured prominently on government’s agenda; considered as a major cross cutting issue within the MDGs-based Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) 2008-2013 has now been adopted as one of the 22 National Priority Programs (NPPs).

The situation of access to education for females has drastically improved since 2001. Ratio of girls to boys in primary education is 71% and by 2015 the target is to improve this ratio to 83%, which however will be difficult to achieve. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education has also steadily improved from the dismal just over 30% to according to the data collected for 2012 which is 57 percent, similarly the target for 2015 which is 70 percent is difficult to achieve. However, the gaps still remains wide concerning the ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education. The value recorded for 2012 reveal this ratio to be 36%, accounted for ratio of girls to boys in universities and other higher learning institutions, whilst accounting universities only, the ratio is low as 22%. Progress towards achieving the 70 percent ratio however is off-track. The ratio for the female to male concerning literacy rate (15-24 years of age) while has improved, according to data collected for 2012 the ratio is 52% while the 70% ratio for 2015 is a target difficult to achieve.

Women’s position in the labor market is weak and significantly weaker than that in the South Asia region. While data for ratio of representation of women in representative bodies is not available, it is likely to be between 20 to 25 percent ratio. Similarly, data for appointed, political seats and access to justice could not be ascertained for accuracy. The targets for 2015 and extendedly 2020 will be difficult to achieve.

**REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY**

Consistent improvement in child mortality reduction is recorded throughout the years since the base year 2003. Under-5 mortality since the base year of 257 deaths (per 1000 live births), with value recorded for 2012 indicate 102 deaths (Per 1000 live births) reveal 60% reduction. The targets set for 2015 93 death per 1000 live births and extendedly 76 deaths per 1000 live births in 2020 are both achievable. Infant mortality rate from 165 (per 1000 live births) is reduced to 74 (per 1000 live births) according to data recorded for 2012, while the target for 2015 to further reduce it to 70 and 46 deaths per 1000 live births by 2020 are also achievable. Though, progress on proportion of 1 year old children immunized (%)
against measles is slow and to reach 90 percent target for 2015, with value for 2012 recorded 62 percent, progress is off-track.

**IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH**

The latest data available for maternal mortality is that of 2010, with the number of maternal mortality recorded was 327 reduced from its base year (2003) value of 1600 mortality rate (per 100,000 live births). The target for 2015 which is the maternal mortality rate reduced to 320 is likely already achieved or will certainly be achieved before 2015. The target for proportion of births attended by skilled birth attendants is likely already achieved for 2015, again while data could not be accurately verified though it is safe to assume that the target at minimum will be achieved before 2015. Over 40 percent of births are attended by skilled birth attendants relative to the 6 percent that was recorded for base year 2003. Contraceptive prevalence rate on the other hand is very low though not to overlook the enlargement in the prevalence over the years. From as low as 5% base recorded for the base year of 2003, the prevalence has nonetheless enlarged to 21 percent recorded for 2012, though the gap between existing prevalence of contraceptive rate and target of 50 percent by 2015 seems more than Herculean task to bridge, hence progress is off-track. Different surveys have reported the fertility rate (number of births per woman) to have declined from its original 6.2 base value with the latest data available for 2010 through Afghanistan Mortality Survey (AMS) has reported the rate to be 5.1. Fertility rate is higher in rural areas than in urban areas and the rate of 4.7 targeted for 2015 based on the decrease over the past years may be achievable. With antenatal care there has been satisfactory level of progress; the 25% and 50% targets for 2015 and 2020 respectively are already achieved, the targets for the mentioned years have been revised to 65% and 100% and progress towards the revised target for 2015 is on track.

**COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

HIV/AIDS prevalence is still very low among general population (possibly the lowest in the world), but it has increased during the past decade. There has not been a general survey to determine the percentage of people suffering from HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan, its prevalence among blood donors however has decreased constantly from 0.13% in 2005 to 0.01% in 2012. There have also been achievements in reduction of malaria and tuberculosis. In 2008, an estimated number of 46 malaria related deaths were reported, whilst in 2012 this number was reduced to 36, though to reduce this number to 5 by 2015 is too difficult to achieve, hence progress is off-track. Similarly, with
regards to incident rates associated with malaria (%), and reduction of proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures, and under-fives sleeping under insecticide treated nets (5), progress is not promising with the targets set for 2015 unlikely to be achieved. With regards to prevalence rate of tuberculosis, its reduction from the value of 351 (per 10000 people) to 224 in 2015 may be too difficult to achieve, while progress on the reduction of death rate associated with tuberculosis from the current 39 (per 10000 people) to 36 by 2015 is on-track.

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Since its inception, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) has worked towards incorporating principles of sustainable development into laws, policies and strategies of the country. 18 sets of laws, regulations, guidelines and procedures are developed with regards to environmental issues. Afghanistan is party to around 9 Multilateral Environmental Agreement and 3 protocols and the official process of Conventions on Migratory Species and Nagoya Protocol have been finalized are currently being proposed to council of minister for approval. Identifying and enlisting of at least 138 endangered-species (3% of the native species), initiation of a Presidential Decree to protect endangered animals and importantly attempting to incorporate environmental curriculum into education curricula of the country are some of NEPA’s attempts toward incorporation of principles of sustainable development into laws, policies, and strategies of Afghanistan.

Although slow in pace, but proportion of land area covered by forests is increasing through efforts led by the government and the international donors by planting of new trees. As of 2012, 2% of Afghanistan’s area is covered by forests. Ratio of areas protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area is increasing as well, and NEPA in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Live-stocks (MAIL) has developed a system (National Protected Areas System Plan) to keep track of these areas.

Unfortunately, Carbon dioxide emissions have increased. However, consumption of ozone-depleting substances has decreased significantly with a shift from use of solid fuels to natural gas and electricity.

Proportion of people having access to an improved water source and improved sanitation has increased slightly; however, with respect to targets for these indicators, achievements are very marginal in this area and the progress is precariously behind the schedule.
Unfortunately, slum dwelling has increased as well. While the main reason for slum dwelling is said to be poverty and economic misfortunes, but in Afghanistan context, the issue is largely affected by Internally Displaced Persons or widely known as IDPs induced by conflicts in the country. Most of the IDPs have taken refuge in slums of major cities including the capital which thus has increased the number of slum dwellers. They have also settled in barren lands in outskirts of the cities therefore creating new slums.

DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan is an aid dependent country is financially able to fund only above 60% of its operational budget, the rest, and the entire of its development budget is funded through grants and aid provided by the international community, as well as loans. While international aid has been central to the re-habilitation and development of Afghanistan since 2001, utilization of this aid however was undermined by the lack of capacity, transparency, security, and overall inadequate aid effectiveness due to complex and multiple agendas, unclear goals and lack of coordination among donors, with and within the government of Afghanistan. The issue of donor financing unrelated to development needs but in post-conflict situations politically and militarily motivated, in Afghanistan particularly for the troops contributing countries have been acknowledged. The Government of Afghanistan and International Community have continuously dialogued and adopted measures to make aid more effective, efficient and accountable. As part of these efforts Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was adopted, as well as in Kabul Conference and Tokyo Conference key socio-economic and political issues were addressed and clearer commitments were made to improve effectiveness of aid in Afghanistan. The Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) emphasize stronger monitoring of issues such as the introduction and implementation of reforms, good governance and fighting corruption; the Aid Management Policy (AMP) prepared by the Government of Afghanistan which is structured around principles of increasing ownership of the Afghan government in the development process, enhancing alignment of aid with national priorities, and improving accountability are the most recent of the efforts.

Donor’s accountability to government of fund investment by amount and sector has been less than satisfactory. While there has been progress and improvement, investments do not match the volume and areas of need in the MDGs sectors and other priorities of
The Afghan National Army has been progressively developing both fighting elements and enabling capacities. The Afghan National Forces (ANSF) participates in all, and led 92% routine tasks and high-level operations, including special operations. At the same time, more ANA battalions receiving professional military training and ANA fielding nationwide have increased. Increasing number of ANP personnel are receiving training and public confidence in their ability to ensure security has increased to its highest and satisfactory level. Military expenditure in Afghanistan has increased level-high over the past decade and it is expected to further increase as a result of transfer of security responsibilities from international forces to Afghan security forces. Funding for the security sector remains a concern particularly at a time when donor funding will progressively shrink.

As long as demining and safe destroying of ERW are concerned, almost all of the stockpiled unexploded ordinances are either destroyed or transferred to ANA bunkers if they were functional. All of the collected anti-personal and anti-tank mines are destroyed. Likewise, number and size of highly impacted and hazardous areas have decreased. With regards to poppy cultivation, GDP share of opium has decreased by 3% and in 2012 percentage of people sourcing their livelihood from poppy cultivation has decreased as well.
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Inequalities in life and social welfare of ordinary people around the world have long been a matter of discussion and debate in the United Nations. Concerned member states have debated issues of equality, freedom, dignified life with basic standards of living, eradication of poverty and diseases, wellbeing of children etc. in various conferences led by the United Nations. Consequently, after the Millennium Summit and adoption of Millennium Declaration, all members of the United Nations at that time agreed to achieve at least eight goals by 2015 to reduce the otherwise widening gap of inequality among nations in the world.

The goals that came to existence as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) generally aim at eradication of poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality rate, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

Afghanistan however, – due to lack of a recognized and functioning government at the time of Millennium Summit in 2000 – adopted Millennium Declaration and therefore Millennium Development Goals later in 2004. Since Afghanistan was a late-comer almost by half a decade than the other member states, the United Nations extended its deadline for Afghanistan to 2020. Furthermore, adjustments were made in details of targets and as a country which is combating instability and conflict, an extra goal on enhancing security was added exclusively for Afghanistan as Goal 9.

When Millennium Development Goals were adjusted and finalized for Afghanistan’s context and realities on the ground in 2004, the country started paralleling its programs and strategies with MDGs. Late however it may be, but Afghanistan is committed towards achieving of its goals. Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) was partially developed based on Millennium Development Goals and indicators of MDGs are widely aligned with National Priority Programs (NPPs) under ANDS.

Therefore, the body that monitors and evaluates the progress of NPPs (General Directorate of Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation of Afghanistan National Development Strategy) also regulates the progress and the status of Millennium Development Goals in Afghanistan. It consults line ministers and institutions that are responsible for MDGs, collects MDGs data, processes and analyzes the data and reports the progress to the executive and legislative branches of the government, the United Nations, and general public at broad. Afghanistan prepared its first ever MDGs report a year later after it adopted the United Nations’ Millennium Declaration. The country’s first report mainly encapsulated the realities on the ground, assessed the status of all indicators for
Afghanistan, decided baselines and set targets for almost all indicators. For certain indicators, the UN statistics data of the 1990s were dragged forward as baseline, while for certain other, new baseline data were decided in 2003 or 2005. Previous MDGs reports of Afghanistan heavily relied on NRVA surveys. Number of surveys and reports were reviewed (such as previous MDGs reports, line ministries’ annual reports, NPPs, Development Cooperation Reports, Poverty and Food Security in Afghanistan, UNDP reports on Afghanistan, World Bank reports (specifically, Afghanistan in Transition: Looking Beyond 2014), IMF reports, UNHCR reports on IDPs, UNFCCC, UNODC and surveys such as NRVA, AMICS, AHS, AMS, MIS, BPHS and etc.) which assisted enriching the report and filled in gaps and important information and data. Moreover, most of the data were collected directly from responsible institution or line ministries.

As it is further explained and illustrated in the content of this report, achievements and progress in some of the indicators are commendable. The targets of 2015 for some indicators are met as early as 2010 and certain other indicators are well on track towards their targets. Unfortunately, progress and achievement for some goals are very marginal.

Furthermore, it should also be mentioned that Afghanistan faces conspicuous challenges towards achieving its MDGs. While security is considered to be the most prevailing challenge; progress is compounded by lack of coordination within the government, with and within the international partners and donors; the evolving context of transition, resource allocation, as well as proper data collection and reporting is another challenge, to name the few. Previous Afghanistan MDGs reports as well as this report are very much affected by one or more of the following characteristics associated with data: missing, insufficiency, irregularity and unreliability. While most of the data collected only cover till 2012, the NRVA 2011-12 to update data on poverty since 2007-08 is still yet not released.
2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sending notifications and requests for MDGs related information and data
In July 2013, data request forms and formats were sent to all government institutions responsible for providing data for MDGs indicators. Data collection process however, was the most difficult task during this process. It spanned throughout the months of July and August of 2013. To avoid delays, drafting the report was begun as simultaneously data and information flowed in on daily basis. Indicators for which complete and reliable data were collected fared better and were rather analyzed in timely manner, on the other hand indicators with missing or unreliable data held up for further data collection and data verification. Some data were never provided and/or could not be verified making the analysis rather complicated. Most importantly, almost the entire data received were only up to 2012, and postponement of the NRVA made the issue of data availability and sufficiency rather truncated and difficult.

2.2 Desk study and research
During the period data was requested from line ministries, the Directorate of Policy and ANDS Evaluation conducted desk study and open-source research on MDGs indicators. The study included a deep review of Afghanistan’s previous MDGs reports and reports published by other national and international institutions that contained data for MDGs indicators mainly by Central Statistics Office (CSO), World Bank, UNEP, UNHCR, UNDP and etc. Data compared from various sources helped in triangulation, justifications and augmenting the analysis.

2.3 Sending ANDS officials to related institutions
At the time of request for data on MDGs Report 2012, certain institutions experienced difficulty providing the appropriate data for certain indicators. The Directorate of Evaluation and Policy contacted these institutions, visits were also made and clarification and explanations were provided.

2.4 Receiving of data request forms and formats
Some of the involved institutions prepared and sent back data collection forms in more than one phase due to non-availability of data at times, or some data never materialized. Despite the improvement over the past decade, developing of a proper and centralized mechanism for data collection, analysis and recording still remains a challenge in Afghanistan. Therefore, analysis and predictions on MDGs indicators is overshadowed and largely affected by lack and inaccuracy of data.

2.5 Data comparison, verification and confirmation with concerned institutions
Whilst data was collected from line ministries, they were compared with data obtained during desk studies from different sources and Afghanistan’s previous MDGs reports.
Where discrepancies and differences were observed during the initial stage of data processing and analysis, they were discussed with the relevant line ministry. Subsequently, a draft analysis was shared with the relevant ministries for review and feedback, in some cases the process was repeated numerous times, before the analysis were finalized.

2.6 **Invitation of Deputy Misters and Policy and Planning Directors**

Upon completion of first draft of the report, deputy ministers and officials from policy and planning departments of relevant ministries were invited to Ministry of Economy for final discussion, review and endorsement of the final draft of the Afghanistan Millennium Development Report 2012.
2.7 Flowchart of Methodology of the Report

Requests were sent for data and information to line ministries and related institutions.

Desk study and research for data from other reliable sources such as CSO, UN, WB and etc. was carried out.

Were data request forms and formats understood?

No

ANDS officials were sent to related institutions for explanation and details.

Yes

Comparison of collected data with data obtained during desk study and research.

Data was collected.

Was collected data reliable and clear?

No

Focal points of related institutions were invited to ANDS for justification and verification.

Initial processing and analysis started.

The draft of each goal was then shared with respective institutions for their final comments and views.

Final processing, analysis and conclusions were done.

Deputy ministers and directors of policy and planning units of relevant ministries/organizations were invited for final discussion and comments.

The report was finalized.
Millennium Development Goals
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL ONE
ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

TABLE 1.1 Indicators for Millennium Development Goal One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target 1: The proportion of people whose income is less than US $1 a day decreases by 3% per annum until the year 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>1a) Proportion of population below $1/day poverty line</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1a) (alt) Proportion of population below CBN poverty (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>1b) Poverty gap ratio (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.97</td>
<td>5.13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1c) Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14.8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Target 2: The proportion of people who suffer from hunger decreases by 5% per annum until the year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2a) Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age (%)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b) Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (&lt;2100 cal./day) (%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Target 1: The proportion of people whose income is less than US $1 a day increases by 3% per annum until the year 2020

1a) Proportion of population below $1/day poverty line

Afghanistan does not participate to the ICP (International Comparison Program) and therefore no PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) estimates are available to compute the first indicator “Proportion of population below $1/day poverty”. Poverty monitoring in Afghanistan is based on the “Proportion of the population below the national absolute poverty Line”. The national absolute poverty line for Afghanistan was first set using the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007-08 and it was estimated following the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) approach.

Target Is Not Relevant

1a) (alt) Proportion of population below CBN poverty

According to NRVA 07-08, the proportion of population below the national absolute poverty line in Afghanistan is 36 percent, meaning that approximately 9 million Afghans are not able to meet their basic needs. While 36 percent of the population cannot meet basic consumption needs, there are many more people who are highly susceptible to becoming poor. In particular, more than half of the population is consuming at a level of less than 120 percent of the poverty line. One small, negative shock has the potential to move many individuals into poverty.

Target Is Off Track
The fieldwork of the new NRVA 2011/12 survey was completed in October 2012 and the survey is currently pending its official release. While an update on the poverty situation in Afghanistan will not be available until the release of the NRVA 11-12, preliminary analysis seems to indicate that consumption patterns have not changed significantly since 2007-08, possibly suggesting limited change in both poverty and poverty vulnerability over time. If this result was to be confirmed with the official release of the new survey, the target of reducing the share of population below the poverty line to 24% by 2015 would be impossible to achieve.

Concerns regarding the progress in poverty reduction are in line with the findings of other studies. According to the World Bank report ‘Afghanistan in Transition: Looking beyond 2014’ higher level of outside of government budget spending has had a modest effect on poverty, a situation which could deteriorate with transition unless appropriate policies are adopted. Based on these preliminary findings Afghanistan will increasingly face hardship in its attempts to reduce poverty in the coming years which would require focused efforts and specific policy interventions on the part of government and donors.

1b) Poverty gap ratio

As of 2010, poverty gap ratio is 8%, same as the 2005 baseline value. It had, however, increased in the 2007/08. The government of Afghanistan aims to bring down this value to roughly 5% by 2020. As mentioned before, recent data can only be available after the official release of latest NRVA survey by Central Statistics Organization.

1c) Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

In 2005, share of poorest quintile in the national consumption counted for 9.3%. It was increased to 10.5% in 2007, but based latest available data (2010); it is decreased back to 9.1% slightly lower than the baseline value. The government is aiming a value of roughly 15% by 2020. Same as the rest of the indicators related to poverty in Afghanistan (Goal 1), this indicator too awaits the release of latest NRVA survey which is still pending.

Target 2: The proportion of people who suffer from hunger decreases by 5% per annum until the year 2020

2a) Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age

No 2012 Data Available
UNICEF reported in 2002 that at least 41% of those under five years old were underweight in Afghanistan. Two years later in 2004, another survey indicated that the figure has decreased to 39%. UN has also categorized this indicator as Children Under 5 Moderately or Severely Underweight and Children Under 5 Severely Underweight and has reported figures of 32.9% and 12.2% for Afghanistan respectively. No further survey has been carried out for this indicator after 2004; however, consistent with general improvement in standard of living in Afghanistan, currently, fewer Under-5 children are expected to be underweight compare to 2004.

2b) Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

As of 2010, at least 29% of population is reported to be under minimum level of dietary energy consumption. While recent data for this indicator is not available, but targets to bring this figure to 11% by 2015 and subsequently to 9% by 2020 do not seem possible.

Reflection on poverty status adopted from Afghanistan’s 2010 MDGs Report

As mentioned repeatedly above, further analysis and comments cannot be made on the current status of poverty in Afghanistan since the latest NRVA report is not released yet. However, a general analysis and reflection that was reported in Afghanistan’s 2010 MDGs reports is partially adapted here in this report as well.

Interesting reflections can be made on food consumption and food poverty based on available data. The impact of food price crisis can be seen in the pattern of food consumption and the quarterly pattern of poverty.

The nominal food consumption stays largely unchanged throughout the year. However, once consumption is adjusted for the change in food prices (food price crisis), the consumption pattern changes. The real value of consumption is highest after the fall harvest. With the advent of winter, real expenditures decline by 20% and continue to decline as the food price crisis hits the community. The food poverty rate increases with increased food price. Proportion of people consuming less than 2100 calories per day (caloric deficiency) increases by 42% with food crisis or price increase. According to the NRVA of 2007/08, immediately after the harvest season, 24% of the population consumed less than 2100 calories and through gradual decline, in the lean season, the caloric deficiency increased to 34%. The average composition of food consumed actually also changes over the seasons, with increases in food prices. NRVA 07/08 reflects that in the harvest season, consumption of staples formed slightly 60% of the household’s total caloric intake. By the lean season, when poverty nearly doubles, staples contributed about 70% on average to the total caloric intake. Notably, in Afghanistan,
increase in rural food poverty is much greater than the urban poverty; and on average, poor households have lower levels of dietary diversity and nutrient intake.

The estimate indicates that close to 9 million Afghans are not able to meet their basic needs. Little or no improvements are reflected between the baseline estimates of 2005 and the data of 2007 (although due to the seasonal nature of the data collection time, these figures may not be fully comparable). Minimal improvements are shown in the NRVA data collected in 2008. When set against the Afghanistan target of 2020, the potentials of reaching the Afghanistan’s 2020 target do not look promising. The cost of basic needs estimate of poverty reveals that 36% of the Afghan population is not able to meet the basic needs. Seasonal variation of the 2005 and 2007 NRVAs shows a sharp increase in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption (estimated at 2100 calories a day) from 30% to 39%. In Afghanistan, substantial inequality exists in shares of consumption. The richest quartiles of the population have a share of 39% total consumption and the poorest quartile has only 9%. The group of second level of poorest people is just above the threshold and is vulnerable enough to fall under the poverty line, with any sudden shock.

The poorest now comprises 10.5% of the population, as compared to 9.3% in 2005; and 39% of the population now receives less than the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, compared to 30% in 2005. The depth of poverty is considerable at 8%, which indicates that when averaged over the total population, there is an 8% gap between the poverty line and consumption levels (treating the non-poor as having a gap of zero). The average consumption level of the poor people is 22% below the poverty
line. The sum of the differences between the CBN poverty line and the consumption level of poor people calculates a total consumption shortfall of Afs. 28.4 billion (US$ 570 million).

Incidence of poverty is unevenly distributed and pockets with highest poverty rates found among the Kuchi population. NRVA shows that poverty is particularly severe in Nimroz, Kabul, Daikundi and Paktika, where over 60% of the population lives below the poverty line. Significant disparities across provinces in nutrition is stark, with some provinces more than 50% of households consuming less than the minimum caloric intake (Daikundi and Nimroz) and less than 10% lives below the poverty line in Parwan and Kunar. Provincial-level poverty estimates show that more than half the population is poor in 8 of the 34 provinces. In general, however, a breakdown of the poverty incidence reveals that the incidence is high in any part of the country although large differences might exist between regions. Poverty in the rural population is close to the national average of 36% while the incidence in the urban population is lower at 29%.

Robust growth and low inflation augur well for reducing poverty in Afghanistan. The 2008 NRVA added questions to better capture consumption of both non-food and food items. 27 more food items were added to accommodate the yearly coverage of seasonal food items. The estimates provided in the latest NRVA report also included estimates of consumption value to durable goods and housing as important determinants of well-being. Inclusion of these items helps produce a more complete picture of economic well-being.
ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION
TABLE 2.1 Indicators for Millennium Development Goal Two

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 3: Ensure that, by 2020, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a) Net Enrollment ratio in primary education</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a) (alt) Gross enrolment ratio in primary education</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b) Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b) (alt) Primary completion rate total (% of relevant age group)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3c) literacy rate of 15-24 years old</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education is the most basic need and right of citizens of Afghanistan. However, in a country like Afghanistan there are strong factors which slow down the pace of progress of education thus consuming more and more time and resources in achieving goals. Factors like security, political instability and corruption pose major challenges. These factors are strong enough to derail progress in the education system.

**Target Is On Track**

**3a) Net Enrollment Ratio in Primary Education**

Despite the challenges and undermining factors, progress is real and has been impressively steady within the education sector, particularly under this indicator. As can be noted from Figure 2.1, from 2010 when the previous MDGs report was published there has been steady progress in the Net Enrollment Ratio in Primary Education. Progress since 2010 on average has been...
3%; in 2011 the value increased to 74%, similarly with further 3% point increase Net Enrollment Ratio in Primary Education as of 2012 stands at 77%. If 3% point average pace of progress of the past three years is maintained, the 82% target for 2015 is well attainable, which require 1.7% average progress rate a year for the next three years. Hence, progress on this indicator is on track, while the likelihood of early achievement by a year or over is highly probable.

Furthermore, under the Ministry of Education plan, between 2013 and 2016 estimated 3321 new schools will be established, of which 554 are primary schools. The figure indicates that larger number of these schools planned to be established will be secondary schools. As can be noted from Figure 2.2, the palpable expansion in primary education took place until 2006 and then between 2008 and 2012 (mainly 2011). The expansion of establishing primary schools that has taken place during these years was based on the acute need and almost non-existence of schools across the country which in turn has helped improvement in the enrolment rate since 2003.

With the overall improvement in access to primary education and the Net Enrollment Ratio having drastically increased, so has the planning of establishing new schools stabilized. On the other hand pupils completing primary schools and their progression to secondary education have required establishment of new secondary schools, hence larger number schools which will be established under the MoE plan until 2016 will be secondary schools.

**3a) (alt) Gross Enrollment Ratios in Primary Education**

Regarding Gross Enrollment Ratio¹ in Primary Education, as can be noted from Figure 2.3 below, progress is similarly on track. The trend from 2010 through 2012 indicates

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¹ Definition: Total enrolment in specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level in a given school-year.
progress of a steady decrease by a percentage point in the value. Based on this trend the target for 2015 of 111% gross enrolment ratio in primary education is achievable. The value for 2007 (130%) is reflective of the absorption capacity and participation level during the period (2003-2012) in the education system of Afghanistan. Due to conflict, insecurity and other reasons the proportion of Afghan kids who had missed the opportunity to enroll in primary education at the right age is the likely reason for the higher Gross Enrollment ratio in primary education in 2007. Due to conflict and insecurity as well as other factors this trend is likely to exist for years to come.

**Target Is Difficult To Achieve**

3b) Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade One who reaches last Grade of Primary School

Progress on Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade One who reach last Grade of Primary school comparably with the above two indicators and in relation to the intermediate target of 2015 and extendedly 2020 is slightly lagging. Progress since 2010 to 2012 from 60% to 64% has been on

Purpose: Gross Enrolment Ratio is widely used to show the general level of participation in a given level of education. It indicates the capacity of the education system to enroll students of a particular age-group. It is used as a substitute indicator to net enrolment ratio (NER) when data on enrolment by single years of age are not available. Furthermore, it can be a complementary indicator to NER by indicating the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment.
average 2%. With this average pace the 76% target for 2015 is unlikely to be achieved and on this basis is to remain short by 8% which is a significant gap. However, the end target for 2020 which is 80% is achievable with the current pace of 2% yearly progress.

3b) (alt.) Primary Completion Rate

For Primary Completion Rate of Total (% of relevant age group), the trend is a positive one; with an average progress value being 3.5% from 2010. The value registered for 2012 is 65%. At this pace of progress the target value for 2015 being 75% is achievable, and the extended target of 80% by 2020 may also be achieved early by 2017-18.

3c) Literacy Rate of 15-24 year old

3% increase from 2003 to 2007, and a further 2% increase from 2007 to 2010 in the Literacy Rate (15-24 year olds) was registered.

However, based on preliminary data of NRVA 2011-2012 provided by Central Statistics Office (CSO), a sharp increase is observable from 2010 to 2012 which shows that from 2010 to 2011 there was 6% increase, and from 2011 to 2012 another 2%, bringing Literacy Rate (15-24 year olds) to 47%. In comparison to the 2003-2007 and 2007-2010 intervals progress between 2010 and 2012 seems to be triple and respectively quadruple. Reasons for this sudden leap, can be speculated to rest on the explanation that since the overthrow of the Taliban regime and the ambitious Back to School Campaign as well as the overall progress and focus that the education sector has received over the decade has resulted in the improvement of the literacy rate. Moreover,
pupils who have enrolled since the onset significant proportion of them as of recent have been entering the age of 15-24. More so, along with this, the increasing number of high schools which have been newly built, re-opened and made functional over the recent years in areas which have been inaccessible; also the general campaign for literacy through short courses and vocational literacy trainings have been contributory factors as well.

The opening-up policy through private sector participation while has made the education sector dynamic and progressive, has contributed to the overall progress and general achievements in education. Private school and provided education has had its impact in the urban centers and cities particularly like Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh, Knadahar and Herat.

The Afghan government has invested significant proportion of the total budget in the education sector, over 12% since 2009, while in addition the international community and donors have also paid attention to the education sector through its generous assistance in order to create opportunities and environment for Afghan families to send their sons and daughters to schools.

The investment on education has enabled more than nine million Afghan children to continue their education in schools around the country. However, the level investment still remains one of the lowest; the per capita spending per student in school in Afghanistan is one of the lowest in the world and even within the region. The per capita spending per school student while in Afghanistan is just above US$60, in Pakistan this is over US$250 and in Iran more than twice the amount in Pakistan.

The efforts within the education sector while are admirable, however, it still remains short to cover all afghan children, more importantly behind the aggregate numbers precariously lies regional and gender disparities requiring further investment and rigorous action on the part of the government with external assistance to meet its MDGs targets by 2020. Aspects such as provision of quality of education and proper educational environment are also important elements which require adequate policy focus. Of the 15160 schools established by 2012 over 40% lack adequate buildings and of
the targeted 20,000 to be established by 2020 around 40% will still lack building. Outside urban centers lack of qualified teachers, and more severely female teachers are among the most important factors which affect the quality of education Afghan children receives and especially restrict participation level for girls in secondary education. The situation is worse for girls, particularly accessing secondary school where due to lack of female teachers in the conservative countryside families prohibit sending their girls above certain age to be taught by male teachers.
PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL THREE
PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

TABLE 3.1: Indicators for Millennium Development Goal Three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 4</strong>: Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education no later than 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a) Ratio of girls to boys in Primary Education</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b) Ratio of girls to boys in Secondary Education</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4c) Ratio of girls to boys in Tertiary Education</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.36*</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4d) Ratio of literate female to male (15 to 24 year-old)</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 5</strong>: Reduce gender disparity in economic areas by 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5a) Ratio of female to male government Employees (Center)</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5b) Ratio of female to male Government employees (provincial)</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 6</strong>: Increase female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30% by 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a) The Ratio of seats held by women in national, provincial and district representative bodies (%)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a) (alt.) Political seats (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a) (alt.) Appointed seats (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 7</strong>: Reduce gender disparity in access to justice by 50% by 2015 and completely (100%) by 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a) Adoption, review and amendment of legislation that protects the rights of women, particularly in employment, family rights, property and inheritance and in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7b) Adoption of legislation that criminalizes all forms of gender and sexual-based violence (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ratios for previous years under this indicator are representative of universities only while for this year other higher learning institutions are also included such as vocational training institutes, teacher training centers and so on. Therefore, for 2012 ratio of girls to boys in higher education (universities, vocational training institutes, teacher training centers and etc.) reached to 0.36. Ratio of girls to boys in universities only is about 0.22. This is illustrated in Figure 3.3.*

Women comprise 48.9% of the 27m population of Afghanistan according to Central Statistics Organization 2013 Annual Report. The women of Afghanistan are grappling with the worst of challenges in the world and their current situation presents a serious challenge to human development. The situation of women in Afghanistan, however, is to be equally viewed from the circumstances that the country experienced during the past over three decades of conflict. While acknowledging this, progress across various indicators under this goal is encouraging, at the same time progress is lagging in some areas which raise concern.
It is the unusually harsh realities for women in Afghanistan, namely poverty, access to adequate health care, deprivation of rights, protection against violence, economic productivity, education and literacy, and public participation – that circumscribe their impoverished situation. Afghanistan ranks among the lowest in the world in human development (175th of 186 countries) and is one of the poorest countries. Hence, poverty and human deprivation are predictably experienced by the majority of the population, whilst more severely and vulnerably by Afghan women. Widespread poverty, overall insecurity, socio-political barriers and skewed power-relation disproportionately and seriously limit their general welfare, and access to services, opportunities, and resources needed for the full development of their human potential and exercise of their rights.²

**Target 4: Eliminate gender disparities in all levels of education no later than 2020**

**4a) Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary Education**

Investment in education, especially for women is important to human development and for Afghanistan to overcome and affect the conditions of the Afghan women in the long term. Despite, insecurity, inadequate facilities, lack of female teachers and lack of motivation to send girls to school among the many hurdles, situation of girls’ education has drastically improved.

As can be noted from Figure 3.1 there has been a steady rise in ratio of girls to boys in primary education particularly from 2008 onward. Progress between 2008 and 2010 was 7 percentage points, while between 2010 and 2012 it is 5 percentage points.

If the pace of 2.5 percentage point progress between 2010 and 2012 can be preserved, the target ratio of 0.83 for 2015 in first instance is likely to be underachieved by 7.5 percent. While at the same time the overall progress under this indicator may also fall

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short of 1.00 (equaling ratio of girls to boys in primary education) which is an ambitious target for Afghanistan particularly to achieve by 2020. Meanwhile, Ministry of Education’s projection for the intermediate target by 2015 is 0.79 percent ratio, 4 percentage points short of the 0.83 target.

By maintaining the pace of progress and amidst the larger circumstance, achieving this projected ratio of girls to boys in primary education both in 2015 and further in 2020 would be a success in itself to reckon. At the same time the Ministry of Education plans to build 221 new female primary schools between 2012 and 2015, and another 204 schools are planned to be built in 2016 which indicates and makes further improvement in the ratio of girls to boys in primary education prospective.

4b) Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary Education

As can also be noticed from Figure 3.2, Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary Education is lower than the ratio in primary education. But progress under this indicator nevertheless has steadily improved since base year. Furthermore, progress between 2008 and 2010 has been 8% points, and between 2010 and 2012 7% points. An important explanation for this rise which is significant nevertheless is that the significant number of pupils (female) who had enrolled and successfully completed primary education since 2001 and against the backdrop “Back to Education Campaign“ have been progressively moving-on to continue secondary education.

A further 13 percentage points increase from 5.7 to reach the 0.7 ratio percent target by 2015 in three years (2012-2015) will however be critical in bridging the gap between ratio of girls to boys in secondary education. Continuity into secondary education of the much larger ratio of girls at the primary level education may augment the ratio of girls to boys in secondary education. However, an impeding factor is lack of secondary level
teachers particularly in the rural regions is a major factor which circumscribes female education in secondary education. In the conservative Afghan society families prohibit their girls to be taught by male teachers at certain age.

**Target Is Difficult To Achieve**

### 4c) Ratio of Girls to Boys in Tertiary Education

Yet the ratio of girls to boys under this indicator is even lower than the ratio in secondary education. Progress has stayed at the level of baseline as can be noticed from Figure 3.3. Whilst there was slight increase in 2008 to 0.23 percent ratio from the base value of 0.21 percent ratio, this retrograded in 2010.

The data for 2012 collected however shows a percentage point increase again in the ratio to 0.22.

This value is representative of the ratio of girls to boys at higher education, at the universities only, and Teachers Training and Technical and Vocational Training Institutions are not included in the ratio over the past periods. Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 illustrate the overall ratio of girls to boys at higher education for universities, Technical and Vocational Education Institutes, and Teachers Training Institutes. Ratio of girls to boys both at higher education, at the universities, and in Technical Vocational institutions is disproportionately lower.
4d) Ratio of literate females to males (15- to 24 year-olds)

Whilst ratio of literate females to males has steadily improved though it still is one of the lowest. The adult literacy rate in Afghanistan according to National Risk and Vulnerability Survey (NRVA) 2011-2012 is 47%, while to break it down; for adult females it is estimated 32%, and male 62% respectively, which brings the ratio of females to males to 0.52. This is a substantial improvement from the value of 0.34 in 2005, 0.37 in 2008, and an increase of 7 percentage points from 0.45 in 2010.

In analyzing the trend there has been a steady improvement in the adult literacy rate overall and particularly for adult females. Female literacy as part of the overall adult literacy rate has markedly improved from 18% in 2005 to 32% as per recent data for 2012. The ratio of female literacy rate between the ages of 15-24 has equally improved from the 34% in baseline year 2005 to 52% according to CSO data for 2012. Given the successes in improvement across the education system and particularly improvement as analyzed in previous indicators in the enrollment rate at primary, secondary and high school levels, the literacy rate has correspondingly improved and will continue to improve till 2020. The target of 0.50 percent ratio is already achieved; however in comparison with that of the current literacy rate in Pakistan which is twice as high as Afghanistan, while in Iran the 100% literacy rate of age 15-24 is already achieved, it remains the lowest.

Target 5: Reduce gender disparity in economic areas by 2020

5a) Ratio of female to male government Employees (Centre)

The ratio of female employees in the center while appears to have not improved from 2005 baseline value until 2010. However, based on the latest data (figures) provided to Ministry of Economy of both total male and female employees in the center and the
ratio that has been calculated shows that Ratio of Female to Male in government employees is 43%.

**Target Is Off Track**

5b) Ratio of female to male Government employees (provincial)

Under this indicator progress has been stagnant at 16% until 2010 – again a sharp increase at the provinces just like in center was observed it evident from 2010 2012.

Once again, based on the raw data of total male and female employees provided to Ministry of Economy the ratios for 2012 have been calculated. The progress is however is still lagging and Afghanistan is unlikely to achieve the target for 2015.

The original MDGs indicators are measure of gender equality and women’s empowerment as well as the degree to which labor markets are open to women in industry and services sectors. A higher share in paid employment could secure for women’s better income, economic security and well-being and as a result, a position of dignity in the society and family. In general women’s position in the labor market is weak as they participate less in economic activities and are mostly employed in vulnerable jobs.

In the absence of availability of reliable employment data, the indicator used has been to monitor the ratio of female to male government employees, the government being the largest formal sector employer. But this section of the report however has benefited from preliminary analysis and data of “Chapter-4 Labor Force Characteristics” of the National Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (NRVA). The following analysis is pertinent to the original MDGs indicator and women’s participation in non-agriculture sectors:

The economy of Afghanistan is dominated by the agricultural sector. Around 40 percent of the employed population is engaged in work in the farming or livestock sub-sectors (Figure 3.7). Male employment is relatively varied with considerable employment of between 10 and 15 percent in construction, trade and various services, besides agriculture (37 percent). Female employment on the other hand is much more concentrated in a few sectors: various services, manufacturing and (food) processing,
and, particularly livestock tending. In the latter two sectors the share of women is also in absolute numbers larger than the male share. In the formal sector, the only sector where women are well represented is education.

For the Kuchi population the employment in agriculture is much higher than the national average, with 69 percent in the livestock sector only (not shown here). On the other hand, in urban areas the share is much lower – 4 percent only. Here the male dominated – wholesale and retail sector is the largest (23 percent), followed by various private services (15 percent) and public services, construction, transportation/communication and manufacturing/processing, each with around 11 percent of employment.

The geographic variation of employment in different sectors is wide. Whereas in Kabul province the share in agriculture is only 11 percent, in Helmand, Nooristan, Ghor and Zabul it is over 70 percent. On the other hand, sectors that are characterized by more formal employment – health, education, government and UN/NGO services – are relatively well represented in the employment of Paktika, Kapisa, Panshjer and Kabul (over 20 percent combined). Urozgan, Helmand, Ghor and Zabul have less than 5 percent in these sectors.

Employment in the farming and livestock sectors is virtually entirely in the category of vulnerable employment (98 percent or more), whereas for manufacturing/processing, construction, trade and the private service sector it is between 84 and 94 percent. Only in the education, UN/NGO and various government sectors the percentage of vulnerable employment is 10 percent or lower. An indicator that shows the extent to which women have access to paid employment and their integration into the monetary economy is the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. For Afghanistan this MDG indicator is a low 11 percent.

The distribution of occupations shows a large representation of farming and livestock activities (24 and 11 percent, respectively), the former strongly male-dominated. Other categories of relative importance are sales and trade (particularly in urban areas), construction and mining, drivers, and various service work. For women, shepherding (25 percent) and handicraft (20 percent) are the most important single occupational categories, but in the formal sector to a lesser extent also teaching (7 percent).
FIGURE 3.7: Employment share of male, female and general public in some of the sectors

3 Certain data points are illustrated as zero because no reliable data are available.
Target 6: Increase female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30% by 2020

6a) The Ratio of seats held by women in national, provincial and district representative bodies

The baseline value was set at 25% as constitution of Afghanistan for National Assembly reserves at least 25% of the seats for women. In 2007, the data shows the value for ratio of seats held by women in national, provincial and district representative bodies 24.9%, very close to the baseline. In 2010 a value of 27% was registered which showed an increase of over 2% in the ratio of seats held by women in national, provincial and district representative bodies.

The intermediate target for 2015 is already achieved, and with increased level of women participation in district elections and access to representative bodies, the likelihood of reaching the 30% ratio by 2020 is very strong. So far women’s representation at district level bodies has been marginal for social, political and security reasons in parts of the country which in turn has affected the total average ratio of women’s representation in national, provincial and district level representative bodies.

6a (alt.) Appointed seats

At present, women have a joint share of 28% (a total of 7 seats out of 25) in three key institutions, namely Independent Election Commission (IEC) (3 appointed seats out of 9), Independent Afghanistan Human Rights Commission (IAHRC) (2 appointed seats out of 7) and Afghanistan Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) (2 appointed seats out of 9). Likewise, 50% of the Upper House’s appointed seats are allocated for women (17 out of 34 appointed seats), making up 16.6% of all seats in Afghanistan’s Upper House. Consequently as of 2012, on average, 33.5% of overall appointed seats in Afghanistan are allocated for women.

6a (alt.) Political seats

Currently, there are 3 female ministers, 6 deputy ministers and 1 governor in in executive branch of Afghanistan government. Besides, 68 out of 249 (27%) parliament members are women. Excluding parliament, women share in cabinet’s political seats count for an approximated proportion of 10%.

Target 7: Reduce gender disparity in access to Justice by 50% by 2015 and completely (100%) by 2020
7a) Adoption, review and amendment of legislation that protects the rights of women, particularly in employment, family rights, property and inheritance and in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Clear data for this indicator is not available for the past few years.

7b) Adoption of legislation that criminalizes all forms of gender and sexual-based violence

No clear and reliable data have been collected with the purpose of measuring progress towards these indicators although there are indications that this may be under review. Many of the laws addressing indicators 7a and 7b are being reviewed and adopted under the auspices of Articles of the Constitution.

Furthermore, as a matter concerning gender equality and access to equitable justice for women, it is also important to take note of the cases of violence against women for legal pursuant. Unfortunately, in acts of violence against women in Afghanistan is around an average of 6500 cases are registered. In 2008, there were 6796 violence cases against women, 6439 cases in 2010, which eventually decreased to 6000 cases after 2010. As it can be observed from Figure 3.8, only 3279, 4501, 3343 and 3225 cases had convictions in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011+2012 respectively.

However, it is worth mentioning that the actual cases of violence against women are much higher but due to cultural issues and sensitivities, many of such cases against women are left unreported.
Reduce child mortality
TABLE 4.1: Indicators for Millennium Development Goal 4

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target 8: Reduce by 50% between 2003 and 2015, the under 5 mortality rate and further Reduce it to one third of the 2003 level by 2020</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a) Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8b) Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8c) Proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles (%)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>

Childhood Mortality and Infant Mortality, in particular, are widely used indicators of a nation’s development and well-being. They improve understanding of a country’s socioeconomic condition, and they shed light on the quality of life of its population. Most important, Childhood Mortality statistics denotes the health status of children and are thus useful for informing the development of policy and health interventions that will promote child survival. Disaggregation of this information by socioeconomic and demographic characteristics further identifies subgroups at high risk and helps to tailor programs to serve these populations.

Although there has been marked reduction in Child and Infant Mortality Rate in Afghanistan, however, it still continues to be high compared to regional countries. Since late 2003, the country has made impressive strides in reducing infant and Under-5 Mortality by nearly 60%. Even though these accomplishments are remarkable, much remains to be done to address the most prevalent causes of death among infants and children under 5 through the widespread implementation of proven effective health measures. One of the targets of Millennium Development Goal 4 is to reduce Child Mortality rate by 50% between 2003 and 2015, and to be reduced by 75% by 2020. In line with this goal, and addressed in the National Development Strategy (ANDS) 2008-2013, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has developed several relevant strategies: the National Health and Nutrition Sector Strategy 2008-2013, the National Child and Adolescent Health Strategy 2009-2013, and the Basic Package of Health Services 2009-2013, the National Reproductive Health Strategy 2012-16. These strategies outline health programs and service delivery packages in facilities and target them at the community level, which focuses on cost-effective interventions. In particular, maternal interventions are implemented through improving services for women during pregnancy, delivery, and the post-partum period. Early childhood interventions...
promote birth spacing, neonatal care, breastfeeding and complementary feeding, immunization of mothers and children, micronutrient supplementation, integrated management of sick children, and use of long-lasting insecticidal bed nets (LLINs) in areas with high transmission of malaria. A number of these interventions have shown impressive gains in recent years. For example, measles coverage rates have improved rapidly, with two-more than half of 1-year old children reported to have been immunized against measles in the 2008 assessment of the country’s progress toward the achievement of MDG 4 while this is estimated to be more than 60% in 2010. In turn, the improvements in the output indicators are believed to have resulted in a steady reduction in child mortality.

It is to be noted that the recent data available under this target is only available till 2011 when the last Afghanistan Mortality Survey (AMS) and Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (AMICS) were undertaken, which almost most of the data for this goal is derived from.

**Target 8: Reduce by 50% between 2003 and 2015, the under 5 mortality rate and further reduce it to one third of the 2003 level by 2020**

**8a) Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)**

Afghanistan has gradually made significant headway in the under-five Mortality rates having to battle against a staggering 319 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1970. However, despite increased attempts through interventions since 2001, under-five mortality rate in Afghanistan is still a serious concern.

According to latest data from Ministry of Public Health, Under-Five Mortality Rate is cut down from 257 (baseline) to 97 per 1,000 live births between 2003 and 2010 which shows a considerable decline (more than 60 %) . The Ministry Public of Health nevertheless has set the targets for years 2014, 2015, and 2016 at 95, 93, and 92 (out of 1,000 live births) respectively.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the steep decrease in the Under-Five Mortality Rate in Afghanistan during the years 2003 (257) through 2010 (97). It means U5MR indicates nearly 60 percent decline over seven years from 2003 to 2010. However, there was a slight increase again in 2011 to 102, according to AMICS survey in 2011. The caveat is that the Afghanistan Mortality survey 2010 estimated the Child Mortality which excluded the southern zone of Afghanistan. This could have been precisely the reason for the rate to be rather low, and misrepresentative for the entire county. Meanwhile, the 2011 data of
child mortality has been taken from AMICS 2010/2011 which included south zone in sampling. The level of investment in the health sector as percentage of GDP is the lowest in the region in Afghanistan. With increased investment and expansion of basic health services provision as well as the targeted intervention by the Ministry of Public Health, the targets set for 2015–93 and 76 in 2020 is achievable. With the latest Child Mortality Rate for under the age of five being 102 for 2012, the target for 2015–93 is achievable, thus progress is on track.

Socioeconomic and Demographic differentials

Differentials in socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of household and children’s mothers are predominantly important in analyzing Child Mortality in Afghanistan, because Child Mortality is clearly associated with the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of household and mothers as reported by AMS 2010 and AMICS 2010/2011 surveys. As shown in Figure 4.2, the Under-5 Mortality Rate among male children is 106 per 1,000 live births, while it is 97 among females. Hence the male Under-5 Mortality is higher than the female rate. In terms of rural-urban variances, the Under-5 Mortality Rate is lower in urban areas than in rural areas. Similarly, there are also differences in Child Mortality in terms of mother’s education levels and household wealth ranks. In higher education and higher wealth levels household, Under-5 Mortality Rate is lower. While the Under-5 Mortality Rate is 84 (per 1,000 live births) for wealthiest quintile, it is 104 for poorest quintile. U5MR for the children of mothers with no education is 103 while it is notable lower 73 for children of mothers with secondary education or higher.

FIGURE 4.1: Under five mortality rate in Afghanistan

2015 Target Is Achievable

8b) Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)
Substantial decrease has been documented in Infant Mortality Rate in Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (IMRAMICS) 2010/2011, Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010, and available data from Ministry of Public provided information and report (165 per 1,000 of live births in 2003 to 74 in 2011). Figure 4.3 indicates that Infant Mortality Rate continues to decrease in Afghanistan; nevertheless while it still remains high. The baseline data shows that 165 Infants died per 1,000 live births before first birthday, while this estimation has continually decreased to 74 in 2011/2012. This means that IMR shows about 55% decline over 8 years which displays nearly 9% shrinkage annually. Likewise the projection for the consecutive years till 2015 set by the Ministry of Public Health similarly represents further reduction in infant mortality rate. As can be noted from Table 4.1, target for 2015 has been set by reducing IMR to 70 (in 1,000 live births) compared to 2020 target which is set at 46. Thus, relative to the significant and steady progress (decrease in IMR) since baseline figure it can be assumed that the target for 2015 which is 70 is achievable, perhaps further 34% of
reduction in IMR is challenging to achieve in 5 years period from 2015 to 2020 if taken into consideration the current human and financial capacities of MoPH. MoPH however will strive through its BPHS, and EPHS to tackle this critical goal.

Infant Mortality Rate reveals differences and variations in terms of socioeconomic and demographic characteristics as Figure 4.4 shows; the infant mortality rate among males is 78, while it is 68 among females. The Under-Five Mortality Rate shows 106 among males and 97 among females. The male Infant Mortality is higher than the female rate because biologically male infants are more vulnerable than female infants. There are also differences in mortality in terms of mother’s educational levels and household wealth. In higher education and higher wealth level households, infant and mortality rates are lower. While the Infant Mortality rate is 62 for the wealthiest quintile, it is 75 for the poorest quintile. Infant Mortality for the children of mothers with no education is 74, while it is markedly lower (55) for the children of mothers with secondary education or higher. Differentials in Infant Mortality rates by selected background characteristics are shown in Figure 4.4.

**Target Is Off Track**

8c) Proportion of One Year-old Children Immunized against Measles

The Proportion of One Year Old Children Immunized against Measles is the percentage of children under one year of age who have received at least one dose of measles vaccine. Measles is a highly infectious disease that causes complication and death. Measles continues to be a serious public health problem in Afghanistan, which is one of the leading causes of death among young children. Measles is however, fully preventable by a proven safe vaccination. In 2012, the Disease Early Warning System
(DEWS) in Afghanistan reported a total of 7,789 suspected cases of measles which has led to death of 28 children.

The recent data shows the progress in measles immunization. For example, the immunization of measles (% of children ages 12-13 months) in Afghanistan was last registered in Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2010-11 which reported the immunization at 62% as against 100% target in 2020. In fact, achieving 2020 target is challenging because of insecurity and frequent movement of displaced people and the capacity for immunization to cover the entire child population in Afghanistan.

The Figure 4.5 specifies the baseline value at 35% in 2003. In 2006, the figure rose to 68%. A decrease is noticed in the data collected by NRVA IN 2008, which estimates the 55.9% of children being immunized against measles. The accessible data of 2010-11, however, reveals slight upswing which is 62% as against 90% target set by MOPH in 2015 – which is a high margin of 28% to reach. Hence, progress as per target for 2015 and 2020 is not on-track.
IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH
TABLE 5.1: Indicators for Millennium Development Goal 5

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9a) Maternal Mortality Ratio (in 100,000)</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>315*</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>400^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9b) Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9c) Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9d) Adolescent Birth Rate</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9e) Fertility Rate (number of live births per woman)</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.27</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9f) Antenatal Coverage (at least one visit)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65**</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Original target for Maternal Mortality Ratio for 2015 was 800 but Afghanistan has already achieved this target as early as 2010. Subsequently, a new target of 315 was set for 2015.
**Similarly, original target for proportion of women receiving professional antenatal coverage for 2015 was 25%, but this target was also achieved as early as 2008 and therefore a new target of 65% was set for 2015.
^New Target will be decided.

The Ministry of Public Health has undertaken a number of major interventions to strengthen maternal and neonatal health care, such as developing standards and guidelines for maternal care, training midwives and doctors, strengthening the health infrastructure, ensuring of supplies and equipment, developing information materials, conducting campaigns, and conducting surveys related to implementation of pilot projects and initiatives in maternal and newborn health. Moreover, a key issue in the policies and strategies that the MOPH has adopted is broadening access to maternal care. One element of this effort has been directed toward ensuring that Basic Health Services and Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) are available at Basic Health Centers (BHCs), Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs), District Hospitals (DHs), and specialized maternity hospitals which are known Centers of Excellence for maternal care provision. The lifetime risk of pregnancy-related death is five times as high in rural areas than in urban areas. Furthermore, there are strong associations between early childbearing and women’s education level. Reduced childbearing associated certainly associated with higher level of education.

Afghanistan remains one of the worst places for pregnant women. The primary reasons behind the high ratio of Maternal Mortality Rate in Afghanistan are traditional early
marriages, lack of effective family planning, poor health infrastructure/facility, and shortage of midwives, amongst the other reason such as widespread poverty and socio-economic barriers.

To this end, MoPH, UN, USAID, and other development partners and NGOs have been working closely for the improvement of maternal and newborn health in Afghanistan. This goal has been described by five indicators which are listed in Table 5.1.

**2015 Target Was Achieved. New Target Was Decided.**

9a) Maternal Mortality Ratio

The original target for Maternal Mortality Rate is a reduction of 50% by 2015, however, in Afghanistan where the rate has been exceptionally high it is committed to seek this reduction by 80%, bringing the value to 315 per 100,000 births from the baseline value of 16,00 per 100,000 births, as can be noted from Figure 5.1.

Further in to 2020 the original MDG 5 target for 2020 for Maternal Mortality Rate seeks an additional reduction by 25% from the baseline. The 50% original target would be reducing the ratio of Mortality Rate to 800 per 100,000, and a further reduction of 25% would bring the ratio to 400. Afghanistan’s target for 2020 is calculated on the basis of the original target not consistent with its target set for 2015 which is 80% reduction, requires revising the target for 2020. The Figure 5.1 presents the trend in Maternal Mortality Ratio in Afghanistan between 2003 and 2020 and a significant reduction in MMR can be observed. While data for the ratio from 2011 is unavailable, the margin between 2010 and 2015 target does not seem significant considering the giant progress level in reducing Maternal Mortality Rate over the previous years. Observing the trend progress is seemingly on track and the target for 2020 achievable.

**2015 Target Is Achieved**

9b) Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

An important component in the effort in reducing health risks for mothers and children is seeking to increase the proportion of babies delivered in a safe, clean environment
and under the supervision of health professionals. Afghanistan is promoting safe motherhood through various activities, especially delivery by skilled birth attendants (SBA).

The baseline value was set at 6% in 2003 by MoPH. In 2006, the data recorded for Proportion Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel was 18.9%, and in 2008 it was 24% surveyed by NRVA, however data from Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010 (AIMS 2010) show an increased to 34%, Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2011 (MICS 2011) registers the percentage as 37%, and Afghanistan Household Survey conducted in 2012 represents 47%. The target of 43% for 2015 therefore is already achieved. However, achieving the target for 2020 Proportion of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel remains challenging and elusive to predict.

Between 2002 and 2011, 34 schools, 4 IHS and 30 CME were established in 31 provinces to serve women in all 34 provinces and there has been a seven-fold increase in the number of midwives trained from 467 to 3,275 (AMNEAB, 2011). According to the newly released ‘State of the World’s Midwifery (SOWM) Report’, there are 2,331 midwives, nurse/midwives and nurses with midwifery competencies and an additional 254 auxiliary midwives and auxiliary nurse/midwives in the labor force in 2008 in Afghanistan (UNFPA, 2011).
Health statistics shows that women from richest quintile and with secondary education are more likely to have access to institutional or skilled care during delivery. On the other hand AMICS 2010/2011 survey displays that the proportion of skilled attendance at delivery is four times more among richest (76%) compared to the poorest household (16%), it is almost two times in urban areas (74.3%) compared to rural areas (30.5%) as graphed in Figure 5.3.

9c) Contraceptive Prevalence Rate

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in Afghanistan has enlarged by 16 percentage points over the past 8 years, from 5 percent in 2003 to 21 percent in 2011(MICS 2010/2011). The figure reveal a marginal percentage of growth in CPR, which is almost 2 percent average a year, the data for year 2006 and 2008, however, show the prevalence rate as constant. Furthermore, Afghan Ministry of Public Health has set target for 2015, 50% and 60% for 2020 respectively. Assessing the progress based on the current data, projection to achieve target for 2015 is behind schedule.

Current use of any method of contraception was reported by 21% of women currently married (based on AMICS 2010/2011 Survey). The most popular method is the injectable form of contraception, which is used by almost one in ten women who are married. The next most popular method is the pill, which is used among 6% of married women. Contraceptive prevalence is highest in the Central region at 35% and lowest in North East region at 13%. The highest prevalence of contraception use is observed among married women aged 35-44 (about 30%), compared to 7% of married women aged 15-19 years. Most women who reported using contraception are using modern methods (92%) as opposed to traditional methods. Women’s education level is strongly associated with contraceptive prevalence. The percentage of women using any method of contraception varies from nearly 20% among those with no education to 27% among women with primary education, and to nearly 38% among women with secondary
education or higher. As shown in Figure 5.5, women from the wealthiest households are more likely use contraception (37%) than their counterparts who live in poorest households (15%). The Contraceptive prevalence by percentage of women aged 15-49 in Afghanistan was reported at 21% in 2011, according to the Afghanistan Health Survey 2012 (AHS).

### No Target Is Decided

**9d) Adolescent Birth Rate**

The adolescent birth rate (birth per 1,000 women ages 15-19) is last reported at 80 in 1,000 women in 2010. According to the Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010, the adolescent birth rate has improved significantly over past 7 years which declined from 146 in 2003 to 80 in 2010. However, Afghanistan still requires reducing adolescent birth rate to a significant extent to meeting the average regional rate.

The adolescent birth rate has substantially reduced from 146 in 1,000 women age 15-19 in 2003 to 80 in 2010 which shows a significant decline. However, 80 per 1000 rate is still high as compared to regional countries. Adolescent birth rate was 30 per 1,000 women age 15-19 in 2010 in Pakistan, in Tajikistan it was 27 in 2011, in Iran it is estimated at 27 per 1,000 women and in Uzbekistan the rate is as low as 13 per 1,000
women aged between 15-19.

Urban-rural differences in adolescent fertility rate also exist. According to AMS 2010 survey adolescent birth rate is higher in rural areas (84 per 1,000 women ages 15-19) than urban areas (67 per 1,000 women ages 15-19) as presented in Figure 5.6 below.

The Afghan Civil Law sets the minimum age for marriage at sixteen for girls and eighteen for boys. A fifteen year-old girl may however marry with the father’s approval or with a positive ruling from component court. Moreover, the Ministry of Public Health has also presented persuasive strategy in preventing childhood marriage (The National Child and Adolescent Strategy 2009-2013) which emphasize the health systems to consult adolescent girls, families, and communities by drawing their attention and inducing them to consider the risks associated and to encourage postponement of marriages till the age of 18. The laws on elimination of violence against women (2009) also prohibit marriage before legal age. Nonetheless, these laws and strategy are not strictly enforced, especially in remote parts of the country.

Indeed, it has become a phenomenon for Afghan females below age of 16 to be married off to much older men for a dowry. The girls’ consent is disregarded in such arranged marriages. Financial difficulties are one of the main reasons for parents to marry off their under-aged daughters. The government of Afghanistan in its efforts seeks to persuade families realizing the drawbacks of under-aged marriage, which due to cultural and traditional practices early marriage is quiet common in afghan society. According to Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2010/2011 (MICS), 15.2 per cent of surveyed women were married before the age of 15, while 46 per cent were married before the age of 18.
9e) Fertility Rate (Number of Live Births per Woman)

Fertility rate, number of live births per woman also is an important indicator for analysis of maternal health. The different surveys show that fertility rate has dropped over the past 8 years. The baseline value was set at 6.2 in 2003 by UNICEF/CSO; the value for 2008 was estimated at 7.2 by UNICEF and 6.27 by NRVA, and 5.1 by AMS 2010. However, contrary to Afghanistan 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report, in this report for 2008 the data from NRVA is adopted (6.27) as the official data source produced by Central Statistics Office (CSO). The Figure 5.8 illustrates Fertility Rate from 2003 to 2020. Similarly, Fertility Rate varies between urban and rural women, whereas it is higher in rural areas (5.2), and lower in urban areas (4.7), reported by AMS 2010.

There are multiple reasons for such a high Fertility Rate in a country like Afghanistan such as poor family planning, level of education, cultural practices such as early age marriages and lack of adequate reproductive health services to name the few. Greater efforts at all levels and specifically effective intervention by the government are required to reach the 3.1 Fertility Rate by 2020.

9f) Antenatal Coverage (at least one visit)

Antenatal Coverage is an essential component of maternal health. AMS 2010, MICS 2010/11 and recent data for 2012 from AHS 2012 of MoPH indicate consistent increase for at least one visit under ANC. Over past 8 years, the proportion of women receiving at least one ANC visit has increased from 5 percent in 2003 to 60 percent in 2010. The 2011 estimation of MOPH, nevertheless, shows a 12 percent decrease from 60 in 2010 to 48 percent in 2011, whilst an increase is again registered in 2012 to 53 percent according to AHS 2012. Furthermore, the target set by MOPH is 61% for 2014, 65% in 2015, and 69% in 2016.
The decline as can be noticed from Figure 5.9 between 2010 and 2011/12, other than inaccuracy in data, from policy perspective is important to determine as to what the cause is for the decrease in ANC coverage. The average increase between 2003 (5%) and 2012 (53%) is 4.8% annually in ANC, however ignoring the fluctuation visible in 2010 both with previous and subsequent year, between 2006 (30 percent) and 2012 (53 percent) where the trend is visibly stable, the average increase between these years is 3.28 percent. If the progress is projected to continue as per the later average 3.28 percentage points, it may be short by just over 2 percentage points to achieve the 65 percent target set for 2015. Whilst this does not accurately project progress till 2015, it can give a general clue. An in-depth analysis of strategies and investment could provide a more accurate base to project future progress. In broad measure the progress is on track.

Figure 5.10 compares the MICS 2010/2011 results with other surveys conducted in Afghanistan since the beginning of the decade, further depicts the rapid growth in the use of ANC as access to these services in Afghan health facilities have expanded. More importantly it also depicts the urban and rural disparity in the Antenatal Coverage. A marked disparity is noticeable between rural and urban areas.
COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES
## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL SIX
**COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

### TABLE 6.1: Indicators for Millennium Development Goal 6

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<tr>
<td><strong>Target 10: Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10a) HIV prevalence among blood donors (%)</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10b) Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10c) % of population aged 15-49 with comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>17.7*</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10d) Contraceptive prevalence rate (national) (%)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10e) Contraceptive prevalence rate (rural) (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10f) Contraceptive prevalence rate (urban) (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10g) Proportion of blood samples screened for HIV/AIDS and STDs (%)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10h) Proportion of women’s unmet needs for family planning met (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10i) Proportion of IV drug users are in treatment by 2015 (%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target 11: Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a) Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria (total malaria death)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a) (alt.) Incidence rates associated with malaria (Routine reporting) (%)</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11b) Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures (%)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11b) (alt) Under-fives sleeping under insecticide treated nets (%)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11c) Prevalence rates associated with tuberculosis (per 100000 population)</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11d) Death rates associated with tuberculosis (per 10000 people)</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11e) TB cases detected under DOTS (%)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11f) Tuberculosis treatment success under DOTS (%)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target 10 Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

10a) HIV prevalence among blood donors

HIV prevalence among blood donors has decreased over the past few years. It was 0.13% in 2005 and the value decreased to 0.01% in 2012. MoPH is expecting this value to decrease to <0.01 in 2015 and 2020. This trend is shown in Figure 6.1 while the projections for this indicator are stated in the above Table 6.1.

[Graph showing HIV prevalence among blood donors (2005-2012)]

10b) Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate

No national survey has been carried out to find out what percent of those who are taking contraceptive measures are doing so by using condoms.
10c) **Proportion of population aged 15-49 with comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS**

According to MoPH no general (countrywide) survey has been conducted to determine the proportion of people who have comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS. While MoPH does acknowledge its importance and the ministry plans to conduct such a survey, however due to financial limitation the ministry so far has not been able to carry out such a survey countrywide. However, MoPH reported that within AMICS, a survey was carried out only among women aged from 15 to 24 years old in 2012 and it was found out that only 17.7% of them had correct and comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

10d) **Contraceptive prevalence rate (National)**

The baseline for this indicator was set 10% by MoPH. As can be noticed in Figure 6.2, the prevalence rate has improved by 5% in 2008 and a further 5% in 2010, and there was 1% improvement in 2012. The target for 2015 is to improve the prevalence rate to 50% by 2015 and 60% by 2020. However, based on the so far trend and progress, the indicator is behind schedule and off-track.

10e) **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Rural): Reported under Goal 5.**

10f) **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Urban): Reported under Goal 5.**
10g) Proportion of blood samples screened for HIV/AIDS and STDs

As of 2005, only 32% of blood samples taken for testing were screened for HIV/AIDS. Subsequently, MoPH started screening a bigger portion of blood samples for this purpose. As such, in 2010, 52% of blood samples that were taken for testing were also screened for HIV/AIDS. Currently, MoPH is screening all of their blood samples for HIV/AIDS and as shown in Figure 6.3. It is targeting to maintain this practice until 2015 and beyond to 2020.

10h) Proportion of women's unmet needs for family planning met

Targets of 50% and 30% are set for 2015 and 2020 respectively, but no data are reported up to date for this indicator. No baseline was also decided.

10i) Proportion of IV drug users are in treatment by 2015

It is targeted that 60% of IV drug users by 2015 and 80% by 2020 will receive treatment by 2020. Ministry of Public Health reports that as of 2012 36% of IV drug users are under treatment, which shows a slight increase from its 2008 value of 32.2%. Accordingly, progress on this indicator is behind schedule.

Target 11: Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Afghanistan has the fourth largest malaria burden worldwide of any country outside of Africa and the second highest in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region. Currently with 63 districts in 12 provinces at high risk of malaria transmission, where 90% of cases reported are confirmed both P. vivax and P. falciparum. Rapid diagnostic testing is being piloted to diagnose malaria at community health posts, which will assist in reaching elimination targets for P. falciparum.
Target Is Off Track

11a) Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria

As it is shown in Figure 6.4, death rate associated with malaria (total reported malaria death) is reported to be 46 people overall. Counting Afghanistan’s population as 30 million people, this number is equivalent to less than 1 person in every 1000 individual. The figure however was sharply reduced in 2010 but later an increase was reported as of 2012. MoPH is expecting this reduced to 5% by 2015 and eventually 0% by 2020.

Target Is Off Track

11a) (alt.) Incidence rates associated with malaria

In 2005, 1.48% of routinely reported illnesses accounted for malaria. This figure went up to 1.99% in 2008 while post 2008 it has been decreasing. It is targeted that by 2015 and 2020, only 0.7% and 0.2% of routinely reported illnesses to account for malaria. The trend is illustrated in Figure 6.5. Relative to the performance so far, progress towards targets set for 2015 and 2020 are off-track and unachievable.

Target Is Off Track

11b) Proportion of people in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures

Proportion of people in malaria risk areas who are using effective malaria prevention measures was reported to be 18% in 2003 by WHO. No recent data is available for this indicator. Targets for 2015 and 2020 are set to be 85% and 95% respectively.
11b) (alt.) Under-fives sleeping under insecticide treated nets

No baseline data was set for 2005 for this indicator because no proper survey was conducted at the time for proportion of under-five children sleeping under insecticide nets. However, MoPH reported that after carrying out Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) in 2008, it was found out that 4.3% of under-five children were sleeping under insecticide bed nets. Since no baseline data was set for 2005, this value was adopted as baseline for 2005 as shown in Figure 6.6. In 2010, this proportion went up to 4.9%. In 2011, after distributing free (or with minimum cost) insecticide bed nets by MoPH in state-ran clinics, the value went up to 40.1% reported by MIS the same year (2011). While this value is adopted for 2011-2012, the next MIS will be conducted in 2014 and subsequently in 2017.

11c) Prevalence rates associated with tuberculosis

According to TB Care Afghanistan, tuberculosis continues to be a major public health issue in Afghanistan despite the diagnostic procedure and drugs made available to the country. The prevalence rate of TB in Afghanistan is 351 in every 100,000 individuals. (Illustrated in Figure 6.7) Unfortunately, the most productive age group of the society (15-44 years) is mostly affected with TB. More importantly, TB affects more female than male in Afghanistan as more than 64% of all cases occur among females. In spite of all rest of health related challenges Afghanistan continues to grapple in the fight with TB. The National TB Control Program continues to work toward reducing the toll of
suffering induced by spread of TB. The recent trend is one of fluctuation, and it is difficult to project future progress which is beyond the scope of analysis here.

### 11d) Death rates associated with tuberculosis

According to the World Health Organization as well as Ministry of Public Health, as of 2012 an estimated number of 59,000 TB cases occur in Afghanistan on an annual basis costing life of approximately 12,000 people per year. As illustrated in Figure 6.8 this figure is equivalent of 39 deaths in every 100,000 thousand people (population is taken as around 30m). MoPH is striving to reduce this data further to 36 cases (per 100,000 people) in 2015 and eventually to 31 cases in 2020. Baseline data for this indicator was set to be 93 cases in every 100,000 people in 2005. Comparing this value with 2008, death cases associated with tuberculosis has sharply decreased from 93 to 37. Though, an increase is noticeable between 2008 and 2012. With sustained MoPH efforts targets for 2015 and 2020 are achievable.

It is important to mention however that data relating to population in Afghanistan may not represent a true figure, because different sources have reported different figures for population. While Afghanistan’s Central Statistics Organization reports the country’s population 27m, other sources (including IMF, WB, UN and etc.) reports the population of Afghanistan from 30 to 35 million people. No comprehensive and countrywide census has been carried out in the last three decades. The last countrywide national census was carried out in Afghanistan in 1970s when the population was considerably smaller than at present. All currently available data for population of Afghanistan are estimations based on small-to-medium sized sampling. For the purpose of this analysis (analysis of this indicator only) an approximated average value of 30m people is adopted as population of Afghanistan.
11e) **TB cases detected under DOTS**

Directly Observed Treatment Short Course is currently being implemented by a network of specialists constituted by the Regional and Provincial TB Coordinators and the Regional and Provincial Laboratory Supervisors. In 2005, only 15% of TB cases were detected under DOTS program. The program (DOTS) targeted to detect at least 70% of TB cases by 2015. However, as early as 2013, it is reported that as high as 97% of all TB cases in Afghanistan is detected under this program.

11f) **Tuberculosis treatment success under DOTS**

Initially, MoPH was relatively successful in treatment of tuberculosis through DOTS as this treatment’s success rate was as high as 90% in 2005 when the application begun. However, further progress to add to this success rate was marginal. As it is stated in Table 6.1, not only that there was a slight decrease in 2008 (88%), it also barely increased from 90% in 2005 to 91% in 2012. No target for this indicator is decided.
7
ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Environmental sustainability can only be ensured through sustainable development; a systematic approach that requires a series of highly comprehensive studies, evaluations and actions prior to any developmental decision. As United Nation’s World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) puts it, sustainable development is a “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Sustainability

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is crucial because it is an issue that touches not only our life but that of our posterity as well. It was given particular attention when MDGs were proposed by the UN in early 21st century during Millennium Declaration summit.

Afghanistan – due to lack of a recognized government at the time – signed Millennium Declaration in 2004. To maintain its commitments after signing the Millennium Declaration, Afghanistan established new institutions to accomplish MDGs effectively. In the light of these commitments, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) was established as an independent agency with a clear mission to “protect the environmental integrity of Afghanistan and support sustainable development of its natural resources through the provision of effective environmental policies, regulatory frameworks and management services that are also in line with the Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals.”

In order to ensure environmental sustainability, principles of sustainable development have been incorporated into laws, policies and strategies of the country. MDGs – apart from covering other aspects of sustainability such as access to sustainable water, sanitation, housing and etc. - strictly require integration of principles of sustainable development into policies and programs of countries.

Target 12: Integrate the Principles of Sustainable Development into Country Policies and Programs and Reverse the Loss of Environmental Resources

To protect the environment and ensure sustainability, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) has developed 18 sets of laws, regulations, guidelines and procedures since inception. Moreover, Afghanistan is party to around 9 Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) and 3 protocols. The official process of Conventions on Migratory Species (CMS) and Nagoya Protocol have been finalized and proposed to council of minister for approval. NEPA has also strived towards wildlife protection. Hence, it has identified 138 species of animals and plants as protected and harvestable species that are prone to extinction and has enlisted them as (Red List) at the national and international level. In 2010, Wildlife management and hunting law was drafted and is in the pipeline with the Ministry of Justice. A Presidential Decree regarding the protection of Red listed species was issued and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan were developed and it is currently in implementation stage. At present, NEPA is working on assessment and development of scientific and administrative tools regarding protection of the endangered species which make up 3% of total indigenous species in Afghanistan.

Importantly, NEPA attempted to develop environmental curriculum and incorporate it into education curricula of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a specific subject on environment in both schools and higher education syllabus. Furthermore, it has carried out a structural reform to establish committees to promote wildlife protection, combat climate change and a board of expert for Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA). Additionally, environmental issues are given a cross-cutting importance in Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

Therefore, as long as integration of principles of sustainable development into country’s laws, policies, strategies and programs is concerned, Afghanistan is well on track towards achievement of its targeted goals and NEPA has played its role to promote sustainability by creating environmental awareness. It is important to note, however, that Rule of Law and law implementation still remain one of the major challenges in Afghanistan. For this reason, implementation of laws and policies is still not fully exercised. But NEPA is optimistic for collaborative management of resources.

12a) Proportion of land area covered by forest

Afghanistan’s forests have experienced negative impact of deforestation and degradation due to decades of war and anarchy in the country. Over the past few decades, more than half of Afghanistan forests were cut down illegally. They were either used as fuel wood, or smuggled outside Afghanistan as timber. Attempts however, to revive Afghanistan forests are currently underway. Uncontrolled chopping of jungles is curbed and, a number of ‘tree planting’ projects by Afghan government as well as the international community in Afghanistan have been carried out. As an example, one particular ‘tree planting’ campaign sponsored by USAID planted more than 1.2 million saplings of eucalyptus, poplar, shisham, and lucina in eastern Afghanistan in 2009. Similarly, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) reported planting of at least 14,182 new saplings from 2010 to 2012.

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Uncontrolled cutting of forest started when the government lost control over resources and doubled due to conflict during the past 3 to 4 decades. By 2003, only 1.6% of land was covered by forest, down from almost 4% in 1970s and this further decreased to 1.3% in 2008. Simultaneously, efforts to stop illegal logging as well as programs to replant new saplings were pursued nationwide between 2003 and 2008. Consequently, as show in Figure 7.1, initial positive signs were observed after 2008 when Afghanistan’s percentage-of-land-covered-by-forests started increasing. As of 2012, NEPA reported that proportion of land covered by forests went up to 2%. Given this, it is optimistically estimated that by 2015 at least 2.1% of country’s land will be re-covered by forests and the efforts will continue for further coverage beyond 2015.

12b) Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) with cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) has developed National Protected Areas System Plan for protected areas. The task of NEPA is to work on scientific issues and the development of administrative basis. MAIL is working on the management of protected areas.

NEPA’s achievement so far in this regard is declaration of Band-e-Amir as a National Park (protected area), the first national park of Afghanistan. Comprehensive assessment of other potential areas is underway to introduce as proposed national parks, wildlife reserves, sanctuaries, and natural habitat in the near future. Preparation and implementation of Bane-e-Amir management plan and development of Band-e-Amir protected areas committee.

As it can be noticed from Figure 7.2, the above mentioned activities have enabled NEPA to increase percentage of protected areas from 0.36% in 2010 to 0.5% in 2012 and achieve
its 2015 target ahead of schedule. Security in several areas, budget gaps and limited cooperation with stakeholders were flagged as key challenges in achieving this goal by NEPA.

12c) Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per US $1000 GDP (PPP)

For this particular indicator, no data is still available under Afghanistan context. As it was reported in Afghanistan’s 2010 MDG Report, no baseline data was set for this indicator and no clear data or even estimates were reported. The problem in Afghanistan with this indicator, as it is believed, is the measuring unit used for this indicator [kg oil equivalent per US $1000 GDP (PPP)].

12d) Proportion of species threatened with extinction

NEPA is working on evaluation and development of scientific and administrative tools regarding protection of endangered species. 3% of the native species are identified to be threatened with extinction.

In recent years, NEPA has worked on identification and categorization of existing species in the country with the support of international organizations. The study to identify species that are prone to extinction was carried out in 2010 for the first time in Afghanistan in its current extent. A list of threatened species (Red List) was compiled as base for protective measures. In 2010, Hunting and Wildlife Management Law and CITIES Regulation have been drafted and submitted to ministry of Justice. A Presidential Decree regarding wildlife protection and prohibition of hunting of species on Red List and it is now under implementation stage. Moreover, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) have been developed and are in implementation stage. NEPA is working to revise the NBSAP now.
As it is illustrative in Figure 7.3, NEPA is committed to avoid further increase of animals in Red List which it targets to maintain at 3% until 2020. One of the actions that NEPA has taken to avoid further increase of species in the Red List is strictly banning of poaching. It has introduced monetary fines and terms in prison for transgressors. Poaching – specifically hunting of fowls – was a common practice in Afghanistan previously.

Furthermore, a Presidential Decree was issued to ban smuggling of Afghan eagle and certain other Afghanistan’s indigenous birds that used to be smuggled out of the country in the past years. NEPA is committed to maintain the percentage of prone-to-extinction species at 3% to reach its targets of 2015 and 2020.

### 12e) Carbon dioxide emissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Emissions (metric tons per capita)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIGURE 7.4: Carbon dioxide emissions**

No target is set for the expected amount of carbon emissions for 2015 and 2020, but carbon emission has been on the rise since the baseline data was set to be 0.0371mt/capita by UN in the begging of the millennium. (This data point is rounded to 0.04mt/capita in Figure 7.4 below). NEPA is expecting carbon emissions to rise further in Afghanistan. This is based on the premise due to the current stage of development in the country. CO2 emissions are on a very low level on the industrial points of view, but the emissions from the other sources are considerable. The desired economic and social development requires increase in commercial and industrial production what will lead to higher incomes and by that to an increase in vehicular traffic, heating in winter months and other changes in the pattern of fuel consumption. According to NEPA, Afghanistan is party to the UNFCCC as LDC (Least Developed Country) (non-annex 1 party) and it is exempted to set and meet targets of GHG reductions currently. However, the government is committed to technological improvement and supports the use of renewable energies wherever feasible.
12f) Consumption of ozone depleting substances

There has been considerable success in reducing Ozone-Depleting Substances over the course of the past few years. As it can be observed from Figure 7.5, the use of ODS has steadily decreased from nearly a 100mt in 2006 to 17.34mt in 2012 surpassing its 21.10mt target of 2015. Through a UNEP supported Ozone Unit in NEPA, major achievements regarding ODS reduction were made possible. Chlorofluorocarbons, the most critical compound under ODSs, were fully phased out in 2010.

Consequently, by 2020 only 13.7mt of substances having ODP are expected to be emitted in Afghanistan and eventually phased out of the country in subsequent years after 2020. Finally, given the fact that NEPA with cooperation of UNEP managed to phase out CFCs consumption in Afghanistan and reached its target of 2015 as early as 2012, it can be inferred that the stated target of 2020 is achievable if these commitments and cooperation continue.

12g) Proportion of population using solid fuels

Proportion of population using solid fuels (mainly for cooking and heating) was set to be 100% in 2003 by NRVA as baseline data because Afghans were still mainly relying on firewood, bushes, coal and biomass for heating and cooking. With passage of time, people tended to use more natural gas and electricity (especially solar panels in the suburban Afghanistan) due to easy availability of gas in market and electricity coverage country-wide, thus reducing people’s dependency on firewood and coal. As a result, in 2008 and 2010, it was found out that 94% and 92% of people used solid fuels respectively and it is approximated that 91% of people used solid fuels in 2012. This percentage is expected to be reduced to 90% by 2015.
The stated target is likely achievable as in the next three years more cities will be connected to the national grid, thus resulting in increased percentage of people with access to electricity and decreasing their reliance on solid fuels consumption. Furthermore, local gas production is expected to increase as Sheberghan gas fields are being further explored currently. This will increase proportion of population having access to natural gas and hence reducing their dependency on solid fuels.

**Target 13: Halve By 2020, the Proportion of People without Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

Afghanistan government has set targets to provide access to an improved water source for at least 61.5% and to improved sanitation for at least 66% of the population by 2020. The status of achievements and the practicality of projections for this target are further discussed and analyzed under the following indicators. It is important to mention however, that there were discrepancies in collection and analysis of previous data regarding this target as in 2008 it was reported that 41.4% of people had sustainable access to an improved water source, but later in 2010 this data point was adjusted back to 27.2%. The latest data point is deemed to be more reliable as precision in data collection has increased in government institutions over the past years.

**Target Is Off Track**

13a) Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source (urban and rural)

The baseline value for proportion of population having access to improved water source was set to be 23% as of 2003. In 2012, MRRD reported that 31% of population in Afghanistan had sustainable access to an improved water source. The data points for the year 2008 and 2010 are 41.4% and 27.2% respectively. The latest data point for 2012 is 31.00%.

**FIGURE 7.6: Proportion of population using solid fuels**

**FIGURE 7.7: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source**
improved water source. The planned target for this indicator for 2020 is at least 61% percent of the population living in both rural and urban areas as it is illustrated in Figure 7.7. Speculating based on past performance, progress in this indicator seems behind schedule of 2020.

**Target Is Off Track**

13b) Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation (urban and rural)

As shown in Figure 7.8, progress in proportion of people having access to sustainable sanitation is marginal and has barely improved over past few years. The baseline data was set to be 12% in 2003, but in different surveys in 2008 and 2010 it was found out that only 5.2% and 5.1% of population had access to sustainable sanitation respectively. For 2012, MRRD reported that totally 8% of population has access to improved sanitation. It is expected that by 2020 at least 66% of population will have access to improved sanitation. However, considering the past performance of this sector, the targeted percentage of people having access to proper sanitation does not seem achievable at the moment. On the other hand, concerted and systematic efforts, particularly at major population centers, as well as rural areas are of imperative importance and required to improve sanitation. Afghanistan still lacks a proper sanitation system at the urban centers as well as suburban.

**Target 14: By 2020, To Have Achieved a Significant Improvement in the Lives of All Slum Dwellers**

Although there are attempts to reduce the number of slum dwellers, but under Afghanistan’s context it is important to note that slum dwelling is largely affected by Internally Displaced Persons or widely known as IDPs. A major proportion of IDPs in Afghanistan is caused by security concerns. As UNHCR term them “conflict-induced IDPs”, their mere reason for abandoning their abodes is lack of peace and security. As a result, escalation of violence in southern and southwestern parts of the country has
increased the number of conflict-induced IDPs in the recent years. Most of the IDPs have taken refuge in slums of major cities including the capital; thus increasing slum dwellers. They have also settled in barren lands in outskirts of the cities; therefore creating new slums.

Hence, slum dwelling issue is directly related with security issues of Afghanistan. When one side of Afghanistan is hit with violence, most of the residents of these violence-stricken regions head for safer refuges toward the major cities. Most of the cities on the other hand, are overpopulated. They already house in more people than the capacity that exist and therefore, strained to accommodate IDPs further. Nonetheless, IDPs do no seek comfort of major cities too. They are merely after a safe refuge. Consequently, they set up tents or build shacks in unused lands in and around the city and this have increased the proportion of slum dwellers.

On the other hand, slum dwelling in Afghanistan has other reasons beside security as well. The major reason for this phenomenon here is poverty and economic misfortunes. Initially, the government activities and programs for reducing slum dwellers were aimed at people who were living in slums due to poverty and economic reasons. Conflict-induced slum dwelling issue was added to the cause in recent years.

### Target Is Achieved

**14a) Proportion of households with access to secure tenure**

| MDGs expected targets for this indicator | were at least | 58.1% | and | 72.30% | by 2015 and 2020 respectively. |

These targets were set in 2005. However, in 2008 Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA) reported that and estimated 61% of population had access to secure tenure up from its scheduled target of

![Figure 7.9: Proportion of households with access to secure tenure](image-url)
2015 by almost 3 percentage point. Data for 2010 and 2012 for this indicator is not available presumably there is minimal increase from 2008 onward. Given this early achievement of 2015 target, the projected percentage for 2020 (72.3%) is likely to be achieved.

14b) Total slum population

As stated earlier, slum dwelling issue is largely affected by conflict-induced IDPs in Afghanistan. The baseline data for population of slum dwellers in Afghanistan was set by UN to be 2.46 million people in the 1990s during the civil war. However, during the preparation of first MDGs Report of Afghanistan, 2005 was set as a new baseline year but no new figure for this baseline was decided. The unofficial data point for this baseline was the UN estimated value of 1990s (2.46 million). Nevertheless, it was stated by MUDA that an estimated 4.5 million people lived in slums as of 2008 and a target was set to reduce this value to at least 1.54 million by 2015.

It is important to mention that the data points for 2010 and 2012 are not exact because it is expected that the constant and continuous back and forth movements of IDPs and slums denizens might have distorted proper data collection. But, it is certain that slum dwelling has increased as new slums have appeared in major cities created by those who were forced out of homes by conflicts. Rise in slum dwelling was not foreseen when target was set, but was subsequently caused by the ensuing conflict. The persons who have left their homes because of conflicts are likely to return back to their places once peace and stability is restored.

While due to the inaccuracy of data on actual slum dwellers and the target set for this indicator needs to be ascertained, meanwhile, the government has to devise a comprehensive strategy on either to resettle security related IDPs back in to their original areas in the event of peace and reconciliation with opposition armed groups, or they be integrated into newly adopted cities and urban areas.
A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT
MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL EIGHT
DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 8.1: Indicators for Millennium Development Goal 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target 15: Deal comprehensively and influence the provision of foreign aid</td>
<td></td>
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<td>through appropriate measures to enable Afghanistan develop sustainability</td>
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<td>in the long term</td>
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<tr>
<td>15a) Proportion of total bilateral, sector allocable (%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>49.99</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15b) ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education,</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.36</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15b) (alt.) Proportion of external budget spent on social sectors (</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24.96</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>education, health, rural development, social protection) (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15c) Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied (%)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>15d) ODA received as a proportion of GDP (%)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>15e) Proportion of ODA provided to help build capacity (%)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target 16: Develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>trading and financial system including a commitment to good governance,</td>
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<td>development and poverty reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>16a) Percentage of total export to countries with</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>which Afghanistan has a preferential trade agreement (%)</td>
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<td>Target 17: Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive</td>
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<td>work for youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>17a) Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>total (%)</td>
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<td>Target 18: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access</td>
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<td>to affordable essential drugs in developing countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>18a) Proportion of population with access to affordable essential</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>drugs on a sustainable basis (%)</td>
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<td>Target 19: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the</td>
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<td>benefits of new technologies, especially information and</td>
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<td>communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>19a) Cellular subscribers per 1,000 population</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19b) Internet users per 1,000 population</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
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Target 15: Deal comprehensively and influence the provision of foreign aid through appropriate measures to enable Afghanistan develop sustainability in the long term

A large amount of foreign aid flowed to Afghanistan since 2001. To a good extent the aid proved very helpful for Afghanistan and its people. Unfortunately, foreign aid was undermined to some extent by the lack of capacity, transparency, and overall inadequate aid effectiveness. These issues were soon realized and the international community as well as Afghan government discussed and agreed to undertake measures.
to increase aid effectiveness and transparency. As a result in 2005 the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was adopted.

The 2005 Paris Declaration is a key act on aid effectiveness in Afghanistan. The declaration refers to the effective management of aid at high levels through transparent mechanisms agreed between the donors and the recipient government. The focus of the Declaration is on the effective management of aid and not just its implementation and impact i.e. the process of aid management through agreed principles. Despite the Paris Declaration’s advocated principles, aid effectiveness in Afghanistan required measures beyond the technical nature, which also addressed the political aspects of aid.

Furthermore, there are many other factors which limit the effectiveness of aid in Afghanistan context such as insecurity, lack of national capacity, complex and multiple agendas, unclear goals, lack of effective coordination among the donor community and within the government of Afghanistan, as well as issues such as corruption and mismanagement.

After the Paris Declaration subsequent conferences took place such as London Conference, Kabul Conference and Tokyo Conference where key socio-economic and political issues were addressed and clearer commitments made to improve aid effectiveness in Afghanistan. Frameworks were established to make aid to Afghanistan more effective and accountable such as the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) which includes commitments on stronger monitoring of issues such as the introduction and implementation of reforms, good governance and fighting corruption.

In 2012 the Government of Afghanistan prepared an Aid Management Policy (AMP) which is structured around principles of increasing ownership of the Afghan government in the development process, enhancing alignment of aid with national priorities, and improving accountability. Furthermore, AMP aims to enable the government to achieve more with fewer resources and achieve better value for the aid money spent in Afghanistan. More importantly, AMP will provide policy framework that while not legally binding, is prescriptive enough in that it will help Afghanistan to reduce its reliance on foreign support and achieve self-reliance through more on-budget and aligned aid, to the tune of 50% and 80% respectively.

The commitments made by international donors and Government of Afghanistan toward increasing aid effectiveness and form an important basis of cooperation between the international community and the government of Afghanistan’s civil cooperation. The overall objective being is to effectively support taking Afghanistan towards self-reliance and less donor-dependency in years leading to 2024.
The level of aid channeled through the Afghan government budget has increased and donors have committed to ensuring more of their aid is ‘on budget and aligned to national priorities. Key to these negotiated and endorsed policies on aid effectiveness especially the AMP endorsement, it can optimistically be speculated that in future aid to Afghanistan will be more easily accounted for, and be better utilized for the improvement of life of ordinary Afghans. The government, through it National Priority Programs and AMP will work to ensure adequate provisions are in place to further ensure aid effectiveness, improved cooperation and accountability. The aid will be utilized to enhance the development of the country and improve the lives of ordinary Afghans.

It is therefore important to deliver aid operatively, it is vital that the international community and the Afghan government honor the key AMP agreement of at least 50% on-budget support and 80% support aligned with government priorities in order for the TMAF agenda and the agreed upon 22 NPPs as development delivery modalities to be effected.

15a) Proportion of total bilateral sector allocation

No Target Is Set

No baseline data was reported, however, the Ministry of Finance reported 13% for 2008 and 11% in 2010 as proportion of bilateral sector allocation. In 2012, MoF reported that 45.99% out of total aid disbursed was allocated to national sectors. A total of US$5078.30 million aid was disbursed from which US$2360 million is invested in ANDS sectors. No targets are set for this indicator.

15b) ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

No Target Is Set

As it is shown in Table 8.1, the baseline for proportion of ODA of OECD/DAC donor’s assistance for basic social services such as education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation was set at 26% in 2004. Furthermore, it was reported by Aid Management Directorate of MoF that this proportion counted for 14% in 2008, 13% in 2010 and 12.36% for 2012. It has decreased gradually over the past years.

15b) (alt.) Proportion of external budget spent on social sectors (education, health, rural development, social protection)

Target Is Achievable
As shown in Figure 8.1, the baseline data for proportion of external budget spent on social sectors, such as education, health, rural development and social protection was set as 28% in 2003 as reported by the Aid Management Directorate at MoF. The value for this indicator increased in 2008 to 34%, while sharply declined back in 2010 to 20%. However, it slightly recovered back and reached to 24.96% in 2012. It is targeted that proportion of external budget spent on social sectors will be 27.5% in 2015.

**Target Is Off Track**

15c) Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied (%)

Figure 8.2 shows the baseline for proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied was set 26% in 2003/2004 by MoF. It later increased to 44% in 2008 and 2010. As reported by MoF, in 2012, it slightly increased to 46%. The planned target for this indicator is 100% by 2015.

**No Target Is Set**

15d) ODA received as a proportion of GDP (%)

The baseline data for ODA received as proportion of GDP was set at 49% in 2003/2004 by MoF-IMF. This proportion sharply varied between 28% by 2008, 31% in 2010 and 24% in 2012. This serves the point as ODA will cumulatively decline over the coming
years to 2024 by then Afghanistan is to become self-reliant. Based on Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, Afghanistan government is bound and committed to improving government capacity to collect revenue on sustainable basis in order to reduce its dependency on foreign aid.

**Insufficient Data to Evaluate Progress**

15e) Proportion of ODA provided to help build capacity (%)

As it is shown in Table 8.1 the baseline for proportion of ODA assistance provided to help build trade capacity was set at 9% in 2005. It increased to 12% in 2008 and it is expected that 18% of ODA assistance will be spent on measures to build trade capacity by 2015.

**Target 16: Develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system including a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction**

16a) Percentage of total export to countries with which Afghanistan has a preferential trade agreement (%)

As it is stated in Table 8.1, the percentage of total export to countries with which Afghanistan has a preferential trade agreement was set to at 11.8% in 2006 by (CSO/MOCI) and this percentage increased to 20.7% in 2008 and further increased gradually to 27.7% in 2010.

Although Afghanistan has trade agreements with many countries, including major economies such as the US, European countries, Japan and China, it is proving difficult for Afghan traders to effectively access the markets in all those countries. The Afghan traders also tend to focus on those countries that are close by to Afghanistan where there are also ‘preferential’ trade agreements, such as Pakistan, Iran, India, Russia and Turkey. Access to these markets is easier given historic ties, minimal bureaucracy such as visa and travel related requirements, cost effective transportation, etc.
Total exports during 2011-2012 were recorded by CSO as US$376 million with the total share with the aforementioned countries is 86% of overall exports.  

Afghanistan has both advantages and disadvantages when it comes to trade. While it suffers from hardships common to landlocked and least developed countries, it can potentially benefit from its strategic location. For centuries Afghanistan has been a hub connecting Asia, Europe and the Middle East. With the proper infrastructure, the country could function as a land bridge, connecting landlocked countries in the north to the Iranian and Pakistani seaports in the south. For the central Asian republics and the Russian industrial centers of western Siberia, Afghanistan is potentially the shortest route to the open sea. Sharing borders with six neighbors, Afghanistan could link the region into an extended market of more than two billion consumers. 

**Target 17: Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Is Off Track</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>17a) Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total (%)</strong></td>
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</table>

The baseline data was set by (AIMS) in 2003 in which 26% of the young people were unemployed. The youths’ unemployment rate further increased to 47% in 2008 as reported by NRVA. Unfortunately, no reliable data is available as of 2012 but an ambitious of target 0% youths’ unemployment rate is set for 2020.  

Unemployment takes a heavy toll among young people who are particularly vulnerable to shocks in the labor market. Insufficient opportunities in order to enter the work market have compelled many to have a life of economic hardship. We have seen, all too often, the tragedy of young lives misspent in crimes, drug use and civil conflict. A high unemployment rate among youngsters in Afghanistan has also resulted in ‘brain drain’ where young person have moved to foreign countries.  

Much of the migrations happen through traffickers immigration routes to European countries and to Australia by sea. These hazardous journeys have resulted in many deaths.  

The exact rate of unemployment of young people in Afghanistan is difficult to assess because labor statistics are scarce. Most of data come from three sources: The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA), National Labor Survey 2005 and survey on urban labor markets conducted in 2007 by Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MLSAMD). These sources have major limitations and are inconclusive on employment of young people in the age category of 15-24 years old. Given this, no informed judgment can be on the achievability of the target by 2020 for this indicator.
Target 18: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

18a) Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (%)

As it is observed from Figure 8.4, the baseline data for proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs (medicines) on sustainable basis was set at 65% by WHO in 2003. In 2008 the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) estimated that almost 75% of population had access to essential drugs.

The public health services in Afghanistan have improved since 2001. The number of primary health care facilities increased to 2096 during 2011-2012 while in 2001, only 8 percent of the population was estimated to have access to basic health services with only 496 health facilities accessible in 2001-2002.

Public health spending focuses on the Basic Public Health Services (BPHS), which was established by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in 2003 to deliver high impact primary health initiatives. The BPHS cover all rural districts where services are delivered through a hierarchical network of facilities. BPHS is the essential Package of Hospital Services, which standardizes the budget for health services in Afghanistan. Allocated budget for health in Afghanistan in 2012-2013 was US$253 million which comprises 3.7% of the national budget. However, government capacity in service...
delivery is rather limited. The role of NGO and private sector in health services has increased and supported service delivery over the past decade.

Despite recent improvements, health services remain inadequate in Afghanistan. Shortages of medical professionals and unwillingness of medical practitioners to practice their profession outside major cities have affected rural areas (where majority of the population lives) disproportionately. Although there was progress in the country’s health sector in the past few years, but still a considerable proportion of the population seek the health services of neighboring countries, specifically Pakistan, India and to some extent Iran.

**Target 19: In cooperation with private sector make available the benefits of new technologies especially in information and communications**

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) has the mandate to provide high quality communication, IT and postal services for the Afghan people at affordable prices. The Ministry has been advancing for a positive change by introducing new and advance technology in the field of communication and information technology. One of the success stories of the government of Afghanistan after the Taliban regime is the achievement in the field of telecommunications which grew at an average of 60 percent during the last decade with commendable growth in 2012.

The telecommunications system of Afghanistan is much better in the region comparing to some neighboring countries. Afghanistan has 19,490,035 Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) subscribers, 169,691 Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA), and 91,575 landlines and at least 223,991 subscribers of 3G-Broadband Internet service.

![Graph](image.png)
19a) Cellular subscribers per 1000 population

The achievement of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is significant; though there remains a long road to ensure further success. As it is illustrative in Figure 8.5, cellular phone subscribers per 1000 populations grew astonishingly. The baseline was set at 1 out of every 1000 population in 2004 by UN. By 2008, MCIT reported that a minimum of 210 people used cellular phones in every 1000 of population. In 2010, the total subscribers of cellular phones reached to 500 subscribers per 1000 people reaching its 2015 target 5 years ahead of schedule. It even further increased to 547 subscribers in 2012. The Millennums Development Goals which were sets for Afghanistan is 500 subscribers per 1000 people by 2015. Basically, the planned target of MDGs for this indicator is already achieved by Afghanistan and the 2015 was achieved as early as 2012. The planned target by 2020 is for 800 subscribers of cellular phones per 1000 people.

19b) Internet users per 1000 population

Likewise, Figure 8.5 also illustrates Internet users per 1000 population which shows a gradual progress. The baseline was set at 0.7 per 1000 people in 2003 by UN and 17.2 in 2008. In 2010, the total Internet user increased to 37 per 1000 population. In current situation, approximately 55 individuals are using internet services out 1000 population. It is important to mention though that the Internet services are currently available for much more the number of the users, but due to unfamiliarity and disinterestedness in older generation and higher illiteracy rate in middle generation (mainly those who were born and raised up during the civil conflicts), the only portion of the population who are taking advantages of the available Internet services are the youngsters (mainly students), academics and academic circles, medias and white collar workers (both government and private sector).

Furthermore, MCIT is advancing in introducing new technologies such as 3G technologies all around the country. The process of issuance of license for 3G services has started. Three licensed have been issued to operators such as ETISLAT, MTN and ROSHAN. MCIT have also planned to issue another 3G license to AWCC in the near future. MCIT have planned to expand the users of 3G from 8% to 50% within next two years.

The current project of linking of universities, research and education networks of Afghanistan with each other inside the country as well as with international universities
and Europe’s and Sought Asia’s research centers is considered a major step towards increasing the overall internet users throughout the country.

Moreover, Afghan Telecom—the corporatized public telecom company of Afghanistan—drastically reduced its wholesale prices for Internet services recently. As a result, average prices for internet services dropped from US$900 per megabyte in 2011 to US$97 per megabyte in 2013. Given these initiatives, it is highly likely that Afghanistan will achieve the MDG goals by 2015 which is 200 internet users out of 1000 population.
Enhance Security
TABLE 9.1: Indicators for Millennium Development Goal 9

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20a) Military expenditure as a % of GDP</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20a (alt.) Military expenditure as a % of Public Expenditures (core + development budget)</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20b) Professional Training of the ANA (% of personnel having undergone a full training)</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20c) Nationwide fielding of the ANA (total of 13 Brigades)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20d) Operational Capability (Battalions with validated capability)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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| Target 21: Reduce the misuse of weapons, and reduce the proportion of illegally held weapons by 2010 |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 21a) Number of firearms licensed | NA | 5,385 | 12,062 | 17,944 | - | - |
| 21b) Gun crime, as a proportion of overall reported crime | NA | 10,754 | 8,550 | 12,617 | - | - |

| Target 22: Reform, restructure and professionalize the Afghan National Police by 2010 |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 22a) Citizen confidence in the police's ability to provide security and access to justice | NA | 70.80% | 71% | 75% | 100% | 100% |
| 22b) Ratio of reported (gun) crime to convictions | - | NA | 90.70% | 100 | 100 |

| Target 23: All emplaced antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2013. All other explosive contaminants destroyed by 2015 |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 23a) Number of high impacted communities | 281 | 74 | 654 | 107 | N/A | N/A |
| 23a (alt.) Hazardous areas (sq km) | 715 | 722 | 649 | 570.9 | 385.9 | 110 |
| 23b) Total number of impacted communities | 2,368 | 2,268 | 2,115 | 1717 | 1064 | 376 |
| 23c) Number of Afghans directly affected (Millions) | 4.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| 23d) Number of mine/UXO victims (deaths and injuries per month) | 100 | 58 | 42 | 30 | NA | NA |

| Target 24: All stockpiled antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2007. All other abandoned or unwanted explosive stocks destroyed by 2020 |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 24a) Number of stockpiled antipersonnel destroyed | 28895 | 62485 | 1658 | 2276 | 0 | 0 |
Security is critical for Afghanistan's stability and development. While the goal of security per se is important, lack of adequate security has direct impact on the socio-economic development in Afghanistan. Without adequate security, Afghanistan is likely to end up underachieved in many other areas of MDGs. Since 2001 government of Afghanistan and its international partners have worked together to enhance the security condition in Afghanistan. An important accomplishment for Afghanistan has been building and reforming the security apparatus of the state; since its re-establishment in 2002 the Afghan security forces have grown both in numbers and strength, are more professional, and capable.

Afghan National Army (ANA) has approximately 183,000 personnel, including 10500 Special Forces. The structure of ANA included 6 corps located in difference parts of the country, 1 division consisting of 2 brigades, and 24 additional brigades which also include 2 Mobil Strike Forces brigades are based in Kabul. The ANA has grown from an infantry-centric force to an army which is progressively developing in both fighting elements and enabling its capabilities. The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) participates in all, and led 92% of all operations from routine tasks to high-level operations, including special operations.

Afghan National Police (ANP) currently numbering approximately 151,000 personnel is comprised of: the Afghan Uniform Police, including the Community Police, Traffic Police, and fire-fighters; the Afghan Border Police; the Afghan Anti-Crime Police, including counter narcotic, a counter terrorism, and a criminal investigations department; and the Afghan Civil Order Police, which provides anti-terror response.
capabilities in urban environments. Additionally, the Afghan Local Police were also established in 2010 which is a village-focused force and has defense purpose only. It complements Afghan-led counterinsurgency efforts in rural areas with limited ANSF presence in order to enable conditions for improved security, governance and development. Currently consisting of 22,000 members it is on track to reach 30,000 members by the end of 2014, currently providing security in 106 of the 136 districts the force is tasked to provide security.

Similarly in accordance with presidential decree 62 which sought to dissolve from 17 August 2010 most of the Afghan and international Private Security Companies (PSCs) operating in the country and in effect their responsibilities were transferred to the newly established Afghanistan Public Protection Force (APPF). This force currently has 26,000 personnel, with exemption of fixed ISAF bases almost all private security companies are being replaced by the APPF.

Afghan Air Force (AAF) approximately has 6,700 personnel which include aircrew and maintenance and support personnel. The AAF possesses a fleet of 92 fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. The re-establishment of the AAF however began later than that of the Army and Police and is expected to transform to autonomous operations by 2017.

The transition of security to Afghan forces which was conducted in five phases has been completed. The process was based on comprehensive analysis by the Afghanistan National Forces of the threat-levels according to which the strategy for the process was mapped out. This entailed the process implementation is rolled-out and expanded from areas with lower level security threats. In the first phase of security transition, the ANSF took responsibility of 32 districts of 7 provinces that cover 21% of overall population of Afghanistan. In this phase of security, transition of 14 districts of capital and 18 districts from other parts of the country were covered. Importantly, during this phase, Lashkargah district of Helmand province which was one of the insecure provinces in the country was also included.

In the second phase of security transition from coalition forces to ANF, 106 districts with an overall 27% of population was covered. This phase included transition of security for Balkh, Samangan, Nimroze, Daykundi, Takhar and many parts of Parwan, Badakhshan and Saripul provinces.

In the third phase of security transition, Afghan National Forces stepped-up and took security responsibility of more than 118 districts in total covering 76% of population of the country. Under this phase, the transition process of Kapisa and Uruzgan as well as some parts of other provinces were covered.
In the Fourth phase of transition, government of Afghanistan took responsibility of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kunduz, Sar-e Pul, Ghazni, Wardak, Badghis, Farah, Ghor and Herat Provinces. This phase counted for the total coverage of 87% of population.

In the last phase of transition the Afghan National Forces completely (100% of population) took the responsibility of security of the country from International Coalition Forces led by US and NATO.

**Target 20: Reform and professionalize the Afghan National Army by 2010**

20a) **Military expenditure as a % of GDP**

Target Is Achievable

According to Development Cooperation report released in 2010 by Ministry of Finance, 61% of international donation from 2002 till 2010 was allocated to the security sector. In 2008, the overall expenditure of Afghanistan in security sector was 2.3% and increased to 4.5% in 2010 and subsequently to 4.8% in 2012 as percentage to GDP. As can be noted from Figure 9.1, the Military Expenditure as a percentage of GDP has steadily increased since 2008. In 2012, however, almost USD 8.847\(^8\) billion was spent through off-budget sources on the security sector.

![Figure 9.1: Military Expenditure as Percent of GDP and Public Expenditure](image)

20a) (alt.) **Military expenditure as a % of Public Expenditures (core + development budget)**

Target Is Achievable

The overall expenditure in military in 2012 is 19.8%\(^9\) of total expenditure of Afghanistan government. In 2012, the increase in security expenditure is due to transition of

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\(^8\) Development Cooperation report 2012

\(^9\) Annual Fiscal Report 1391 (2012)
responsibility to Afghan forces from international forces and increase that has occurred in the number of national forces personnel. Expansion of operations and mobilization of national force across the country is the main among the reasons for the increase in proportion of security in national budget.

**Target Is Achievable**

20b) Professional Training of the ANA (% of personnel having undergone a full training)

While no value was recorded for 2010, the baseline was set 42% and in 2008, 60% of the ANA had undergone full training, the data for 2012 shows a marked improvement with 90% of ANA having undergone full training.

**Target Is Achievable**

20c) Nationwide fielding of the ANA (total of 13 Brigades)

While value for 2010 was not recorded, however, from 2008 with 80% nationwide fielding of the ANA, there is a further 10% increase bringing the entire nationwide fielding of the ANA to a 90%. While the trend has been one of an increasing fielding of the ANA, but reason for the current increase, and until 2015 which is a 100% target will be the full transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan forces and by 2014 by when the International Forces will have fully ceased combat activities.

**Target Is Achievable**

20d) Operational Capability (Battalions with validated capability)

The operation capability of ANA has improved over the past few years. Similarly under this target, an improvement is recorded against the 80% value for 2010.

**Target 21: Reduce the misuse of weapons, and reduce the proportion of illegally held weapons by 2010**

**No Target Is Set**

21a) Number of firearms licensed

The Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program is in progress and this program helped the government to disarm the illegal armed groups/militants. The existence of arms around the country is still a challenge. At the same time, this program (DDR) continues in order to reintegrate the militants and armed groups in to the peace process. The numbers of licensed firm arms or legal arms holders have remained on an increasing trend. With the number of estimated number if firearms in 2008 were 5,385, this increased to 12,062 in 2010 and the figure for 2012 is 17,944.
1) Gun crime, as a proportion of overall reported crime

Ministry of Interior (MoI) has registered the total number of gun crimes 10,754 in 2008 and it constantly decreased to 8,834 in 2009 and 8,550 in 2010. Unfortunately however, the gun related crimes peaked again in 2011 and it continued to 2012 to 11,604 and 12,617 respectively.

MoI reports number of gun crimes separately as an indicator, not as a proportion of overall reported crimes. Therefore, values for gun crimes in proportion to overall reported crimes are unclear as data for overall crimes are not reported. Gun related crimes are illustrated in Figure 9.2 as total cumulative number of crimes in a given year.

Target 22: Reform, restructure and professionalize the Afghan National Police by 2010

2) Citizen Confidence in the police’s ability to provide security and access to justice

Confidence of citizens in police’s ability has improved during the past years. In 2008, 70.8% Afghan population had confidence in police’s ability to provide security and access to justice, while this percentage has improved in 2012 to 75%.

![Perception of ANP (2012)](image)
A survey was conducted by EUPOL in 2011/12. The survey indicates that the Afghan’s public assessment of the Afghan National Police (ANP) is “mostly positive”. Four out of five respondents agree that the ANP is honest and fair with the Afghan people and a similar proportion say the ANP helps to improve security. Around three quarters (74 percent) feel that the ANP is professional and well trained. On the other hand, almost two third say that the ANP needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself but these perceptions of Afghan security institutions are as the reports state “consistent over time.”

**Target Is Difficult to Achieve**

22b) Ratio of reported crime to convictions

While the reports claims that "many crimes and forms of violence continue to go unreported", it is also mentioned that those who report it most often approach the Afghan National Police (44%). "This may be both because of the mandate of the police force and the high level of confidence respondents say they have in the efficiency of the ANP in arresting those who have committed crimes", states the survey. Besides, there are also other government agencies where crimes are reported to. Furthermore, the reporting rate of crime or violence to informal institutions is higher in 2012 compared to 2011 and reporting rates to tribal leaders/Maliks and mullahs have doubled. This is mostly true for rural areas where local Shuras and Jirgas still remain the most trusted and accessible conflict resolution mechanism for Afghans.

In 2012, a total number of 12617 cases of crimes were committed in the country. Out of this number, 10927 cases were convicted making almost 87% of the committed crimes. It is important to mention that 16738 people were arrested for these crimes and average of 1.33 individuals per crime.
Target 23: All emplaced antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2013. All other explosive contaminants destroyed by 2015

23a) Number of high impacted communities

The baseline for 2005 was 281. The number of high impacted communities was reduced to 107 in 2012. Due to changes in the level of priorities as a result of population movement/migrations and unpredictable changes in the way a piece of land gets used in the country, it is challenging to predict how many high impacted communities will exist in 2015 and 2020.

23a) (alt.) Hazardous areas (sq km)

The baseline for 2005 was 715 square kilometer. In year 2012, 570.9 sq km hazardous areas required clearance. According to Afghanistan’s 10 year extension request to the Ottawa Anti-personnel Mine Ban Treaty, there will be 385.9 sq km contaminated area in 2015 and 110 square kilometer contaminated area in 2020 which will require clearance, providing that no more hazardous areas are created or discovered.

23b) Total numbers of impacted communities by mines and ERW

The impacted communities reached to 1,717 in year 2012 and according to Afghanistan’s extension request to the Ottawa Treaty, there will be 1,064 impacted communities in year 2015 and 376 communities in year 2020.

23c) Number of Afghans directly affected by ERW

The number of affected people during 2012 reached to over 1 million, and according to the Afghanistan’s extension request to the Ottawa Treaty there can be around 0.4 million people affected in 2015 and 0.2 million in 2020.
23d) Number of mine/UXO victims (deaths and injuries per month)

As a result of proper prioritization, survey and clearance of the most needy areas, as well as implementation of the mine/Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) risk education for population of most of the affected areas, the casualty has decreased considerably over the past decade. The baseline was set to be 100 death/injuries per month whereas in 2012, this value was reduced to 30 death/injuries per month. The targeted value for this indicator is 0 deaths/injuries per month after 2020 as Afghanistan’s request was accepted by Ottawa Convention in December 2012 to extend the deadline for clearing hazardous areas to 2023.

Target 24: All stockpiled antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2007. All other abandoned or unwanted explosive stocks destroyed by 2020

24a) Number of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines destroyed

Afghanistan has completed the destruction of all known stockpiled anti-personnel mines in 2007. However, after this year some previously unknown stockpiles of anti-personnel mines were discovered. A total of 4,512 anti-personnel mines were destroyed in this process after 2007. With this the total of stockpiled anti-personnel mines destroyed is 517,949. In addition to this 30,217 anti-tank mines were also destroyed.

24b) Number of remaining ERW stockpiles to be destroyed (total unexploded ammunition)

Based on the survey conducted in 2002 by the Afghanistan's New Beginnings Program (ANBP) for the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD), there were about 100,000 metric tons of ammunitions existed in Afghanistan. Out of this total 39,818 tons are surveyed so far, 9,733 tons were found serviceable and are moved to the MoD bunkers, and the rest (30,085 tons) of unserviceable ammunitions are destroyed. Beside the above figures, 330,011 kg ammonium nitrate, 62,921 kg potassium chloride and 35,550 kg urea have also been destroyed till August 2013.

In conclusion, Afghanistan has made significant progress in addressing the challenge of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). By clearing over 21,000 hazardous areas with a total size of 1,857 sq km resulting in discovery and destruction of 1.2 million landmines and over 16 million items of ERW, as well as destruction of 30,085 tons of unserviceable ammunitions. Over 2,200 communities and 123 districts are entirely declared freed from known landmine and ERW contaminations. The civilian casualties due to mines and explosive remnants of war are reduced by 80%.
In 2005, the total area of known hazardous area was 715 sq km. However, previously unrecorded and a few newly contaminated hazardous areas have been identified since 2005, resulting into a highpoint of 1,231 sq km contamination in 2007. As a result of the clearance operations, now the known hazardous areas have been reduced to 534 sq km (43.4% reduction). This reflects an actual achievement of 697 sq km as of 31 July 2013. The obligations under the Ottawa Treaty’s article 4, to destroy all known stockpiled anti-personnel landmines have been achieved by Afghanistan. Afghanistan’s request for extending the deadline for clearing all known landmine and ERW contaminated areas was approved by the state parties to the Ottawa Convention in December 2012, resulting in setting a revised deadline of March 2023 for completing the clearance of known hazardous areas.

Target 25: Reduce the contribution of opium to the total (licit and illicit) GDP to less than 5% by 2015, and to less than 1% by 2020

25a) Eradicate poppy cultivation by 2020 (hectares cultivated)

In 2012, 158,000 hectares of poppy plantations was eradicated. The poppy cultivation is an international challenge and need international effort. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made a survey on Afghanistan opium in 2012 and the finding shows a reduction of 3% share in GDP. Similarly in 2011, 17 provinces were announced free of opium cultivation and the income per hectares reduced from 10,700$ in 2011 to 4,600$ in 2012 which indicates a 57% reduction. This report also indicates average opium yield (weighted by area) reduced from 44.5 kg/ha in 2011 to 23.7 kg/ha in 2012 with percentage of 47% reduction. However, it is also important to mention that in its Afghanistan Opium Risk Assessment 2013, UNODC reported that only 14 provinces were free of opium in 2012/13. There are no major changes in 7 provinces in
poppy cultivation while it has decreased in Herat and has increased in 12 other provinces.

**Target Is Achievable**

25b) Reduce the number of Afghans dependent on opium for their livelihoods by 75% by 2015 and by 90% by 2020 from the 2005 level (Millions)

In 2003, at least 1.7 million people sourced their livelihood from opium. MGDs target require this number to be reduced by 75% to 425,000 people by 2015 and to 170,000 (90% reduction) by 2020. However, due to challenges and problems, Afghanistan government is committed to reduce this number only to 600,000 people in 2015 and 200,000 people in 2020.
4.0 CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING MDG GOALS

4.1 Data Collection

Two decades of conflict and war had left Afghanistan’s institutional systems devastated. The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and most government agencies and institutions suffered enormous destructions. The CSO is confronted by serious human resource, material and physical constraints. Other ministries and agencies responsible for compilation of results and other data at the sector levels encounter similar difficulties.

Surveys, required for MDGs, encounter huge difficulties in collecting gender disaggregated data. It is difficult to get information on women’s dietary diversity, health care seeking practices, vaccination history, and morbidity history. It is difficult to recruit women enumerators to go to the insecure southern and eastern areas. Data collected by male enumerators could be under question as women are not open to male enumerators. But CSO has made efforts in recruiting female enumerators.

4.2 Various Data Sources

Reported data in Afghanistan are usually from variety of sources. While Afghanistan’s Central Statistics Organization is considered to be the sole provider of information and data in Afghanistan, other organizations within the government and from international partners also provide data, and they use different methodologies in data collection, analysis and reporting. This has caused disparities in data for most of Afghanistan’s developmental indicators.

For example, while CSO estimates the population of Afghanistan to be 27 million people, international partners in Afghanistan reports this indicator anywhere from 30 to roughly 35 million people. On the other hand, many of the developmental indicators are reported based on proportion of population such as per capita, per 1000, per 100000 (For example, reporting of prevalence and death rates of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and so on. Therefore, when the population is different between one source and another, other data are affected automatically as well.

Generally however, as long as data collection, analysis and reporting are concerned in Afghanistan, it is widely affected by one or more of the following characteristics associated with data: missing, insufficiency, irregularity and unreliability.

4.3 Security

Security is considered to be the most prevailing challenge. It has largely affected data collection by local and international institutions in Afghanistan. Lack of access to certain
regions has bogged down data collection. CSO staff had been killed during the pre-census data collection process. NRVA had to leave large portions of three provinces due to security concerns. Data collection from regions that are safe to enumerate can only create incomplete and un-objective data on which MDG milestones cannot be based, making proper performance measurement a farfetched dream.

4.4 Capacity

Human development in Afghanistan is showing improvement in the health and education indicators. Public administration and services have gradually been restored, especially in respect of health, education, rural development and finance. The issue of inadequate human resource capacity and thus low institutional capacity in planning, implementing and monitoring MDGs is a major source of concern in Afghanistan, as in most fragile post-conflict states.

Considering its limitations, the government has defined its role as the policy maker and regulator and contracts out implementation of the development programs addressing MDGs. For instance, to increase its capacity the government has brought in technical support for key management functions of the process.

However, there are tendencies for donors to by-pass the government and engage in direct execution without consultation or accountability to the government. Such ways might have increased speed of implementation. Yet such an approach is ultimately detrimental to the state building agenda and fails to develop sustainable capacity.

Capacity building ultimately depends upon nation’s human resources and therefore, eventual massive investments in education will augment building of national capacity.

4.5 Lack of Coordination

While collected data for MDGs Report 2012, progress was heavily compounded by lack of coordination within the government, with and within the international partners and donors. Sometimes a single area of need or sector is surveyed by different survey teams (government, NGOs or other institutions and organizations), which creates confusion, raises expectations and eventual bitterness when planning promises are not realized, with no impact on livelihoods of communities surveyed. This highlights the need for coordination of surveys and use of national data sets. Harmonized work between the international community and the government (represented by CSO) will result in coordinated planning and undertaking activities for priority results attainment with promising advances towards MDG targets.
4.6 Financial Constraints

A key constraint to MDG achievement continues to be lack of domestic financial resources, which all fragile states experience. Afghanistan’s growth rate has been double digits in most years over the last decade. Yet, Afghanistan is largely dependent on donor financial resources for long term development, which will not enable the country to overcome the constraints in meeting the Afghanistan MDGs easily.
5.0 CONCLUSION

Heavily overshadowed by obstacles pertaining to a war-stricken and one of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Afghanistan present a mix but in most part an optimistic picture. While progress in certain target areas are merely marginal and some of the indicators’ status is behind schedule and off-track, yet on the other hand progress is commendable in other areas where targets for 2015 are met as early as 2010 and certain other indicators are well on track towards their targets, or considering the challenges and obstacles in Afghanistan progress in other areas are satisfactory.

Despite of the huge flows of aid, Afghanistan seemingly lags in its strive for poverty-reduction and to achieve the intermediate target of reducing poverty to 24% by 2015. Complete data on poverty status is not available; the preliminary data shows non-significant level of improvement since 2007-08. While poverty is multi-dimensional and in Afghanistan social factors such as household size, literacy and level of education of both male and female, health etc. which has unique correlation with poverty are acknowledgeable, however more directly pertaining are issues of growth and productivity, particularly in the agriculture sector which absorbs the largest (over 60%) segment of the society, as well as other areas where interventions could have positive and effective impacts.

Enhancing growth and productivity in the agriculture sector should be viewed to generate income, employment, substituting excess imports in food stuff, also ensure food security for the poor. While social factors as mentioned above have relation with poverty, so does poverty negatively impact and bog down progress in the mentioned areas such as health, education etc. For example children in very poor families are subject to choice and incentive between to attend school and form of a job.

It is important that there is policy focus on overcoming structural impediments to growth and productivity across all sectors (including through improvement in infrastructure and access to energy); including private sector development through capacity development, access to finance and market, as well as enhancing trade. Social safety nets and social protection programs are also essential and a vital component to short-term poverty mitigation in Afghanistan.

Moreover, overcoming the negative impacts of transition which is likely to have on underemployment particularly in services and construction which are relatively labor-intensive sectors, and overall economic growth, will also need to be mitigated. As the transition may ensue with reduction in aid; while this will be followed by further expenditure prioritization in the development spheres by the Government of
Afghanistan, it is imperative that there are policies and interventions in place that focus achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in particular poverty alleviation which is to be also viewed from the perspective of socio-political harmony in Afghanistan’s context.

Progress and lack of progress across all areas factors must be viewed from the circumstance the country faced over the past three decades and as a post conflict state with its own distinct challenges and obstacles. From this point of view and in addition to evaluating progress per goals and targets, progress in most of the MDGs has been encouraging and satisfactory.

With regards to the human and social development components/goals, achievement has been impressive. Afghanistan is well on-track to achieve the goal of universal primary education. Areas that require more focus should be primary completion rate and the literacy rate, although progress on these two indicators are satisfactory, to raise the level of improvement in par with the overall progress that has been staggering within this goal.

Per capita student investment in the education sector is still the lowest in the region for Afghanistan which is $60 as compare to $250 in Pakistan and over $600 in Iran. Improving education environment, such as facilities which include school building that are lacked by over 40% of established schools, and seeking betterment in quality of education must also remain central objective for the Ministry of Education which without a doubt requires more resource mobilization.

The improvement in female education is an achievement in itself for Afghanistan. However, overcoming obstacles for girls’ enrolment rate at secondary education and further in tertiary education would require persistent policy focus to overcome the challenge in medium to long term as an important developmental objective one which directly affects improvement in many of the other MDGs from poverty to fertility rate, child health and social emancipation, and economic productivity.

Gender equality political and economic spheres should also be viewed as process and in the context of the factors distinct to Afghanistan that affects it. The Afghan economy is still underdeveloped and women participation in the formal economic sectors is still one of the lowest in the region. On the other hand, ratio of women representation in district, provincial and national representative bodies in Afghanistan is exemplary in the region and in other Least-Developed and Developing countries which is 25%. While women representation in political seats is low, it has improved in appointed seats.
Supply side investments, supported with demand side policies, can assure progress. In Afghanistan, investments in education, health, water and sanitation can bring about rapid change in life conditions of the poor.

Free access to HIV treatment and prevention will help save lives and spread of the disease. Investments for free supply of water, sanitation housing and other basic infrastructure in poorer slum areas will help improve health and increase life expectancy.

Mass immunization (for certain diseases, already practiced), distribution of bed nets (for malaria prevention) and antiretroviral drugs in rural areas will save lives. However, targeted and disease specific interventions are best provided through public sector and not through parallel mechanisms. Health and education services provided through public sector have proved to be less costly and more equitable. In the interim period, in the absence of adequate public sector capacity, service delivery through contracting NGOs has worked well in Afghanistan.

In situations of stability, wherein the governance functions well, support of civil servants taking policy leaderships and pushing for actions are critical in moving MDGs. In conflict states, however, wherein government is not as functional and coordinated as desirable, non-state actors could be invested with the responsibility of service delivery under government contracts. The latter policy has proved to be successful in Afghanistan with delivery of health programs, NSP and girls’ community education programs.

As mentioned earlier, provision of preferred access to girls to health education and productive assets will help progress across all MDGs in Afghanistan. Girls’ enrolment in schools is definitely associated with better nutritional intake and better sanitation in families. Strengthening maternal health helps progress across all MDGs. Providing infrastructure to households with energy sources and water frees girls to attend schools, earn an education and prepare them to earn an income.

Targeted interventions, including targeted social protection and employment programs are critical for all MDGs acceleration. Supporting diversification of livelihoods away from environment or climate sensitive activities is important. Low carbon activities benefit households through supply of clean energy and employment creation in non-agricultural activities. Traditional energy sources cause indoor air pollutions with health hazards. Resources to finance adaptation to climate change must be additional to current aid flows to Afghanistan.
Domestic resource mobilization is the primary source of sustainable MDG financing. Broadening the tax base and improved tax collection can potentially raise significant resources. However, changes in tax structure should not impose heavy burden on goods and services that the poor consume more. Afghanistan’s revenue mobilization has been on target and through the Kabul Process significant initiatives will be launched to mobilize revenue. Revenue expenditure must be well planned to address some of the priority MDG areas in order that Afghanistan does not have to depend fully on external assistance for MDG progression.

Global partnership needs to strengthen in support of MDGs, which does not imply only increase in volumes of aid but support in capacity building; policy support; incentives and rewards for improved progress towards MDGs; increased efficiency and finally, depoliticization and demilitarization of aid in support of MDG needs based development. Therefore the issue of Afghan-ownership is an important pretext towards the mentioned objectives.

There is an important synergy across the MDGs where acceleration in one goal speeds up progress in other where lack of progress in another goal bogs down improvement in other(s). This realization is important for effective and efficient interventions.

Finally, sustained focus and concerted efforts with resource mobilization both domestically and internationally can ensure continuity in progress in favor of all MDGs, and wherever progress has lagged, otherwise there is risk of considerable shortfalls for Afghanistan to achieve its MDGs targets by 2020. With political will and commitment, the identified gaps between performance and expectation can be filled, and future trends do not necessarily have to be predicated on past performances.
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ANNEX

(Afghanistan map according to the United Nations)