

# **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**1432 H**  
**2011 G**



Ministry of Economy and Planning



United Nations Development Program

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رقم الإيداع 1426-7222  
ردم ISSN 1658-2705

**IN THE NAME OF GOD  
THE COMPASSIONATE  
THE MERCIFUL**



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## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CDSI	Central Department of Statistics and Information
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse
GHA	General Housing Authority
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KACST	King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce & Industry
MOEP	Ministry of Economy and Planning
MOH	Ministry of Health
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SFD	Saudi Fund for Development
T.B.	Tuberculosis
WFP	UN World Food Programme
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme





## INTRODUCTION

Over the nineties of the past century and the post-2000 years, several international summits and conferences were convened, with the aim of formulating a common development vision that would respond to the existing needs and new challenges within a framework of partnership at both the national and international levels. A large number of topics were addressed, including: population, social development, women and gender equality, human settlements, children, old age, education, human rights, information and communications technology, sustainable development and other issues. These forums succeeded in generating a substantial momentum for attaining harmony and integration of efforts and intensifying action at all levels in order to achieve the stated objectives.

International efforts to stress the fundamental links among peace, security and development, as well as to provide a comprehensive vision for development and progress, were crowned by the "Millennium Declaration" made by a summit of 147 heads of state, organized by the United Nations in September 2000. Subsequently, a system was developed to monitor implementation progress to achieve a set of 8 general goals known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Achieve universal primary education.
- Promote gender equality and empower women.
- Reduce child mortality rate.
- Improve reproductive health (maternal health).
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Ensure environmental sustainability.
- Develop a global partnership for development.

Twenty-one targets, derived from the general goals, are to be achieved by 2015, and 60 indicators, several for each target, have been developed to monitor implementation and measure achieved progress.

Implementation of the MDGs is monitored at both the international and national levels. At the international level, the UN Secretary General submits to the UN General Assembly a comprehensive progress report. At the national level, each country is required to prepare national reports that reflect progress towards achievement of the MDGs.

The objective of the national reports, which feature indicators and analysis of progress, is to inform decision-makers and gain their support, and ultimately reach the formulation of adequate policies. The reports also aim at mobilizing the participation of all economic, social, and political institutions and the media to achieve the MDGs.

Out of its keenness to adopt global visions in this regard in accord with its fixed norms and values, and its great concern to monitor progress towards meeting the MDGs, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued its first national report in 2002, followed by a second report in 2006 and a third one in 2008 and a fourth one in 2009 and a fifth report in 2010. The present report is the sixth in the series. All six reports were prepared by the Ministry of Economy and Planning, in close collaboration with the relevant government agencies, and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The present report charts the progress made by the Kingdom towards achieving the MDGs at four levels:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Development of the IT environment, making it possible to speed up achievement of the MDGs, through considerable expansion of databases.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Integration of the MDGs into sustainable development, as decided by the development plans in general and the Eighth and Ninth Development Plans in particular.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. Persistent efforts to achieve, even surpass, the MDGs ahead of the schedule set by the UN.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. The considerable momentum in development assistance extended by the Kingdom to support MDGs implementation in developing countries.

Saudi Arabia's Development Plans constitute the cornerstone of the endeavours to achieve the MDGs. Not only do these plans aim, through clarity of strategic vision and mobilization of human and financial resources, to consolidate work at the above mentioned

levels, but also through ensuring harmony and partnership between national and global efforts aimed at supporting international development and peace.

Follow up of implementation of the MDGs in the Kingdom demonstrate that the targets set for a number of goals have already been surpassed, while others are expected to be reached well ahead of schedule, as can be seen from current growth indicators. Indeed, a wide range of targets have already been reached or are well on their way towards achievement before 2015. It is worth noting in this regard that the Kingdom has already achieved good results towards attainment of the following goals:

- Eradicate extreme poverty.
- Ensure that all children, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
- Eliminate gender disparity in primary, intermediate, secondary and tertiary education.
- Reduce mortality rate of children under five years old.
- Achieve universal access to reproductive health services.
- Reduce maternal mortality.
- Reduce the spread of AIDS.
- Achieve universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS to all those who need it.
- Reduce the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
- Reduce the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
- Significantly improve the lives of slum dwellers.

In the context of monitoring progress made towards achievement of MDGs, Saudi Arabia has established comprehensive databases for socio-economic development indicators and developed adequate mechanisms for the process of monitoring them. These databases and mechanisms are subject to regular updating. It is noteworthy that the MDGs constitute part of the general objectives of the socio-economic development plans, and thus they are in live with the long term development directions. This allows follow up of MDGS achievement within the objectives, programs and projects of the development plans.



## MONITORING AND EVALUATION ENVIRONMENT<sup>(\*)</sup>

Target	Ability to Conduct:					Quality of Survey Data
	Data Collection	Statistical Follow-up	Statistical analysis	Incorporating Analysis into Policy	Monitoring / Evaluation	
<b>1. Extreme poverty:</b> By 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from extreme poverty.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>2. Employment</b> Achieve full, productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>3. Nutrition and food security:</b> By 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>4. Education:</b> By 2015, ensure that all children have access to primary education.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>5. Gender equality:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, and in all levels of education by 2015.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>6. Health and mortality rate:</b> By 2015, reduce to one third the mortality rate of children under five years old.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	Good <u>Medium</u> ✓ Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>7.</b> By 2015, reduce to one quarter the maternal mortality rate during births.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>8. Reproductive health</b> Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
<b>9. AIDS</b> By 2015, halt and begin to reduce the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor

Target	Ability to Conduct:					Quality of Survey Data
	Data Collection	Statistical Follow-up	Statistical analysis	Incorporating Analysis into Policy	Monitoring / Evaluation	
10. Achieve by 2010, universal access to treatment from HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
11. By 2015, halt and begin to reduce the prevalence rate of malaria and other major diseases.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
12. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into government policies and programs and end the loss of environmental resources.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	Good <u>Medium</u> ✓ Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
13. Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	Good <u>Medium</u> ✓ Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
14. <b>Environment and Water:</b> By 2015, halve the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
15. <b>Housing and Overcrowded Quarters:</b> By 2020, achieve tangible improvement in the lives of slum dwellers.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor
16. Cooperate with the Private sector to make use of technology benefits, particularly ICT.	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor	<u>Good</u> ✓ Medium Poor

(\*) MDG8 (Develop a Global Partnership for development) includes 5 targets, which are implemented, monitored and evaluated by the UN. Therefore, they are not included in this list.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED<sup>(\*)</sup>

Target	Will Target be Achieved				Current status of Supporting Environment			
<b>1. Extreme poverty:</b> By 2015, halve the proportion of people who suffer from extreme poverty.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID*	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>2. Employment</b> Achieve full, productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.	Expected	<u>Probable</u> ✓	Not Expected	ID	Good	<u>Moderate</u> ✓	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>3. Nutrition and food security:</b> Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger within the period (1990-2015)	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>4. Education:</b> By 2015, ensure that all children have access to primary education.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor

Target	Will Target be Achieved				Current status of Supporting Environment			
<b>5. Gender equality:</b> Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, by 2005, and in all levels of education by 2015.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>6. Health and mortality rate:</b> By 2015, reduce to one third the mortality ratio of children below five years old.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>7.</b> By 2015, reduce to one quarter the maternal mortality ratio during births.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>8. Reproductive health</b> Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor



Target	Will Target be Achieved				Current status of Supporting Environment			
<b>9. AIDS</b> By 2015, halt and begin to reduce the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>10.</b> Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment from HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>11.</b> By 2015, halt and begin to reduce the prevalence rate of malaria and other major diseases.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
<b>12.</b> Integrate the principles of sustainable development into government policies and programs and end the loss of environmental resources.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor

Target	Will Target be Achieved				Current status of Supporting Environment			
13. Reduce biodiversity loss and achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss by 2010.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
14. <b>Environment and Water:</b> By 2015, halve the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
15. <b>Housing and Overcrowded Quarters:</b> By 2020, achieve tangible improvement in the lives of slum dwellers.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor
16. Cooperate with the Private sector to make use of technology benefits, particularly ICT.	<u>Expected</u> ✓	Probable	Not Expected	ID	<u>Good</u> ✓	Moderate	Poor but improving	Poor

(\*) MDG8 (Develop a Global Partnership for development) includes 5 targets, which are implemented, monitored and evaluated by the UN. Therefore, they are not included in this list.

(\*\*) ID = Insufficient Data.

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK

## CURRENT SITUATION

Since several year ago, Saudi Arabia witnesses tangible economic prosperity and progress in all domains of socio-economic development which produced tangible improvement in all human development indicators such as standard of living, health and education services, environmental conditions as well as potentials of comprehensive development.

Socioeconomic indicators reflect this progress. Over the period (1999-2010), the national economy achieved an average annual real growth rate of 3.4%, with per capita income reaching around SR61,875<sup>(\*)</sup> (\$16,500) by the end of this period. Moreover, diversification of the economic base increased, with the share of non-oil sectors<sup>(1)</sup> constituting some 75.7% of total real GDP in 2010, despite the remarkable growth of the oil sector in recent years.

The Saudi economy also realized growing integration into the global economy, with the ratio of foreign trade in commodities<sup>(2)</sup> to GDP reaching some 80% by the beginning of the first year of the Ninth Plan (2010). Concerning foreign trade structure, the non-oil merchandise exports share in total exports increased from around 8.5% in 2000 to some 14.3% in 2010. On the other hand, the share of imports of consumer goods in total imports has declined, which is an indicator of increased reliance on domestic products and their improved competitiveness.

## DIRECTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

The Kingdom adopts the development planning approach in mapping out its socioeconomic policies and programs within the framework of comprehensive five-year

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<sup>(\*)</sup> Preliminary data.

<sup>1)</sup> At constant prices.

<sup>2)</sup> Merchandise exports and imports.

plans that involve two basic complementary roles: directive role concerned about state institutions and the public sector, and an indicative role concerned about the private sector. In this regard, the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014), sets the directions for all aspects of the country's socio-economic development for the next five years. The plan also addresses expected major challenges, along with the policies, programs and resources required to meet these challenges and to achieve development goals and objectives.

The Plan marks a new stage in the process of development planning, which extends over the past four decades, and constitutes the second phase in the strategic path of the national economy over the coming fifteen years. The MDGs are part and parcel of the goals of this strategic path.

## **BASIC ISSUES**

The following issues hold a strategic position in the Kingdom's development process:

### **❖ *Raising Standard of Living and Improving Quality of Life:***

As of the beginning of its development planning approach, the Kingdom succeeded in increasing its income many-folds, with per capita income growing at an average annual rate of 3.9% over the period 1990–2010. This domestic growth was accompanied by a similar improvement in human development indicators, thus ranking the Kingdom on the fifth place among "countries with the fastest progress" in human development. And 55 among 169 countries in the global human development index<sup>(3)</sup>.

### **❖ *Diversification of Economic Base:***

Ever since the start of development planning, diversification of the economic base has been a principal objective of economic and social development. The development process placed emphasis on enhancing the role of non-oil sectors in the national economy. Indeed, notable success has been achieved, as reflected in the contribution of these sectors to the real GDP increasing from 57.6% in 1970 to 75.7% in 2010. Nevertheless, developing the

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<sup>3)</sup> *Source: Human Development Report, 2010 issued by the NUDP (Real Wealth of Nations: Paths of Human Development).*

non-oil sectors to raise their share in production activities as well as in exports remains one of the main development challenges. It should be noted that diversification of the economic base is a key direction of the Ninth Development Plan. The significance of this direction is due to its being a necessary condition for building a modern and stable economy.

❖ *Enhancing Non-Oil Revenues:*

Oil revenues have been the main engine of development. Despite expansion and diversification of the economic base, oil revenues remain the main source of state budget that finance investment and operational expenditures. However, as oil resources are non-renewable, increasing focus has been given, through the development plans, to enhance diversification of the economic base as well as non-oil public resources.

❖ *Balanced Regional Development:*

Efforts made under the country's successive development plans have succeeded, to a great extent, in making tangible progress in reducing regional disparities. Improvement in this area is expected to continue during the Ninth Plan period in light of the approved programs and projects which aim at developing infrastructure and public services, and other necessary public facilities, along with a drive to build a production base that primarily draws on individual regions' particular development resources and stimulating private investment to move to less developed regions.

❖ *The Move to a Knowledge-based Economy:*

The Kingdom has intensified its efforts, particularly during the periods of the Seventh and Eighth Development Plans to develop its technological and knowledge capacities with a view, to lay the foundations of an advanced, internationally competitive and knowledge-based economy that can keep pace with the accelerating global advancements of knowledge and technology. These efforts aspire to domestically generate, spread and utilize the said advances. In this regard, several key developments took place during the recent years. Among these were the initiation of implementation of the "Expanded Five-Year Plan for the National Science and Technology Policy"; approval of the "National ICT Plan", adoption of the "National Industrial Strategy" and setting up its implementation mechanisms, besides endorsing the "Strategy for Supporting Talent, Creativity and

Innovation", In addition, construction of the Economic Knowledge City in Medina was initiated, and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) was inaugurated and the first batches were graduated. Furthermore, approval was given to construct the Dammam Technology Zone. Moreover, "the Future University Education Plan of the Kingdom (AFAQ) 1450" was approved.

❖ *Enhancing Competitiveness:*

Saudi Arabia is endowed with several resources and capabilities that constitute promising input for development of competitive advantages in production of many goods and services. This is backed up by persistent national efforts aimed at institutional and administrative reform; creation of a business-friendly environment; improving the investment climate; upgrading of performance efficiency of government agencies, and enhancing the drive towards a knowledge-based economy. These efforts have borne fruit, leading to improved ranking of Saudi Arabia in international reports. For example, the Kingdom ranked 11<sup>th</sup> among 183 countries with respect to ease of doing business (2010); and the Global Competitiveness Report (2010-2011) ranked Saudi Arabia 21<sup>st</sup> among 139 countries. Such efforts are adopted and pursued as key directions for the Ninth Development Plan.

❖ *Development and Productive Employment of Human Resources:*

Through considerable investments targeted to developing the education and training sector, human development indicators have shown notable gains in the past two decades. However, demand for labour surpassed Saudi labour supply in many professions, necessitating recruitment of large numbers of expatriate labour to meet the demand. This has created a situation that poses a key challenge for Saudization of jobs.

However, the need to match outputs of education and training with the skills and modern specializations required to meet development requirements has gained increasing significance over the past few years, as the mismatch has given rise to structural unemployment among Saudis.

The Ninth Plan has given considerable attention to human resources development, through

improved enrolment ratios in various education stages; development of the education system to ensure quantitative and qualitative response to development requirements and new challenges, and through expansion, development and wide-scale deployment of vocational training programs in all regions of the Kingdom.

❖ ***Sustainability of Natural Resources:***

Water resources constitute a vital issue for the Kingdom, due to the fact that the largest share of water consumed for agricultural, municipal and industrial purposes comes from non-renewable resources. Accordingly, requirements of sustainable development urge for rationalization of water consumption, and more reliance on conventional renewable water resources ... etc.

On the other hand, conservation of agricultural land and protection against degradation or desertification is a major challenge facing sustainable development. The same applies to forestry resources conservation and development as well as protection of the environment.

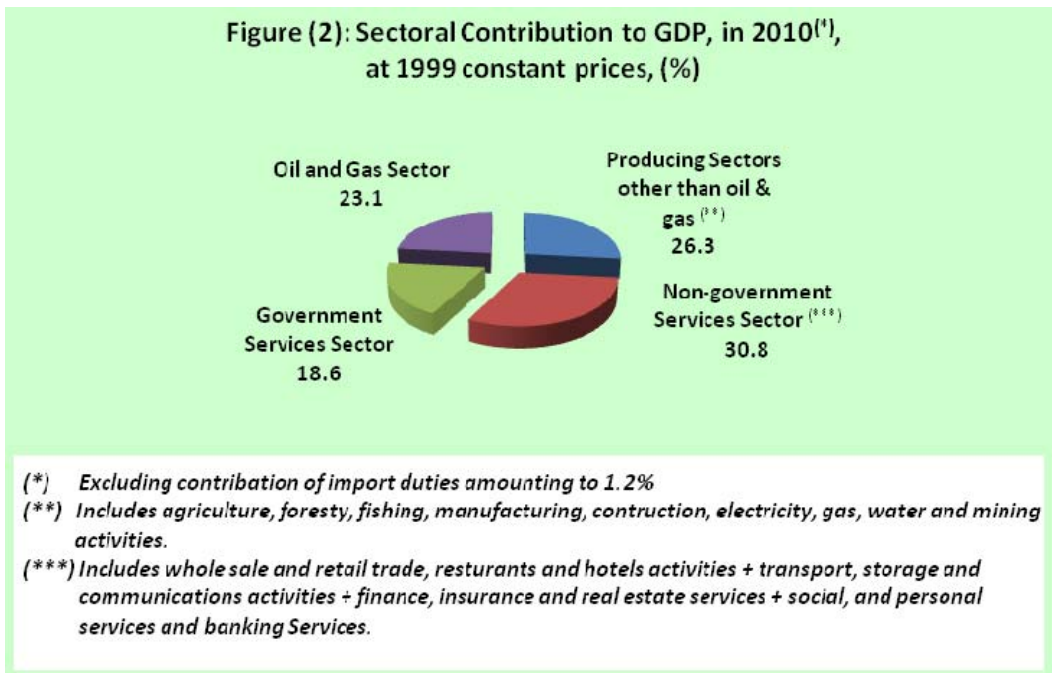
## **SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENT**

A set of integrated factors support the Kingdom's development process. Key among these are:

- ***A Successful Development Experience:*** Despite recency of the development planning approach, the Kingdom has made significant achievements reflected in all sustainable development indicators. These achievements have been enhanced by proper setting of development priorities throughout the successive development plans, with each plan bearing adequate relevance to prevailing conditions, while ensuring continuity of the development effort.
- ***Advanced Infrastructure and Services:*** All regions of the Kingdom are covered by modern infrastructure for transportation, telecommunications, electricity, water, sanitation, and a distribution network for oil products, as well as by health, education, training, social and other services.

- ***A Unique Experience in Developing New Comprehensive Development Hubs:*** The Kingdom has built two industrial cities in Jubail and Yanbu in record time. The two cities have attained a distinguished status in the petrochemicals industry, both regionally and internationally. As part of the drive to enhance and consolidate spatial diversification in the national economy, work has started during the Eighth Plan in implementing four new economic cities to serve as new development hubs: King Abdullah Economic City in Rabigh, Prince Abdulaziz Bin Musa'ed Economic City in Hail Region, Economic Knowledge City in Medina, and Jazan Economic City in Jazan Region.
- ***An Active, Entrepreneurial Private Sector:*** The private sector enjoys a high degree of dynamism, contributing some 57.2% of real GDP in 2010. The sector's activities cover all existing fields. The sector possesses adequate financial and management capabilities and is a major partner in the development process.
- ***A Conducive Institutional and Organizational Environment:*** Over the period covered by the Eighth Development Plan, efforts were focused on institutional and administrative reform. Several measures and decisions were taken to enhance performance efficiency of the public sector, and promote a regulatory environment in a way that ensures a motivating business and investment environment and enhances the efficiency of the socio-economic development process.
- ***Advantageous Geographical Characteristics:*** The Kingdom occupies a strategic geographic position, with its sea ports and airports linking the three continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. This unique geographical position provides the Kingdom with great potential in air, sea and land transit services and re-export of goods and enhances the efficiency of the socio-economic development process.





**Box (1): Selected Ninth Development Plan Objectives (2010–2014)**

- To safeguard Islamic teachings and values, enhance national unity and security, guarantee human rights, and consolidate the Arab and Islamic identity of the Kingdom.
- To enhance human development, expand the range of options open to Saudis to enable them to acquire and use knowledge, skills and expertise, and provide appropriate healthcare services.
- To raise the standard of living and improve the quality of life for all citizens.
- To give special attention to the welfare of low income groups and address their problems, particularly the poor and needy families.
- To give priority to employment of Saudi manpower.
- To increase women's participation in economic activity and provide support services to enable their participation.
- To build a united family, where man and woman collaborate to raise family economic, social and cultural standing, develop knowledge and skills among family members, promote a sense of responsibility and initiative towards their community as well as integration in society within a framework of values that draw inspiration from Arab and Islamic heritage.
- To achieve an integrated educational system that lays a strong foundation for the general education base in the Kingdom, supported by well trained and highly qualified educational resources that are capable of developing and upgrading the capabilities of students as well as helping them acquire cognitive and innovative skills, with knowledge society requirements serving as the underlying principle.
- To achieve a balance between economic and natural resources and population growth rates, and to attain optimum utilization of the current and future age structures of the population.
- To develop, conserve and rationalize consumption of natural resources, particularly water, and protect the environment and develop relevant regulations within the framework of sustainable development.

### General Indicators (2010)

Indicator	Values
* Population (million)	27.14
* Population growth rate (%)	2.21 <sup>(4)</sup>
* Real GDP (billion US dollars)	232.4
* Per capita GDP, at current prices (thousand US dollars/year)	16.5
* Life expectancy at birth (years)	73.6
* Literacy rate (% of 15-24 age group)	98.0
* Fertility rate (average births per woman)	2.98
* Ratio of foreign debt to GDP (%)	0.0
* Ratio of investment <sup>(*)</sup> to GDP, at current prices (%)	34.7

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<sup>(4)</sup> Saudis only.

<sup>(\*)</sup> *Gross capital formation ratio.*



## GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

### TARGET 1:

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.

Target Indicators	2004	2006	2007	2008	2009
• Proportion of families whose income is below two dollars a day per person (Purchasing Power Parity). (%) <sup>*#</sup>	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.06
• Extreme poverty gap (%)	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05

\*) *Extreme poverty line has been estimated at about \$2 a day per person.*

#) *On average, a Saudi family consists of 6 members.*

### TARGET 2:

Achieve full, productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

Target Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
• GDP growth rate per working individual	–	–	14.6	34.3	6.9	4.6	20.9
• Employment to population ratio	–	–	22.9	30.5	13.2	31.1	30.9

\*) *Revised data.*

### TARGET 3:

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Target Indicators	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
• Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age (%)	6.4	5.6	5.25	5.29	5.3

## CURRENT SITUATION

Poverty reduction is a central objective of economic and social development. However, poverty is not limited to material deprivation, but has many other dimensions such as hunger, lack of adequate shelter, inability to secure medical treatment, lack of access to or drop out of education and schooling, illiteracy, and unemployment. In a strict sense, however, poverty refers to inability to satisfy basic living needs for food, clothing, shelter and healthcare, due to low and limited income. Thus, combating poverty and its ramifications takes many forms that cut across sectors and approaches.

Wide availability of educational, health, and social security services in all parts of the Kingdom to all targeted and needy groups has confined poverty to small pockets. However, citing the fact that poverty is limited is not meant to detract from the importance of combating it; but merely to put it in its right perspective in order to provide the necessary remedies for it.

As a result of the major steps and effective measures taken to accelerate all aspects of socio-economic development, the Kingdom has made considerable progress in its efforts to contain and to restrict poverty to limited pockets. Within the framework of eradicating all levels of poverty, Saudi Arabia prepared the National Social Development Strategy (Box 1.1). Led by the Ministry of Social affairs, the strategy adopts a comprehensive perspective with respect to the poverty problem and the mechanisms to be pursued in addressing the problem. Under this strategy, poverty rates will be reduced through improvement of living conditions of the poor. Efforts in this regard will seek to increase income levels of the poor, provide them with basic services, upgrade their education and health levels, develop their capabilities and skills and, enable their effective participation in the development process. However, the focus of the strategy is not confined to addressing the poverty issue, as it also stresses maintaining the living standard of other citizens, particularly middle income groups, with efforts seeking to help them avoid falling into the poverty trap.

The Kingdom's efforts to contain poverty have borne fruit. Data available under the National Social Development Strategy indicate that the proportion of Saudi households living under the extreme poverty line (food poverty) stood at 0.08% in 2004, but declined to some 0.06% in 2009, amounting to a drop of 25%. Thus, The Kingdom has achieved the

MDG goal of eradication of food poverty well ahead of the target year of 2015. Another positive aspect in this regard is that the Kingdom has set the extreme poverty level at near two US Dollars per person per day, which exceeds the MDG level of one US Dollar.

**Box (1.1): Features of the National Social Development Strategy**

**A. Fundamentals of the Strategy:**

- To provide the poor with opportunities to build and enhance their financial and human assets, by providing job opportunities, credit, education, training and health services and through improving market access to their products.
- To enhance the capability of the poor to participate effectively in economic activities.
- To improve living standards of the poor by enhancing their ability to face health, natural and economic risks, and providing them with assistance in case of disasters or emergencies.

**B. Strategy Themes:**

1. Balanced economic development.
2. Economic empowerment and employment of the poor.
3. Human resources and capital development.
4. Expansion of the social safety net.
5. Improving institutional environment and administration.

The following section reviews the Kingdom's efforts in addressing the poverty pockets within two themes. First, progress made in the social safety net. Second, Saudization initiatives.

■ ***Social Safety Nets:***

In line with the Social Development Strategy, a wide range of social and economic services are being provided to the poor and groups with special needs, through programs run by the Ministry of Social Affairs and by community organizations. Following are the key steps taken by the government to achieve MDG1:

**First:** A program on "complementary support" has been introduced. The objective of the program is to close the gap between actual income (of households, individuals and extremely poor people) and the poverty line, based on studies of shifting poverty lines officially approved in the Kingdom. Total support given under the program amounts to SR264 million per year.

**Second:** A financial support of SR300 million per year is allocated to the Social Charity Fund, to help reduce poverty and support achievement of the following objectives:

- To offer interest-free loans to the needy people who are capable of work, to help them set up small-scale investment projects.
- To contribute to capacity development of the needy persons through orientation and training.
- To contribute to locating job opportunities for needy persons who are partially or completely unemployed.
- To develop and support "producing families" programs that target needy segments of the population.
- To contribute to the creation of business incubators for small enterprises.
- To raise awareness of the needy people regarding available training and job opportunities that match their capabilities.
- To enhance social involvement in combating poverty
- To help relevant organizations identify the requirements of needy people for health, education, housing, social and other services.
- To strengthen the role of charities in helping needy people help themselves.
- To coordinate with relevant agencies to facilitate procedures related to interests of the needy.

**Third:** Increasing by SR82 million per year the funds assigned for orphans and people with special conditions, in order to cover subsidies to foster families, school benefits, end-of-foster-care benefits, marriage support, and allowances for residents of orphanages.

**Fourth:** Developing an "Emergency Assistance Program" for families under the absolute poverty line facing emergencies exacerbating their suffering, such as death, sickness or imprisonment of the family provider, sickness of children, fires or natural disasters. The maximum amount of such assistance depends on the nature of each case and the degree of suffering.

**Fifth:** Increasing the amount assigned for charitable societies from SR100 million to SR300 million per year.



**Sixth:** Increasing assistance to the disabled as well as patients suffering from renal failure, cancer, hysteresis, and other incapacitating diseases, to SR 2851 million in 2010.

**Seventh:** Raising the ceiling of social security benefits for each family from SR16,200 to SR34,200 per year. As a result, social security allocations increased to SR15.2 billion in 2010 (excluding supporting programs costs).

**Eighth:** Seeking to offset price increases and the rise in the cost of living, a number of decisions were taken. These include:

1. Addition of a cost of living allowance, at a rate of 15% to salaries of government staff and retirees.
2. Continuing to subsidize basic goods so as to mitigate the effects of sharp price hikes.
3. Banning all sorts of monopolistic practices and reconsidering the system of commercial agencies to prevent monopolies.
4. Intensifying price monitoring efforts.
5. Continuing to review procedures related to medicines pricing and registration.
6. The government would incur for three years 50% of the fees for passports, traffic licenses, transfer of vehicle ownership and fees for renewal of residence permits of domestic labor.

**Ninth:** The government provides direct social care services to needy segments through a number of specialized institutions of the Ministry of Social Affairs. These provide the following services:

- Services to disabled special needs persons, with a total of 8111 beneficiaries. Physical, sensory, psychological, and complex disabilities are covered by these services. Domestic care programs have also been supported through payment of benefits to families of handicapped and paralyzed persons. 208945 cases benefited from these programs. Budget allocations for these categories totalled SR2.9 billion in 2010.
- Juvenile care and observation services, with 15,768 beneficiaries in 2010.
- Services of social nurseries, girls and boys social care homes, institutions for paralyzed children, and care homes for the elderly.

**Tenth:** The government provides several other social security services through a number of specialized institutions. In 2010, expenditure on social security assistance and support programs totalled some SR17 billion on the following services:

- Welfare salaries paid on a monthly basis to orphans, elderly people, disabled persons who cannot work, women and families without a provider, and children with unknown parents.
- Welfare assistance program, which seeks to improve living conditions of low-income groups. A maximum of SR30,000 is paid per case.
- Productive projects program. The objective of this program is to train social security beneficiaries through skill development or offering of work tools.
- School-bag-and-uniform program. This program is offered to beneficiaries' children less than 18 years old who continue their education, and is designed to provide recipients with school requirements. 165,000 male/female students benefited from this program.
- Partial payment of electricity bills: Under this program, Social Security pays part of the electricity bill, based on the number of family members covered by welfare. Some 220,000 persons benefited from the program.
- Furniture program, which seeks to create an adequate environment for a better life through improved housing conditions of beneficiaries. The program is conducted in cooperation with public and private stakeholders in the context of social partnership. A comprehensive program with a budget of SR300 million has been approved in this respect.
- Cash assistance program for food purposes, aimed at helping beneficiaries provide for their food needs. An amount of SR836 million is spent every month under this program.
- Complementary support program, which seeks to close the gap between actual income of extremely poor families and individuals, and the poverty line. In 2010, some SR1,320 million have been allocated under this program.

**Eleventh:** Civil society institutions play an important developmental role within the activities of the social safety net in the Kingdom. Private charity institutions play a major role in providing care and social support to the poor and needy. The total

number of these societies reached 605 in 2010 of which 37 are female societies. Programs of charity societies, which are spread throughout the Kingdom's regions, cover wide and varied areas such as: maternal and child care, care for the elderly and the disabled as well as care for orphans and special needs people, besides combat of illiteracy, training of women in selected occupations and activities, and offering of health services. In areas not served by government social development centres, local committees are formed to achieve social objectives of the local community. Available data indicate that total of 364 local committees were in operation in 2010.

With the increased attention given to civil society institutions and enhancing their developmental role, the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014) called for strengthening the vital role of these institutions. At the strategic level, the Eleventh Objective stressed the significant role of the non-governmental organizations in the development process. This objective states "Support civil society institutions in advancing their developmental activities". The Plan also comprised a wide range of policies and mechanisms for implementation of the strategic vision related with supporting non-governmental organizations in advancing their activities, including, inter alia,: supporting, regulating and improving the performance of charitable and voluntary work so as to enhance their contribution to social development; increasing the participation of woman and civil society in the efforts of boosting the developmental role of the Saudi women; enhancing participation of the civil society institutions in activating the developmental role of the youth;... etc.

**Twelfth:** Several decisions were issued to improve living conditions and quality of life of citizens in general at the beginning of 2011. Foremost among these decisions are:

- Raising the maximum number of members of a family covered by social security from 8 to 15 persons, thus bringing the maximum annual allocation of a family with 15 members to SR58080.
- Enhancing social security supporting programs foremost among which are: producing family program, furniture program (for needy persons houses), school bag and uniform program, purchases coupon program, water and electricity bills subsidy program, houses renovation program for beneficiaries

of social security. An amount of SR3.5 billion has been allocated for this purpose.

- Expanding and developing services provided by social care and social development through several projects including: increasing allocations of persons with special needs and upgrading capacity of their rehabilitation centers, expansion in opening day care centers for male/female juveniles care institutions, increasing allocations of foster families and developing females vocational and crafts training programs. An amount of SR1.2 billion has been allocated for this purpose.
- Increasing subsidy allocations provided to charity societies by 50% to reach SR450 million per year.
- Supporting cooperative associations by an amount of SR100 million per year.
- Supporting programs designed for supporting needy students in the Ministry of Education schools to include summer and winter clothing as well as school bag and uniform program, supporting Takaful Charitable Society and allocation of SR476 million per year for this purpose.
- Supporting enrolment of needy families sons at universities through allocating a share of admission seats to sons of such families along with facilitating their admission conditions, exempting them from aptitude and attainment tests fees, exempting them from academic fees at applied study colleges and giving them priority in the university housing programs and temporary positions within universities.
- Fixing the 15% cost of living allowance within the basic salary for government sector employees.
- Endorsement of a temporary financial assistance for youth job seekers at the level of SR2000 per month.
- Adoption of a minimum salary level for all Saudi government sector employees at the level of SR3000 per month.
- Approval of construction of 500,000 housing units in all regions of the Kingdom with an amount of SR 250 billion already allocated for this sector, thereby bringing the total amounts allocated for the construction sector to SR

275 billion.

- Raising the ceiling of housing loan by REDF from SR300,000 to SR500,000.
- Increasing the capital of the Saudi Credit and Saving Bank by SR20 thousand million and adding the sum of SR10 thousand million, already deposited in the bank, to the capital of the bank, thereby raising the total increase in the capital to SR30 thousand million.
- Supporting the capital of REDF by an additional amount of SR40,000 million.

### ■ *Saudization Initiatives:*

The Kingdom has been keen to address the challenges associated with unemployment and the need to create more job opportunities to citizens. Over the past two decades, the concept of Saudization of jobs has emerged and has come to represent an unrelenting direction in the Saudi development endeavours.

A significant development in the Saudization drive has been the finalization of the Saudi Employment Strategy (Box 1.2)<sup>5</sup>. The strategy is designed to serve as reference for addressing manpower and employment issues in the Kingdom. It sets out a vision to "provide quantitatively sufficient and adequately paying job opportunities that lead to full employment of Saudi human resources, and which achieve a competitive advantage to the national economy". The strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 260 of 5/8/1430 (2009).

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<sup>5</sup>) Ministry of Labour, "Saudi Employment Strategy", Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2009. pp. 24-25.

### Box.1.2: Objectives of the Saudi Employment Strategy

Long-term (6-25 years)	Medium-term 3-5 years	Short-term 2 years	
Achieve competitive advantage based on national human resources	Reduce unemployment rate	Control unemployment	Phased objectives General objectives
Achieve full employment	Increase employment growth rates	Increase employment rates	Achieve full employment
Achieve highest possible participation rates	Increase participation growth rates	Increase participation rates	Sustainable increase in participation of
Achieve highest possible labor productivity level	Increase labor productivity growth rates	Increase labor productivity	Raise labor productivity to standards of developed economies

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

As a result of its above mentioned developmental efforts, the Kingdom of Saudi has achieved the major elements of the first Millennium Development Goal ahead of 2015, the year set by the United Nations. As growth is a precondition for sustainable progress in achieving the first MDG along with related targets, it is planned to raise Saudi per capita income by an average annual rate of 2.9% during the Ninth Plan. In order to ensure that growth benefits and fruits will be shared by the poor and economically and socially vulnerable groups, further and deeper utilization will be made of social care and social safety net services along with provision of rewarding jobs to all who are capable and willing to work.

Accordingly, social care services and social safety net systems will be applied intensively. This will include assistance in cash and in kind, support for prices of basic foods and services including housing, social care homes, and enabling needy families to do rewarding work. Continued support will also be given to efforts that are aimed at development of capabilities of the national work force, providing sufficient and rewarding jobs, developing the competitive capabilities of the national manpower, and expansion and upgrading of labour market services leading up to full employment of the country's workforce (Box 1.3).

## **CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

The principal challenge to eradicating poverty stems from its multi-dimensionality, for it intersects with most aspects of economic and social development, with progress towards that goal requiring parallel progress towards other development goals at both the macroeconomic and the sectoral levels. Therefore, increasing income in general, and of low-income groups in particular; attaining balanced development; creating job opportunities for all Saudis, particularly women and young men, with the requisite education and training of manpower; eradication of illiteracy; and provision of health and social care and other public services; all constitute inputs for a lasting, radical resolution of the issue of poverty. The policies and programs of the Ninth Development Plan address these challenges.

On the other hand, international experience demonstrates that poverty remains a serious threat to vulnerable groups no matter how advanced a society may be. It is thus imperative to create an effective social protection network, supported with an effective system of monitoring and evaluation, capable of not only curbing and combating poverty when it emerges, but also of preventing it from happening. The creation of such a network is a continuing challenge for control of poverty.

**Box (1.3): Selected Targets, from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014),  
Relevant to MDG 1**

**In the field of social care and social safety nets**

- To continue to pay subsidies for needy cases, namely families of special needs members, paralyzed children, foster families, marriage of residents of social care homes, individual projects for handicapped persons as well as social security payments and assistance.
- To provide assistance to social welfare beneficiaries in the following areas: payment of medical treatment costs, subsidy to reduce cost of purchase of basic consumer needs, payment of electricity and water bills, renovation and furnishing of houses, provision of school bags and uniforms for school children of social security recipients.
- To provide personal care to residents of institutional care homes who are incapable of serving themselves, as well as to disabled persons and paralyzed children, elderly people, and children in social care homes.
- To expand services of social care institutions in the regions where these services are needed: create 14 social guidance homes, 12 social care homes for girls, 6 social observation homes, 8 orphan children's villages, 4 social education homes for boys, 7 guest houses for girls, 5 elderly care homes, 21 social protection centres (for victims of domestic violence), 10 rehabilitation centres, 15 social security offices, and 6 development centres.
- To continue to pay local development subsidy and provide support to allow continued offering of local development activities and programs.
- To encourage creation of and provide support to new cooperative societies.
- To encourage creation of and provide support to new private charitable societies.
- To support studies and research in social development and social care.
- To enable needy families to undertake rewarding work, through:
  - Providing adequate, rewarding job opportunities to individual members of needy families
  - Turning an increasing share of needy families into productive families.
  - Enabling the largest possible number of needy families to have micro projects of their own.

**In the field of employment of national manpower:**

- To raise educational and practical qualification level of the Saudi workforce in order to meet the requirements of moving into the knowledge society.
- To improve productivity of the Saudi workforce to boost their competitiveness in the labour market.
- To achieve relative balance in the wage structure and employment in the labour market.
- To increase labour market participation rates and support economic empowerment opportunities for Saudi women.
- To control and rationalize expatriate recruitment in a way that will reduce unemployment.
- To improve and expand labour market services in order to meet the requirements of globalization and to enhance GCC integration prospects.



## **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

The development planning process adopted by the Kingdom provides a framework for studying, analysing and evaluating all factors affecting the living conditions of the population. Furthermore, the Ninth Development Plan serves as a comprehensive, integrated program for economic and social development, giving high priority to issues relevant to poverty reduction, such as improving living standards and quality of life, balanced regional development, human resources development, diversification of the economic base, ... etc. The plan would, therefore, enhance effectiveness of policies and improve the chances of attaining the stated objectives related to improvement of the standard of living in general and poverty in particular.

It is noteworthy that the Kingdom's available resources represent one of the key factors in improving chances of achieving this goal. These resources ensure direct and rapid response to this phenomenon, particularly preventing its occurrence and alleviating its consequences. This will be realized through social security and safety mechanisms until permanent solutions are reached which may require longer time for maturity.

The Kingdom also enjoys advanced institutional and organizational capacities represented in the civil societies spread throughout the Kingdom. These societies play a pivotal role in the provision of support and care to the needy segments of the society, and hence, their work integrates with work of the government-run specialized centers and institutions.

<b>Box (1.4): Overview of Current Situation</b>			
<b>Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?</b>			
<u>✓Expected</u>	Probable	Not possible	No Answer due to Insufficient Data
<b>Supportive environment</b>			
<u>✓Good</u>	Moderate	Poor but Improving	Poor

**Box (1.5): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

Relevant Factors	Evaluation		
Data collection capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate results of analysis into policies and resource planning	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor

## GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

### TARGET 4:

Ensure that, by 2015, all children, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Target Indicators	1990	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
• Gross enrolment ratio in primary education (%)	82.0	96.5	97.3	98.3	98.8	99.0	106.0
• Net enrolment ratio in primary education (%)	76.8	93.9*	94.0*	94.2*	94.4*	95.3*	96.6
• Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (%)	74.5	88.6	91.0	93.4	95.9	97.2	98.30
• Literacy rate in the age group (15–24) years old (%)	85.9	96.3	96.5	96.7	96.8	96.9	98.00

\*) Revised data (CDSI).

### CURRENT SITUATION

Education is a main pillar of economic and social development and the most important factor for its sustainability. If the ultimate goal of development in a developed society is to improve human welfare, then this goal cannot be attained without educated, productive citizens and individuals commitment to human values and ideals. Providing access to educational services and enabling citizens to derive full benefits from them is, therefore, one of the landmarks on the road to human development, since education expands the scope of options and skills necessary for creating a productive citizen.

Based on this concept, the Kingdom paid special attention to the education sector and endeavoured to provide education to all citizens, with the share of the expenditure on education amounting to 8.7% of the GDP in 2009. As a result, adult (15 years old and above) literacy reached 87.4% and youth (15-24 years old) literacy reached 98% in 2010 (Figure 2.1); a development that benefited both sexes, with the ratio of literate females to literate males among the youth reaching 98.6:100 during the same year.

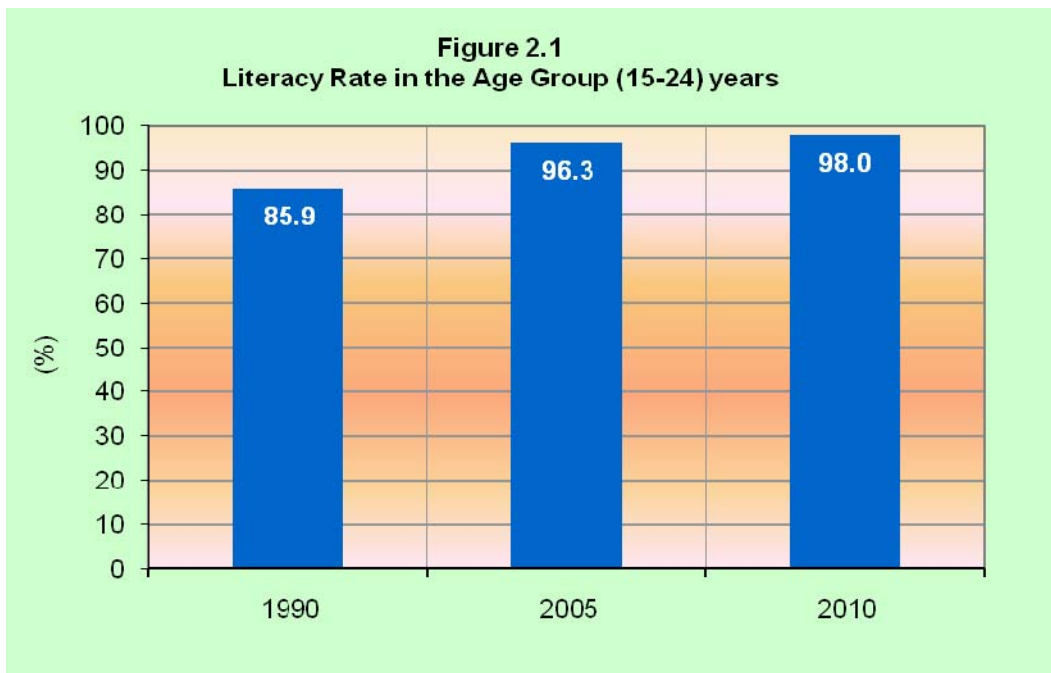
Primary schooling is the most crucial stage since it determines, to a great extent, the future educational course of pupils. Total primary school enrollment in 2010 amounted to about 3.32 million pupils in 13,102 schools all over the Kingdom. In the same year, the number of new pupils in primary education amounted to about 577.7 thousand pupils. The average annual growth rate of enrolment over the period 2005-2010 amounted to 1.44%. It is worth noting that the public sector remains the main provider of educational services, with a share of 91% of total enrolment in primary schooling and 89.4% of total enrolment in all stages of public education in 2010.

The proportion of first graders who reach grade 5 was 98.3% in 2010 (Figure 2.2), which indicates the marked progress made over the preceding decade. Primary education gross enrolment rate rose from 82% in 1990 to 106% in 2010 (Figure 2.3), while net enrolment rate in primary education stood at 96.6% in 2010 (Figure 2.4). This testifies to the considerable achievement made and points to the fact that the Kingdom will be able to ensure that all children, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling ahead of the target year of 2015.

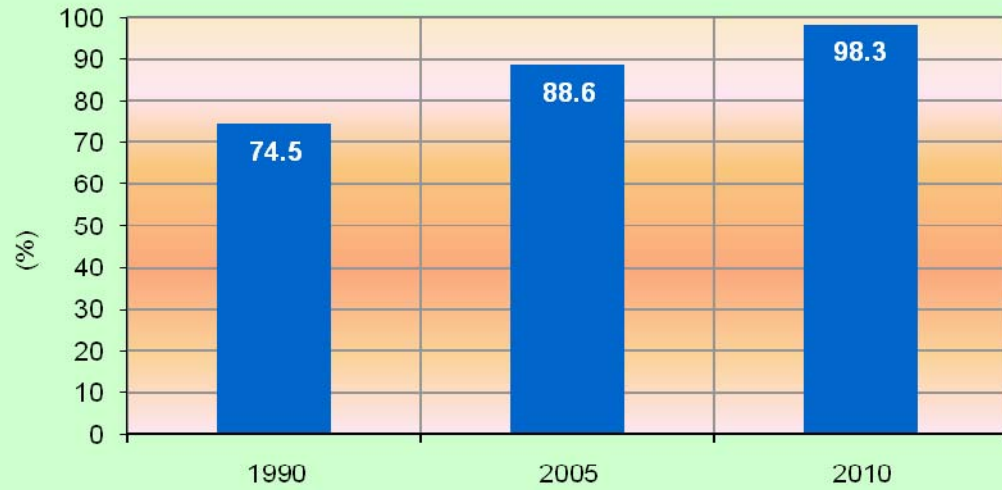
In order to attain universal primary education and increase enrolment rates in all other levels of education, a number of measures and policies have been adopted, not only to guarantee education for all throughout the Kingdom, but also to improve and maintain the quality of education in the Kingdom. Among such measures and policies, are the following:

- Enforcing mandatory primary education, as per the decision taken in 2004.
- Establishing more kindergartens throughout the country and intensifying family awareness and guidance programs regarding the importance of pre-school education.

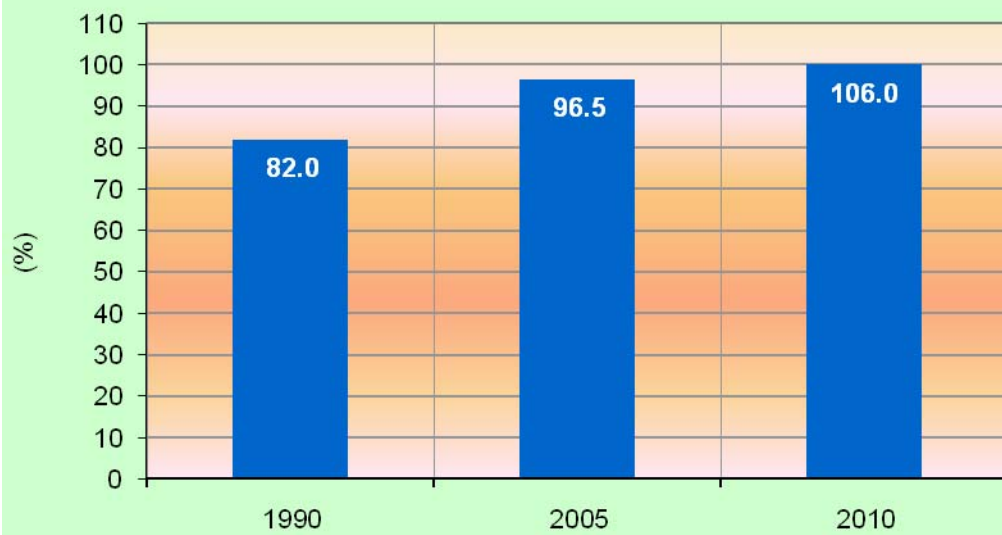
- Developing mechanisms for involvement of parents in monitoring children’s activities, as well as school management and teaching staff performance.
- Early identification of children with special needs and provision of appropriate education and rehabilitation for them.
- Addressing the economic and social constraints that impede enrolment of children from low-income groups at different education stages. It is worth noting, however, that education is provided free of charge at all stages.
- Intensifying programs, in educational curricula and the family and the society at large, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of educational attainment.

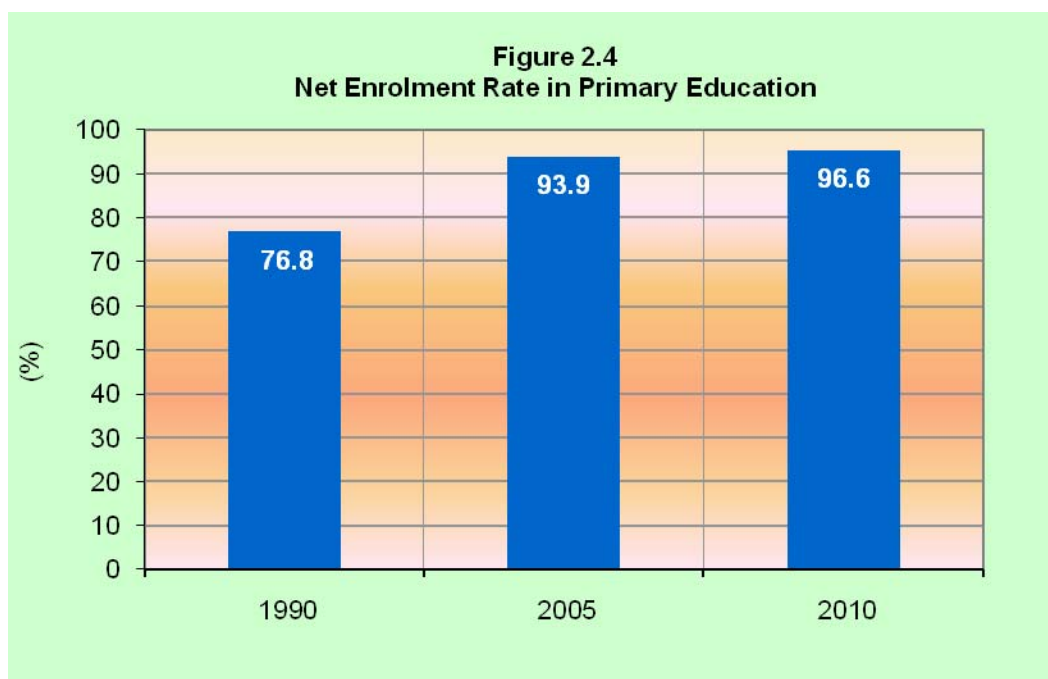


**Figure 2.2**  
**Proportion of First Graders Who Reach Fifth Grade**



**Figure 2.3**  
**Gross Enrolment Rate in Primary Education**





## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

The Ninth Development Plan underscores the central role of education in achieving and strengthening human resources development, since education expands the scope of options available to citizens to gain knowledge and acquire skills, thus enabling citizens to benefit from the capabilities thus acquired. The Plan envisages the creation of an integrated, comprehensive educational system that will strive to lay out solid pillars for the general education, with the help of well trained, highly qualified education professionals who can develop students' capabilities and help them acquire different types of skills. Universal primary schooling is a key step in this process, since it is the main foundation for the whole education system. The Plan adopts a number of targets to achieve this goal (Box 2.1).

**Box (2.1): Selected Targets from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014) Relevant to MDG 2**

- To reduce dropout rates to 1% for all stages
- To activate the national tests designed to measure academic achievement level and conduct diagnostic tests to monitor difficulties faced by students in different subjects.
- To create a talent research unit and to support the gifted students centres so that programs focusing on gifted students can be designed, developed and implemented.
- To continue to support the project on development of teaching strategies, as well as the comprehensive project for curriculum development.
- To achieve full enrolment rate (100%) in primary education (mandatory education).
- To achieve an enrolment rate of 98% in intermediate education for primary education graduates, and an enrolment rate of 95% in secondary education for intermediate education graduates.
- To apply a system of comprehensive evaluation of schools to 20% of schools every year.
- To apply the educational accreditation system to all private schools.
- To encourage the private sector to open more schools to accommodate general education students, bringing the sector's share to 15% by the end of the Ninth Plan period.
- To develop and implement a plan for eradication of adult illiteracy, with the involvement of all stakeholders and according to specific time schedule.
- To increase the share of those who hold higher educational qualifications required for the education system.
- To provide more support to educational research to serve the objectives of quality improvement.
- To continue to implement a comprehensive healthcare program in coordination with the Ministry of Health (medical examination, vaccination campaigns, and medical treatment of sick students).
- To activate cooperative school transport services, and expand schoolgirls transport services outsourced to the private sector.



## **CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

Full enforcement of mandatory primary education requires substantial enhancement of resources and capacities such as schools, classrooms, qualified teachers, and other inputs of the educational process. This, in turn, calls for broader participation of the private sector in the provision of educational services at all stages, with government agencies and community organizations devoting concerted efforts within an effective, integrated framework.

Pre-school education plays a vital role in enhancing primary-school enrolment and lowering repetition and dropout rates. Provision of kindergartens, as an independent stage with its own facilities throughout the Kingdom, constitutes a significant challenge, since enrolment is expected to double over the coming years.

## **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

In recent years, several measures have been taken by the Kingdom to promote general education and increase its efficiency, which, in turn, enhance chances of increasing enrolment rates at all stages, particularly in primary schooling (Figure 2.3 and Figure 2.4). Foremost among these measures, besides the decision to enforce mandatory primary education, taken in 2004 and the decision to establish kindergartens as a separate stage, taken in 2002, is the decision related with entrusting all supervision of general education to the Ministry of Education which contributes to implementation of the education strategy and policies by the government.

Furthermore, the steady support provided by the government to the private sector, to enhance its role in the provision of education services at all stages, will contribute to providing more educational services and making the private sector more responsive to the needs of society, through participation in the development and implementation of educational programs and policies.

**Box (2.2): Overview of Current Situation**

**Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?**

✓Expected                  Probable                  Not possible                  No Answer due to  
Insufficient Data

**Supportive environment**

✓Good                  Moderate                  Poor but  
Improving                  Poor

**Box (2.3): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

Relevant Factors	Evaluation		
Data collection capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate results of analysis into policies and resource planning	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor

## GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

### TARGET 5:

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, by 2005, and in all levels of education by 2015.

Target Indicators	1990	1995	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
● Ratio of girls to boys in primary, intermediate, secondary and higher education	85.1	89.4	94.6	95.4	96.3	97.2*	97.7*	98.1*	98.6*	98.8*	99.0**	99.1**
● Ratio of literate women to literate men in the age group 15-24 year	73.7	83.8	85.2*	88.1*	90.3*	91.8	94.8	96.3	97.3	97.9	98.1	98.6**
● Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	-	-	14.2	16.5	-	-	-	15.2*	15.4*	15.2*	14.2	-

\*) *Revised data.*

\*\*) *Estimates.*

## CURRENT SITUATION

Remarkable progress has been achieved in the Kingdom in the status of women in education, employment, and health<sup>6)</sup>. Despite the relatively late start in education of girls, rates of enrolment of girls at all educational levels have increased sharply. The gross female enrolment rate at all general education stages increased from 90.5% in 2005 to 96.1% in 2010. Consequently, it was possible to bridge the gap in indicators of male/female enrolment at the primary, secondary and university stages in 2010, (Figure 3.1). However, development in the net enrolment rate for male/female students at education stages is the more appropriate measure for enrolment conditions in the education system.

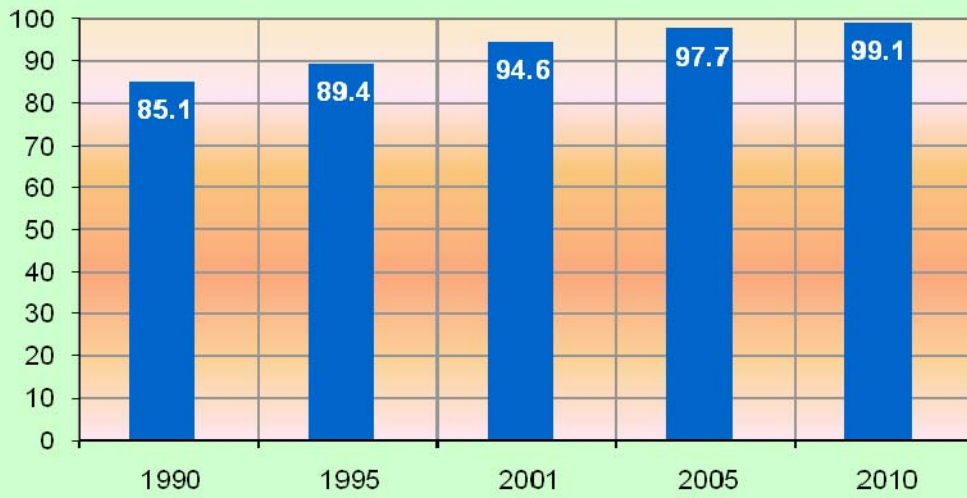
Between 2001 and 2010, the net enrolment rate of boys at the primary education level increased from 84% to 96.7%, compared to an increase from 82% to 96.5% for girls. These rates demonstrate success of the Kingdom's policy to achieve gender equality in education and the increased absorption capacity of all stages of education for males and females (Figure 3.2).

Moreover, empowering women educationally has been accompanied by progress in enabling them to benefit from available health services, leading to tangible improvement in general health, with a declining incidence of certain diseases. As a result, life expectancy in 2010 increased to 74.9 years for females and 72.6 years for males.

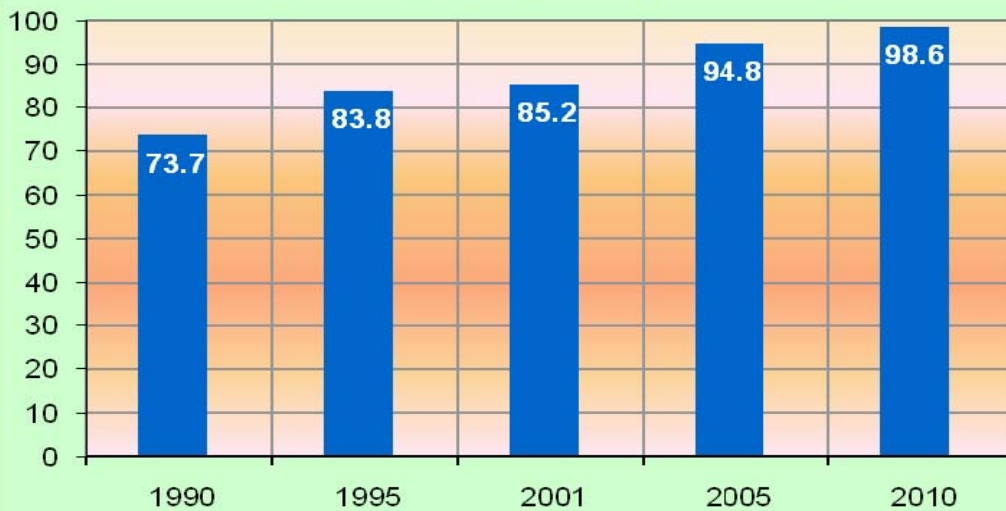
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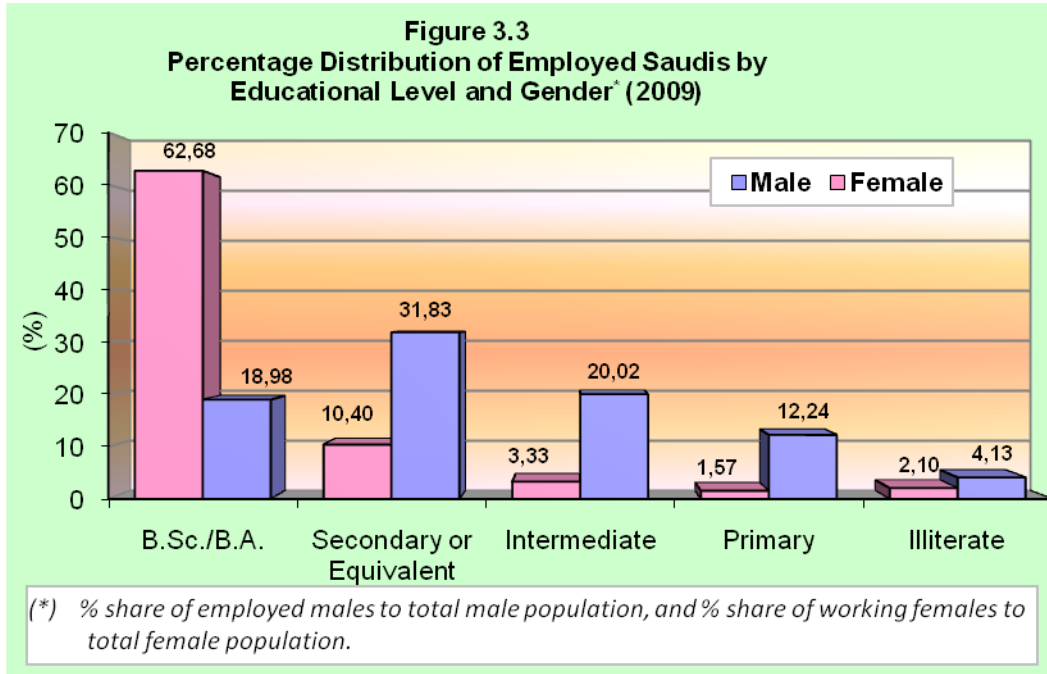
6) For details, see: the Eighth Development Plan (2005-2009), Chapter 17, and the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014), Chapter 19.

**Figure 3.1**  
**Ratio of Girls to 100 Boys in All Education Stages**



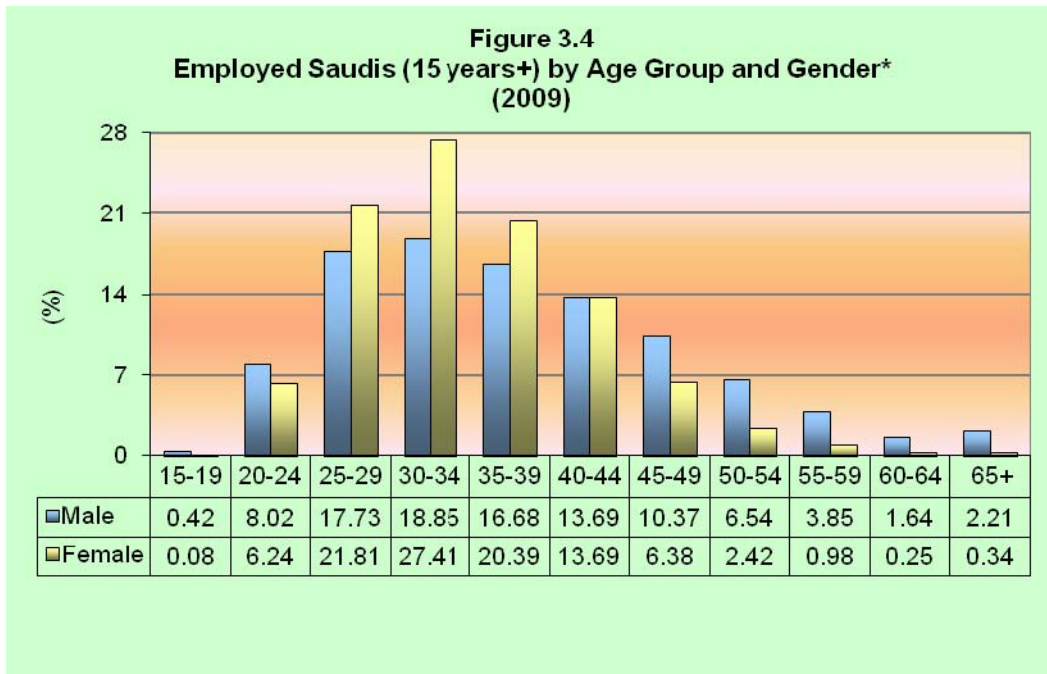
**Figure 3.2**  
**Ratio of Literate Girls to 100 Literate Boys in the Age Group (15-24) years**





Entry of women into the labour market was slow in the early stages of development. The rate of their participation in the labour force was as low as 5.4% until the end of 1992. However, continued development, particularly in education, had a positive impact. As a consequence, the women's labour force participation rate increased to 12% in 2009. This still low rate is typical of Arab societies, where participation of women is low compared to other parts of the world. Therefore, intensive efforts are required to create diversified job opportunities for women in the Arab Region. It is worth noting in this regard that job opportunities for women are concentrated mainly in the education sector.

Women's participation in the labour force is influenced by the level of educational attainment. In 2009, most working women (92.3%) held secondary school certificates or higher (Figure 3.3). About 49.2% of working women belong to the young age group (25-34 years) due to the recency of the entry of women into the labour market (Figure 3.4).



Marriage does not appear to be a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour force. Data for 2009 show that 67.3% of working Saudi women aged 15 years and above are married, compared to about 73.9% for males.

Saudi women play an important role in investment and business administration in various economic activities. The number of women-owned registered commercial enterprises by the end of 2010 was over 47.4 thousand, most of them small and medium-size enterprises, with around 66.2% engaged in wholesale and retail trade and construction, and the rest in industry, mining, petroleum, power generation, water extraction, agriculture, finance and business services, and miscellaneous services (Table 3.1).

**Table (3.1)**  
**Women-owned Commercially Registered Enterprises**  
**by Type of Activity**  
**(2010)**

Activity	Number	%
Agriculture, Fishery, and Forestry	585	1.23
Mining, and Petroleum	120	0.25
Industry	1060	2.23
Power Generation and Water Extraction	1044	2.20
Construction and Contracting	8528	18.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade and Commercial Services	22835	48.15
Business and Finance Services	23	0.04
Transport, Refrigeration and Storage	610	1.28
Community and Personal services	2968	6.26
Other Activities	9655	20.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>47428</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: MOCI.*

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

Clearly, the directions of Ninth Development Plan represents the efforts made to promote improvements in the status of women and in enabling them to participate in economic and social development. The Plan includes objectives and policies that address issues relevant to development of women's status in various areas, such as education, health, social care and employment. In addition, the Plan included an entire chapter on women and the family, which sets specific targets to build on the progress made with respect to empowerment of women, leading to further strengthening of women's role in family and society, as well as their contribution to economic activities (Box 3.1).



**Box 3-1: Selected Policies and Targets from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014) Relevant to MDG MDG3**

- To achieve 100% enrolment rate in primary education
- To increase Saudi women's participation rate in the labour force to 13.9% by the end of the plan period.
- To continue to vigorously enforce the Council of Ministers' Resolution No.120 of 2004 on employment of women
- To eradicate female illiteracy
- To strengthen quantitative and qualitative progress in education of Saudi girls in all educational stages.
- To upgrade women's contribution to economic activities and ensure that support services are provided to enable their participation
- To encourage girls in higher education to study specializations that match labour market needs
- To adopt specific measures to address unemployment of women, particularly educated females.

In an effort to increase and diversify work opportunities for women, in 2004 the Council of Ministers endorsed a package of policies and measures designed to effect a qualitative change in the patterns and scope of women's participation in economic activity. Box 3.2 summarizes these measures.

**Box (3.2): Summary of Policies and Measures Adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2004 to Enhance the Economic Activity of Women**

**a) Development of Plans and Mechanisms:**

- The Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Planning and the Ministry of Civil Service, shall set up an integrated national plan for the Saudi female workforce. The plan shall determine the actual demand for female labour in various fields.
- The Human Resource Development Fund shall pay particular attention to training and employment of Saudi women. This task shall be included in the plans and programs of the Fund.
- The Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, together with the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, shall conduct a study of the possibility of prolonging maternity leave, as an incentive and an additional privilege, without negatively impacting the desirability of hiring women.

**b) Development of Coordination Mechanisms:**

- The Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry shall form a committee of experienced, qualified women to coordinate with relevant agencies' efforts to encourage the private sector to provide work opportunities for Saudi women. The initiative should provide training to qualify Saudi women for the required jobs. Material and moral support shall be extended to help establish the committee and all government agencies shall contribute to the effort.

**c) Promotion of Women's Participation in the Private Sector:**

- Government agencies responsible for issuing licences for engaging in economic activities shall facilitate granting such licences to women, in accordance with regulations and legal controls.
- The relevant agencies shall allot and fit land within city boundaries for establishing industrial zones for women.
- The Ministry of Labour shall coordinate with the Ministry of Civil Service and the Ministry of Social Affairs to take the necessary measures for providing women with tele-work opportunities. The Ministry shall also follow up and implement these measures.

**d) Promotion of Women's Participation in Government:**

- All government agencies that provide services related to women shall establish women-only work units and sections in accordance with the needs and nature of work.

## CHALLENGES FACING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOAL

■ ***Female Illiteracy:*** In 2009, the Saudi female illiteracy rate (15 year-olds and above) was 15.3%, compared to 9.8% for males. As indicated earlier, literacy and education are crucial to increase women's participation in society and improve their life quality.

Along with various adult literacy programs aimed at addressing adult illiteracy and the issue of those beyond school age, enforcement of mandatory primary schooling is expected to contribute radically to solving this problem.

■ ***Female Educational Specialisation:*** Specialisation starts at the secondary school level, with choice then often determining future direction in higher education. The challenge in this respect is that most of the female students of the secondary stage join literary section which allows their enrolment in education and humanities specializations only at university and college, while the labour market demand for arts and humanities graduates has already become saturated.

The scope of this challenge becomes apparent in the fact that 93% of all female university graduates specialised in education and humanities, in 2009, which indicates the mismatch between the labour market needs in a modern economy and the specialization preferences of higher-education female students.

## SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Development of women conditions and enabling them to participate in the process of development receive full support of the government. Socio-economic development programs focus on this development dimension and accord it priority. Moreover, the comprehensive approach adopted currently to expand participation of women at all levels including education, health, employment and family dimensions enhances success chances of relevant policies and mechanisms adopted to achieve this goal.

**Box (3.3): An Overview of the Current Situation**

**Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?**

✓Expected          Probable          Not possible          No Answer due to  
Insufficient Data

**Supportive environment**

✓Good          Moderate          Poor but  
Improving          Poor

**Box (3.4): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

Factor	Evaluation		
Data collection capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate results of analysis into policies and resource planning	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor

## GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

### TARGET 6:

Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

Target Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1. Under-five mortality rate (per thousand live births)	44.0	34.0	22.6	22.3	21.7	21.1	20.6	20.0	19.5
2. Infant mortality rate (per thousand live births)	34.0	27.0	20.2	19.0	18.6	18.1	17.7	17.3	16.9
3. Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles (%)	88.2	94.4	92.1	96.5	95.2	95.7	97.0	97.9	98.2

### CURRENT SITUATION

Over the past two decades, health services in the Kingdom made remarkable progress, particularly in the field of primary health care which spread in all population centers and witnessed significant improvement in terms of efficiency and level of integration. These services are provided through several programs including: family-health registers, maternal and child care, integrated child healthcare, control of communicable diseases, basic environmental health, etc. The integrated child healthcare program is the most related program with Goal4 and provides continuous follow-up of the growth of children until the age of 5, through the "health record system" which covers registration of all health visits and follow up steps during the natal and post-natal stage. The program involves activities that include control of diarrhoea and malnutrition, and a comprehensive program of vaccination against communicable diseases.

The latter program has achieved remarkable success, with the proportion of babies vaccinated against measles, rubella and mumps during their first year of life increasing to 98.2% in 2010. Likewise, the proportion of children vaccinated against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, polio, and hepatitis B amounted to 98%, as well as 97.7% for tuberculosis, (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1**  
**Vaccination Coverage of Infants During the First Year of Life**  
**Against Targeted Communicable Diseases (%)**

Disease	1990	2004	2008	2009	2010
Diphtheria	93.5	96.3	97.6	98.0	98.0
Whooping cough	93.5	96.3	97.6	98.0	98.0
Tetanus	93.5	96.3	97.6	98.0	98.0
Polio	93.5	96.3	97.6	98.0	98.0
Mumps	–	96.7	97	97.9	98.2
Measles	88.2	96.7	97	97.9	98.2
Rubella - German measles	–	96.7	97	97.9	98.2
Tuberculosis	99.4	94.7	97.8	97.5	97.7
Hepatitis B	–	96.1	97.6	98.0	98.0

*Source: Ministry of Health.*

The child health care programs achieved marked success, reflected in the results made during the last decade regarding incidence of targeted communicable diseases. The incidence per 100,000 population declined from 0.04 in 1990 to zero in 2010 for polio, from 0.86 to zero for whooping cough, from 41.8 to 1.25 for measles, from 60.3 to 18.72 for hepatitis B, and from 0.25 to 0.01 for neonatal tetanus, from 76 to 0.14 for mumps and from 18.6 to 16.6 for TB over the same period (Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2).

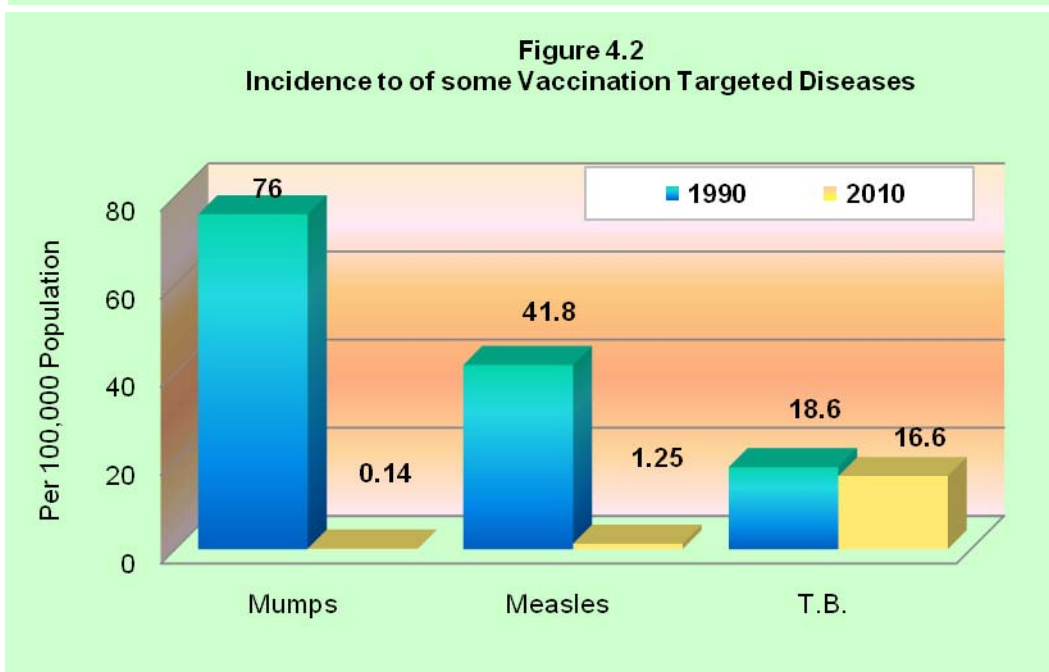
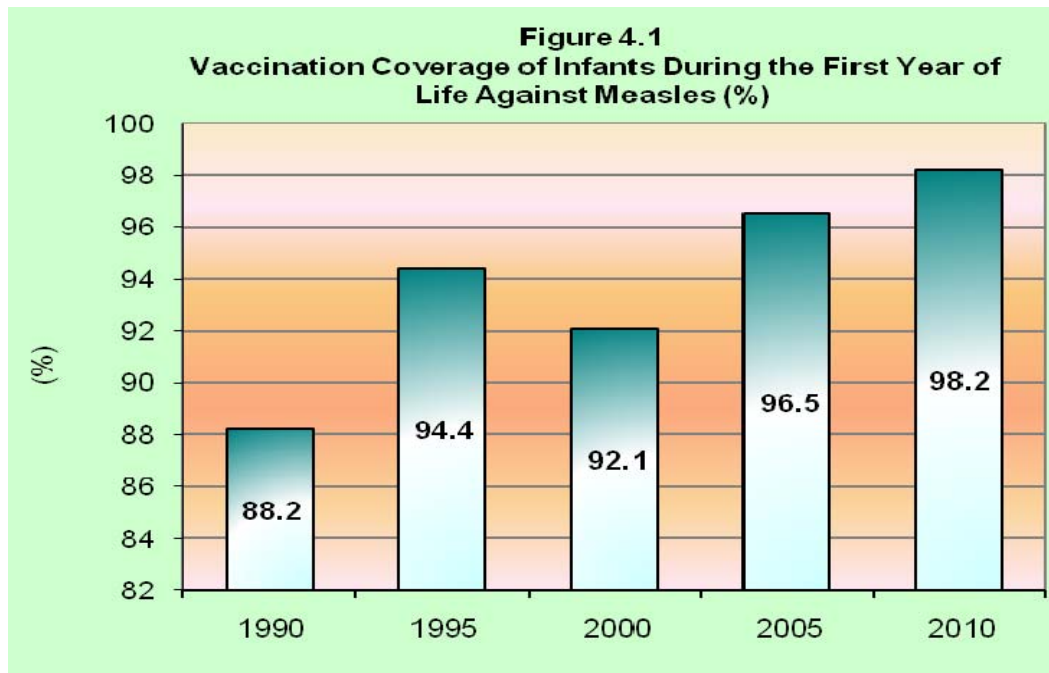
**Table 4.2**  
**Incidence of Vaccination Targeted Diseases per 100,000 Population**

Disease	1990	2004	2008	2009	2010
Diphtheria	0.01	0	0	0	0
Whooping cough	0.86	0.28	0.12	0.1	0
Tetanus	0.25	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01
Polio	0.04	0.01	0	0	0
Mumps	76	1.55	0.13	0.54	0.14
Measles	41.8	7.86	0.64	0.32	
Rubella - German measles	17	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.13
Tuberculosis	18.6	10.10	15.8	15.60	16.60
Hepatitis B	60.3	20.43	20.43	19.78	18.72

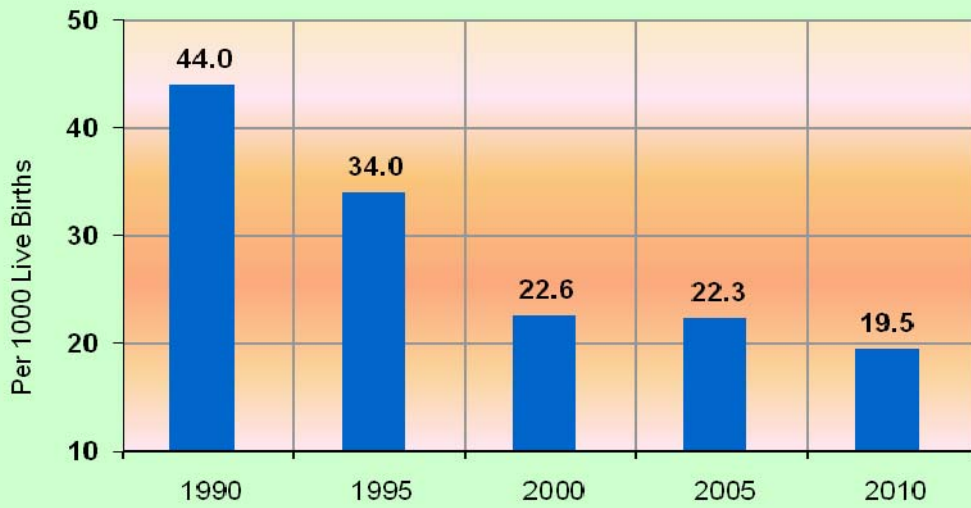
*Source: Ministry of Health.*

These positive developments have led to the decline of the under-five mortality rate to 19.5 deaths per thousand live births in 2010, which amounts to an improvement of 55.7% over its 1990 level (Figure 4.3). Similarly, infant mortality rate declined to 16.9 deaths per

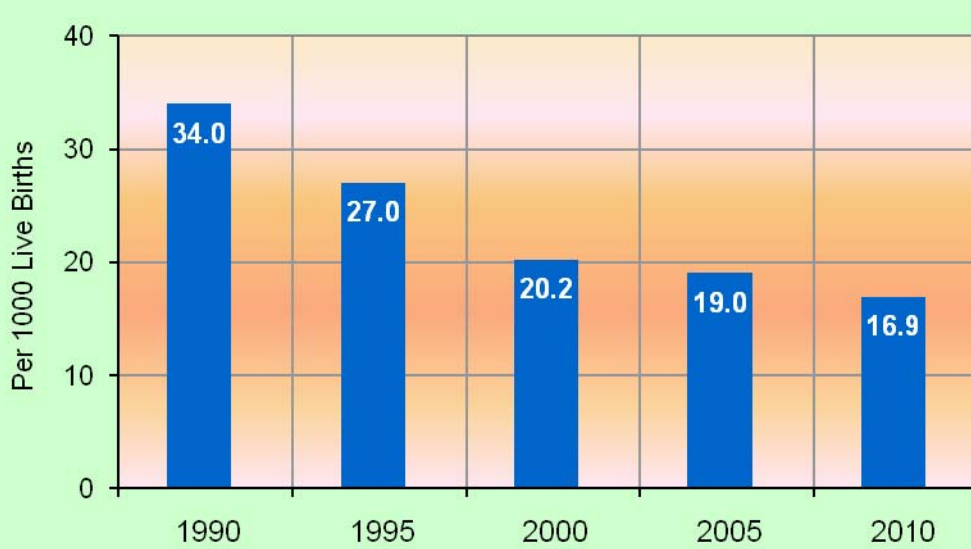
thousand live births in 2010; an improvement of 50.3% over the 1990 level (Figure 4.4). These rates indicate that the Kingdom is proceeding confidently towards achieving the MDG4 by 2015.



**Figure 4.3**  
**Under-five Mortality Rate**



**Figure 4.4**  
**Infant Mortality Rate**





## **CHALLENGES FACING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOAL**

Demand for health care services is steadily rising due to several factors, most significant among which are the relatively high rate of population growth and the society's increased awareness of the importance of healthcare in general and preventive care in particular.

The vast area of the Kingdom and the wide differences in population density constitute a challenge to efforts aimed at narrowing disparities in the quality and efficiency of health services and ensuring comprehensive coverage. Provision of basic health services entails support to primary health centres, particularly in rural areas, including those providing maternal and child care, health education, and preventive health services. Since rural areas are not as attractive to the private sector as urban centres, it is envisaged that the former will remain dependent to a large extent on government health services.

## **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE GOAL**

Health services are provided through a wide network of healthcare facilities. In 2010, these facilities included 413 hospitals, with a total of 57,025 beds. In the same year, the number of doctors rose to 57,365, and the number of nursing staff to 114,300. The number of MOH medical centres providing primary healthcare stood at 2,094, in addition to 1,944 private-sector dispensaries and medical complexes, besides 217 clinics. These services account for 2.2 beds, 2.22 doctors, and 4.41 nurses per 1,000 population.

The Ministry of Health is the principal healthcare agency, providing preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare. In 2010, its share of hospital beds was 60.2% and of doctors 47.3%. Universities also provide health services through university hospitals, in addition to contributions by the Saudi Red Crescent Authority, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, and the healthcare services of the military, security and other government agencies. The share of government agencies (other than the Ministry of Health) was 19% of hospital beds and 22.9% of doctors, with the share of the private sector amounting to 20.8% and 29.8% respectively.

Over recent years, the Kingdom took important steps to promote health services. Notable among these is instituting in, 2002, the Kingdom's health system to provide comprehensive healthcare to all citizens. The Health Services Board was established as part of this system and the Cooperative Health Insurance Board was established; the latter is mandated to applying the health insurance system to all foreign residents in the first phase and to the whole population subsequently.

In another development related to health and nutritional care, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority was established in 2003, with responsibility for maintaining safety and effectiveness of foodstuffs, and biological and chemical substances, in addition to formulating a clear food-and-drugs policy.

## **FUTURE DIRECTION TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

Regarding the future directions in the field of improving the efficiency of health services and realizing full coverage, the administrative and organizational structures will be developed. The local institutions will enjoy more powers to perform their tasks more efficiently. Moreover the government health facilities will be financially independent and subject to review and accountability according to appropriate performance measures.

Coincidence between the MDG4 and the Ninth Plan objectives of the health sector, represented in providing comprehensive, integrated, high-quality health care services distributed evenly in all regions of the Kingdom to cover all members of the society, increases the chance of achieving this goal. This plan has adopted a number of targets of relevance with MDG4 (Box 4.1)

**Box (4.1): Selected Targets from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014)  
Relevant to MDG Goal 4**

- To continue to maintain vaccination coverage of children against communicable diseases at a minimum of 97% for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, mumps, tuberculosis and hepatitis B.
- To reduce the incidence of hepatitis B to 10 cases per 100,000 population.
- To reduce infant mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 live births.
- To reduce mortality rate of children below 5 to less than 15 per 1,000 live births.
- To reduce proportion of underweight babies to less than 5% per 1000 live births.

**Box (4.2): Overview of Current Situation**

**Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?**

<u>✓Expected</u>	Probable	Not possible	No Answer due to Insufficient Data
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**Supportive environment**

<u>✓Good</u>	Moderate	Poor but Improving	Poor
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**Box (4.3): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>		
Data collection capabilities	✓Good	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	✓Good	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capabilities	✓Good	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capabilities	✓Good	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate results of analysis into policies and resource planning	✓Good	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Good	✓Medium	Poor

## **GOAL 5: IMPROVE REPRPDUCTIVE HEALTH (MATERNAL HEALTH)**

### **TARGET 7:**

Reduce the maternal mortality rate by three quarters between 1990 and 2015.

<b>Target Indicators</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	48	48	16.4	14.9	14.6	14.6	14.3	14	14
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	88	91.4	91	96	96	97	97	97	97
Immunization of mothers against neonatal tetanus	-	-	93	96	96	95.5	96.1	96.6	96.1

### **TARGET 8:**

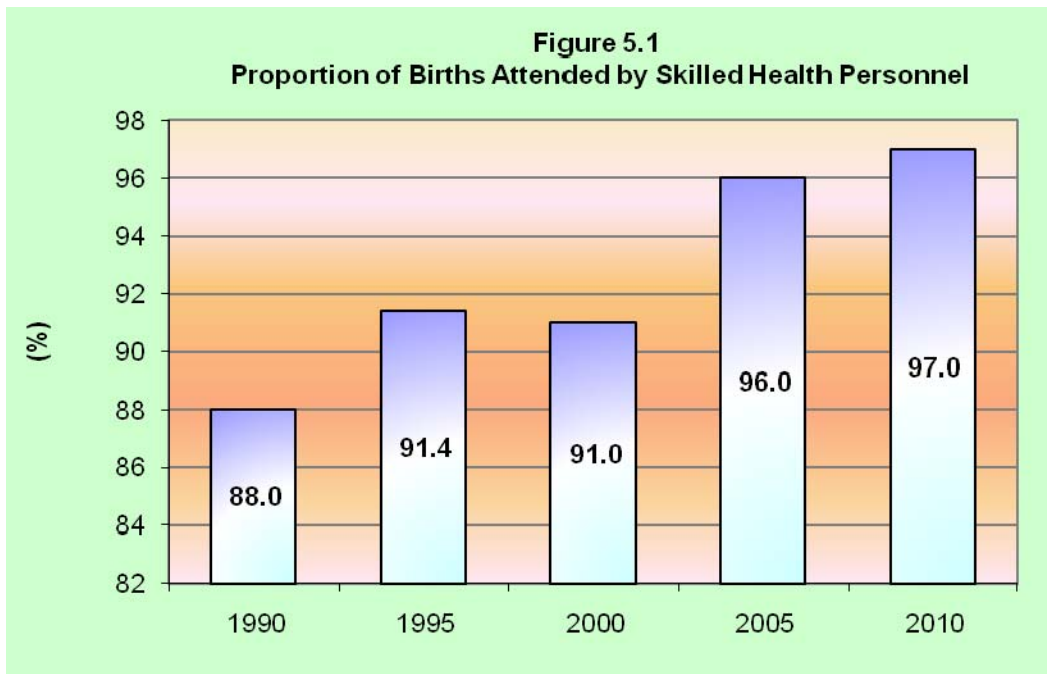
Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health services.

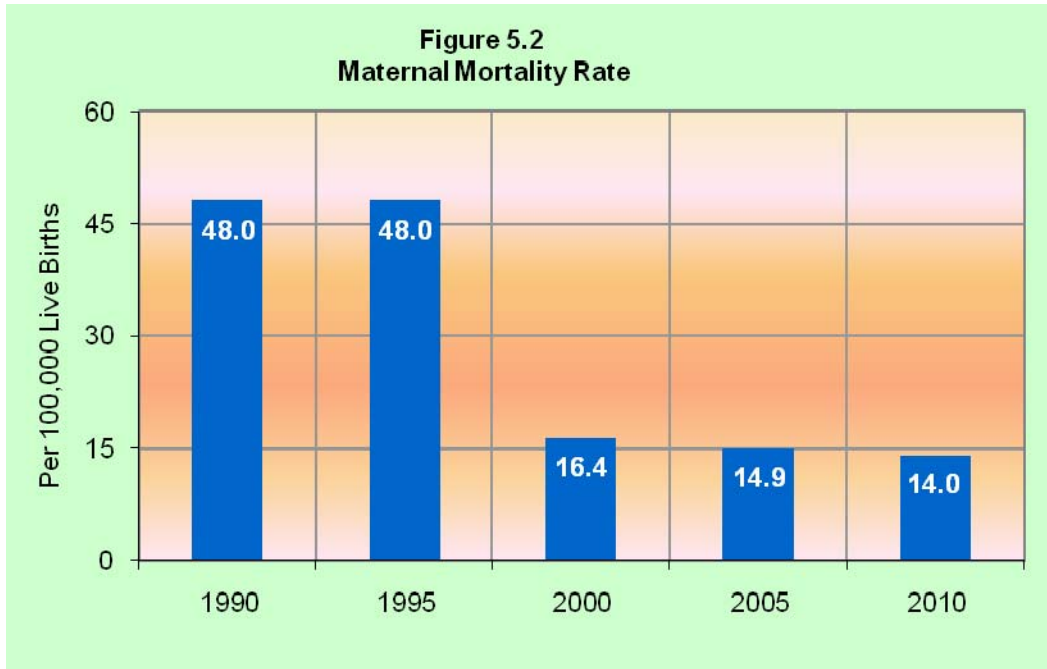
<b>Target Indicators</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Proportion of women using contraceptives	-	-	-	-	-	26.4*	-	-	-
Birth rate among teen-agers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Access to primary healthcare during pregnancy (at least 1- 4 visits) (%)	-	-	-	97	96	97	96	97	98

\* (for Saudis).

## CURRENT SITUATION

Reproductive health services constitute a basic pillar of the health policy in the Kingdom. The comprehensive maternal care program aims at providing integrated healthcare services to mothers, covering the periods before, during and after pregnancy. Quantitative and qualitative development of health services has led to improvement of maternal healthcare indicators. The proportion of pregnant women provided with healthcare by health professionals increased from 90% in 2000 to 98% in 2010. Vaccination of mothers against neonatal tetanus rose, during the same period, from 93% to 96.1% and the proportion of births attended by health professionals increased from 88% to 97% (Figure 5.1). Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births declined from 48 to 14 over the same period (Figure 5.2).





## **CHALLENGES FACING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOAL**

Demand for health care services is steadily rising due to several factors, foremost among which are the relatively high rate of population growth and the society's increased awareness of the importance of health care in general and the preventive health care in particular.

On the other hand, the vast geographical area of the Kingdom and the wide difference in population density of the widely scattered settlements, represent a challenge to efforts of narrowing the disparities in the quality and efficiency of the health services and ensuring full coverage in all regions.

## **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL:**

The Ninth Development Plan adopted a number of objectives to improve maternal health. These objectives include, inter-alia, the following: continuing to enhance health care programs and provide high-quality health care to the pregnant during and after the period

of pregnancy, achieving universal access to reproductive health care, ensuring that all births are attended by health professional, immunizing all mothers against neonatal tetanus, and promoting health awareness programs (box 5.1). in light of these directions of the Ninth Plan and the health programs under way, the MDG5 is expected to be achieved ahead of the target year.

**Box (5.1): Selected Targets and Policies, from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014), Relevant to MDG 5**

- Bring the rate of births attended by skilled health professionals to at least 98%.
- Bring the rate of pregnant receiving healthcare by skilled health professionals to at least 98%.
- Bring the rate of pregnant receiving vaccination against tetanus to at least 98%.
- Bring the rate of deliveries attended by skilled health professionals to at least 98%.
- Reduce maternal mortality rate to less than 13 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- Bring the number of MOH primary healthcare centres to 2958 centers, thus achieving a rate of one healthcare centre per 7000 people.

**Box (5.2): Overview of Current Situation**

**Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?**

<u>✓Expected</u>	Probable	Not possible	No Answer Due to Insufficient Data
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**Supportive environment**

<u>✓Good</u>	Moderate	Poor but Improving	Poor
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**Box (5.3): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

Relevant Factors	Evaluation		
Data collection capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capabilities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate results of analysis into policies and resource planning	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor



## **GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES**

### **TARGET 9:**

Halt, by 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS and begin to lower its incidence.

Indicators	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of HIV cases (cumulative)	8,919	10,120	11,510	12,652	13,926	15,213	16,334
HIV prevalence among the age group (15–24) years (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AIDS cases among pregnant in the age group (15–24) years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### **TARGET 10:**

Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment from HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Indicators	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Proportion of patients, in an advanced stage of HIV, who have access to antiretroviral drugs (%)	-	-	100	100	100	100	100

## TARGET 11:

Halt, by 2015, the spread of malaria and other major diseases and start the lower their incidence.

Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Incidence of malaria and the associated death rates (per 100,000 people) :										
• Incidence	125	106	35	7.7	4.6	4.45	3.8	0.46	0.43	<b>0.20</b>
• Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proportion of population in malaria-vulnerable areas who use effective malaria prevention and treatment measures (%)	-	-	-	-	94	94.5	95	95	95	95
Incidence of tuberculosis and the associated death rates (per 100,000 people):										
• Incidence	18.6	11.5	11.82	9.6	10.3	10.9	10.06	10.7	11	11.4
• Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	156	135	156	144	-
Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and treated under DOTS (%)	-	-	-	72.3	85	100	100	100	100	100

## CURRENT SITUATION

■ **Combating HIV/AIDS:** Taking into account the large number of expatriates in the country, the Kingdom pays substantial efforts to combat and halt the spread of HIV/AIDS. By the end of 2010, the cumulative number of the reported cases reached 16,334 cases, of which 4458 were Saudis and 11,876 were expatriates. In 2010, the number of reported cases stood at 1,121 cases of which 682 were expatriates and 439 were Saudis. The age distribution of the cases reported in 2010, shows that 3% of the cases were below 15 years old, 83% in the age group (15-49) years and 4% in the age group 50 years and above. It is noteworthy that the Saudi government provides universal access to treatment for all who need it.

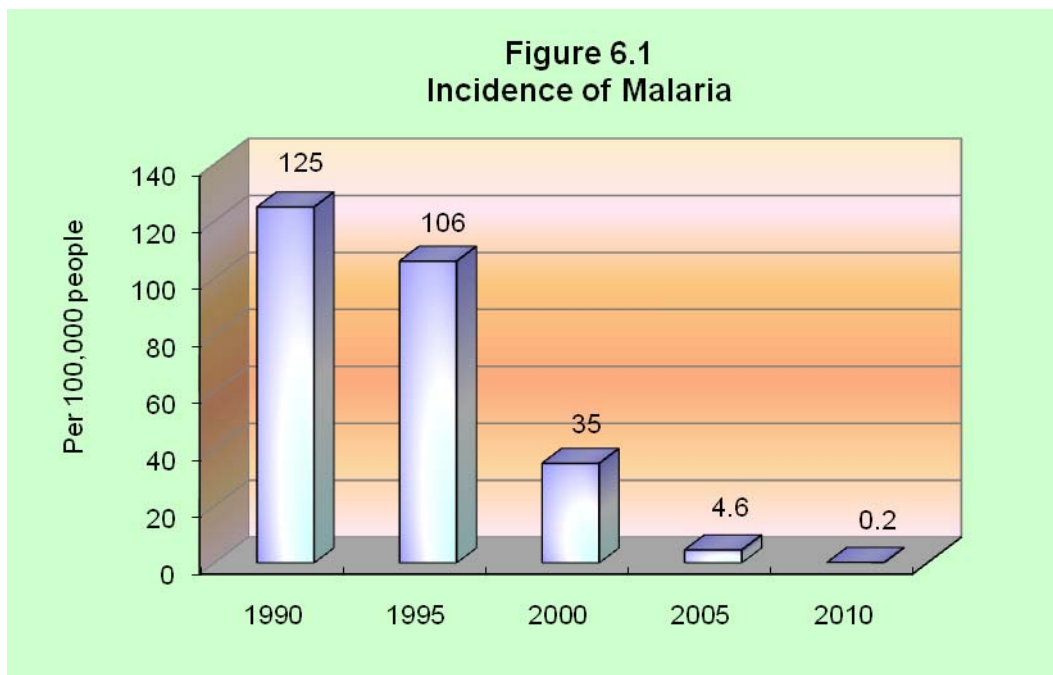
Seeking to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the government diligently applies preventive measures. "The National Program for Combating HIV/AIDS", which is the focus of national efforts aiming at combating this disease, comprises the following:

- Health education and awareness, about how it spreads, and how it can be prevented, through a multiple media program.
- A preventive control system that includes regular surveying of groups at risk, ensuring safety of transfused blood and performing medical tests for expatriate workers.
- A national record of reported cases, with the aim of providing follow up and taking appropriate preventive and curative measures.
- Several awareness and education activities are conducted, through all information media, to combat the causes of the disease.
- Lectures and symposia are organized in all regions of the Kingdom, as part of the activities to mark World AIDS Day.
- Establishing a system for reporting, evaluation and follow up of cases.
- Establishing clinics for optional check-up and advice in 20 governorates and providing training for relevant personnel.
- Conducting new surveys of the disease such as pre-marital check-ups.
- Cooperating with experts in the "Syndromes Treatment Program" and the optional check-up and counselling clinics.
- Adopting the Syndromes Treatment System for sexually-transmitted diseases within the primary health care system.
- Opening 8 specialized treatment centres in: Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Jazan, Jouf, Medina, Hassa, and Aseer, and recruitment of experts for continuous development of the Modern-Medicines Treatment System (Box 6.1).

**Box 6.1: Selected Targets, from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014), Relevant to MDG 6**

- Reduce AIDS incidence through the following measures:
  - Promote awareness about AIDS; target high-risk groups; reduce risk through intensive deployment of counselling and check-up clinics; ensure safety of transfused blood; and prevent infection through adoption of healthy practices.
  - Establish 20 clinics for optional check-up and counselling; establish 8 specialized treatment centres; and conduct relevant surveys.
- Reduce incidence of tuberculosis to 8 cases per 100,000 people.

■ **Combating Malaria:** The incidence of malaria decreased substantially from 125 cases per 100,000 people in 1990 to 0.2 in 2010, (Figure 6.1).

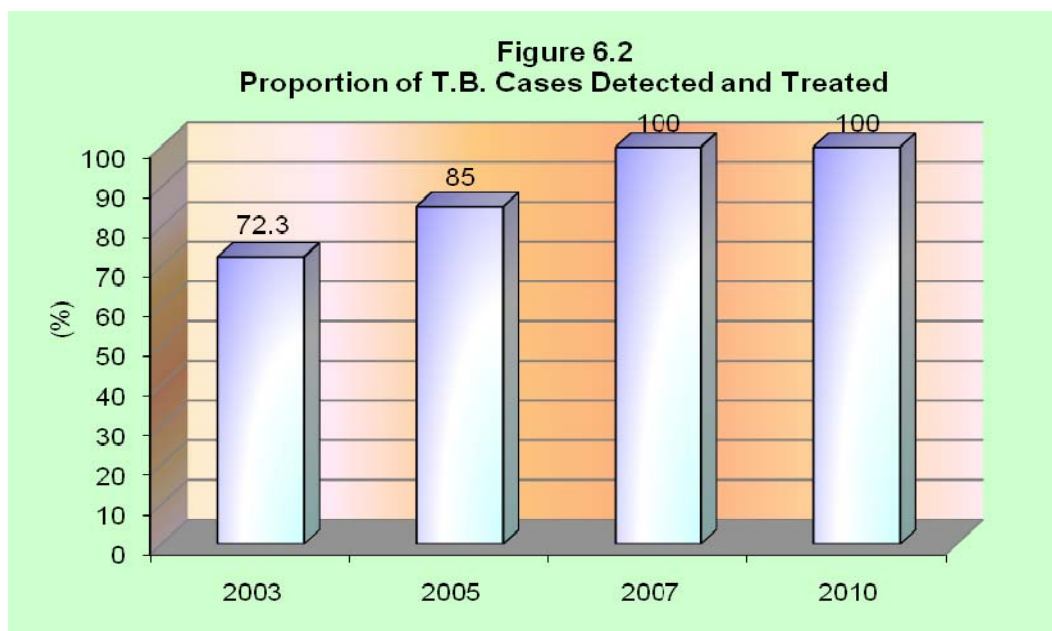


The Kingdom's strategy for combating malaria is based on the following basic pillars:

- Prompt diagnosis and early treatment of cases that display symptoms of malaria, as well as taking effective preventive measures to halt the spread of the disease.
- Continuous, comprehensive control of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, through spraying houses and lands, and drying out wetlands and swamps where mosquitoes breed.
- Launching awareness campaigns to ensure community participation in the control and prevention measures.
- Establishing an efficient monitoring network, particularly in susceptible areas.

■ **Combating Tuberculosis:** The Kingdom is currently implementing a national program for combating tuberculosis aimed at eradicating the disease through adoption of Directly Observed Treatment system of TB (DOTS) commenced in 1998 and was extended to all regions in 2000.

The program has already achieved remarkable success, with incidence falling from 18.6 cases per 100,000 people in 1990 to about 11.4 in 2010 and the rate of cases detected and cured, in line with DOTS, reaching 100% in 2010 (Figure 6.2).



## CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

In addition to the substantial number of foreign workers it hosts, the Kingdom receives more than one and a half million Hajj performers during the Hajj season, and about three and a half million Umrah performers. Social and religious values, as well as some other factors reviewed earlier, limit the spread of HIV/AIDS. Yet, spread of other communicable diseases remains possible, which calls for constant vigilance and persistent preparedness.

## SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

The Ninth Development Plan aims at linking widespread health centres to public hospitals, in order to enhance the technical capabilities of the centres and improve early detection as well as adoption of effective preventive and curative measures.

Moreover, work is under way to develop a comprehensive health information network, linking all health facilities and centres as well as related public and private agencies, to improve the health database in general and the communicable diseases database in particular.

<b>Box (6.2): Overview of Current Situation</b>			
<b>Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?</b>			
<u>✓Expected</u>	Probable	Not possible	No Answer Due to Insufficient Data
<b>Supportive environment</b>			
<u>✓Good</u>	Moderate	Poor but Improving	Poor



**Box (6.3): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

<b>Relevant Factors</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>		
Data collection capacities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capacities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capacities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate the results of analysis into the policies and resource planning	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor



## GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### TARGET 12:

Integrate principles of sustainable development into the country's policies and programmes and reverse loss of environmental resources.

### TARGET 13:

Achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010.

Goal Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Proportion of land area covered by forests (%)	-	-	-	-	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49
Consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) (ton)	833	1828	1593	882	855	666	675	235	-
Proportion of fish stock within safe biological limits (%)	-	-	-	-	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33
Total Water Resources Used (MCM)	-	-	-	-	19550	18100	17800	17600	17450
Ratio of sea and land areas protected to maintain biological diversity, to surface area (%)	3.3	3.9	3.7	4.26	4.26	4.26	4.26	4.26	4.26

## TARGET 14:

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

Goal Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Proportion of population, urban and rural, with sustainable access to safe drinking water, through water distribution system and water tanker services (%)	75	78	80	87	89	93	95	95	<b>96</b>
Proportion of population with access to sanitation services, through wastewater systems and septic tanks (%) <sup>*</sup>	96	96	97	98	98	98	98	98	100

*\*) Rates based on number of urban population.*

## TARGET 15:

Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers (poor, crowded neighbourhoods).

Goal Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2004	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Proportion of households with access to secure tenure <sup>*)</sup>	88	90	92	96	–	94	94.1	94.1	94.1 <sup>**</sup>

*\*) Adjusted figures.*

*\*\* Estimated figures.*

<sup>7)</sup> 'Households with secure tenure' refers to families who already own, or are in the process of buying, a house; or who privately lease a house; or who live in social housing or lease the same from a third party.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Protection of the environment and upgrading of relevant regulations is one of the main objectives of the successive economic and social development plans in the Kingdom. Consistent with the drive to achieve sustainable development, the Ninth Development Plan (2010–2014) emphasizes conservation and protection of the environment from pollution, and conservation and development of wildlife, as well as conservation and rational utilization of natural resources. This comes in line with endeavour to achieve the sustainable development goal.

Significant developments have taken place in the two main areas of sustainable development, namely environmental protection and improving the quality of life.

### ■ *Environmental Protection:*

The drive for environmental protection and conservation in the Kingdom reflects a commitment to implement article 32 of the Basic Law of Governance, which states that “the state shall endeavour to conserve, protect, develop and prevent pollution of the environment”. Against this backdrop, several decisions, strategies and measures were issued in the last years with an aim to integrate environment-related sustainable development principles into the government’s development policies and programs, in such a way that conserves natural resources and ensures their rational utilization. In addition, several programs and projects were implemented leading to tangible progress in all aspects of environmental protection and conservation (Box 7.1).

**Box 7.1: Key decisions, strategies and measures taken to integrate sustainable development principles into the government's policies and programs:**

- Article 32 of the Basic Law of Governance, states that "the state shall endeavour to conserve, protect, develop and prevent pollution of the environment".
- Enactment of the law on regulation of hunting of wild animals and birds in 1999.
- Approval of the National Strategy for Environmental Pollution Control, as per the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 157 in 1990.
- Approval of the National Contingency Plan for Combating Marine Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances, as per Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 157 in 1990.
- Issuance of the General Environmental Law, as per Council of Ministers Resolution No. 193 in 2001.
- Creation of the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment Protection in synchrony with the issuance of the General Environmental Law.
- Endorsement of the Kyoto Protocol in 2005.
- Accession to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2001.
- Accession to the UN Convention on Desertification Control in 1997.
- Approval of the National Forestry Strategy and Action Plan, as per the Council of Ministers Resolution No. 306 in 2006.
- Approval of the Kingdom's accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and Biodiversity, as per Royal Decree No. M/5 in 2007.
- The Cartagena Protocol went into effect in the Kingdom in 2007.
- Approval of the National Biodiversity Strategy, under Council of Ministers Resolution No. 197 in 2008.
- Approval of the National Health and Environment Strategy, under Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 292 in 2008.

## ■ *Natural Environment:*

The enactment of the General Environmental Law, by Council of Ministers Resolution No. 193 in 2001, was a turning point in the course of environmental activity in the Kingdom. The Meteorology and Environmental Protection Authority (PME), which is responsible for coordination and follow up of the enforcement of the law, developed the executive regulations of the General Environmental Law. In cooperation with several government agencies and communities, including a number of scientific research centres in the Kingdom, PME initiated implementation of a set of measures in industrial and urban areas. These included identification of types of pollutants and the level of their concentration in ambient air in polluted areas as well as in populated areas. In this regard, studies were conducted to make an inventory of the emissions and to link them with their relevant sources. The studies included assessment of health and economic costs of air pollution; identification of the best possible pollution control policies; implementation of a plan to update environmental standards and guidelines relevant to air and water quality in the regions and to upgrade them in addition to implementation of a scheme for environmental inspection of business establishments.

PME also cooperates with relevant government agencies in implementing a set of measures for conservation of coastal areas and control of environmental degradation of the Kingdom's coasts. Among these activities is the work to issue a coastal areas administration plan and its executive regulations, in addition to activating the "National Plan to Combat Pollution with Oil" and initiation of aerial and marine surveys along the Kingdom's coasts. During the Eighth Plan period (2005-2009) a program was launched to conduct periodic inspections of gas, car washing and lubrication stations. The program involved setting up units equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to carry out inspections all over the Kingdom.

Promotion of public awareness of environmental issues received considerable attention from the government. Among other measures taken in this regard, Saudi Arabia launched its first satellite Arabic T.V station "Bee'aty" ("my environment"), besides setting up the national centre for promotion of environmental awareness. Several workshops were also conducted on environment and development, in addition to expansion of media campaigns designed to promote awareness on environmental issues.

The Kingdom's industrial sector takes into account the environmental considerations as from the planning phase of its projects, selection of technologies and up to the production phase. As a first step, industrial enterprises submit the relevant environmental studies, based on the recognized classification categories of the enterprise (first, second and third) where manufacturing disposables whether gaseous, liquids or solids are identified in order to determine means of dealing with them in terms of potential of meeting environmental requirements, as stated in the General Environmental Law adopted in 2001.

### **Environmental Management System**

Industrial firms have demonstrated commitment to environmental protection through endeavors to apply internationally recognized standards in fulfillment of ISO 14001 requirements. The firms worked according to a strategic plan to conduct comprehensive performance evaluation so as to match these standards. For example, the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) adopted SABIC Environmental Manual in 2002 and recently applied an environmental management system at headquarters and in subsidiary companies. In doing so, SABIC has joined the ranks of world class industrial corporations committed in its performance to environmental protection against effects of pollution.

### **Air Quality**

Recognizing the importance of maintaining good air quality, industrial cities have been equipped with air quality monitoring stations to measure and identify levels of emissions of plants. These stations record sulfate dioxide and carbon monoxide concentration levels plus other standards specified by the Rules for Implementation of the General Environmental Law. The program is part of several mechanisms designed to maintain good air quality. For example, SABIC has carried out several programs for the same purpose, including a mobile monitoring station to measure emissions in ambient air and industrial emission sources. SABIC has also installed sensors to measure emissions on an ongoing basis.

### **Waste Management**

Considerable efforts are made by the industrial sector within the context of waste management and recycling of a considerable proportion of waste, with such proportion reaching 50% of waste generated in some plants. This has yielded many opportunities in



terms of economic, social and environmental benefits, including recycling of oil and paper. On the other hand, legislations conforming to WHO standards have been applied to medical waste.

### **Box 7.2: International Prizes Won by Saudi Arabia**

#### **1. Wadi Hanifa Prizes:**

Saudi Arabia has won three international prizes through Wadi Hanifa environmental rehabilitation project in Riyadh city within the context of the development programs adopted by Arriyadh Development Authority. This 80 km project extends from north to south of Arriyadh city. The first prize is Aga International Prize for 2010 while the second one is awarded by a London based international institution specialized in the care of bio-communities (2007). The third prize was awarded from Water Center in Washington for the best water resources development plan at the international level (2003).

These prizes are awarded to large projects which aimed at upgrading the urban value of quarters and comprehensive application of the concept of sustainability.

#### **2. Environmental Management Prizes:**

This is one of the most important environmental prizes in the Arab World which is supervised by Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME) in Saudi Arabia in cooperation with the Arab Administrative Development Organization. The goal of this prize is to encourage Arab countries to devote attention to sustainable development concept and elucidate the significant role of environment management in Arab economies.

The prize also aims to encourage Arab countries to give attention to sustainable development concept along with introduction of successful examples in the domain of environment management to make use of such examples.

Al Madinah Al Munawarah Amanah occupied the top rank in the area of government agencies in the fourth season of the prize in 2010, for solid waste management project. The project involves sorting out the waste collected in Al Madinah along with making use of glass, metals, carton and wood. This project contributes towards conservation of environment against pollution and keeps abreast with developments that take place in waste collection and disposal means.

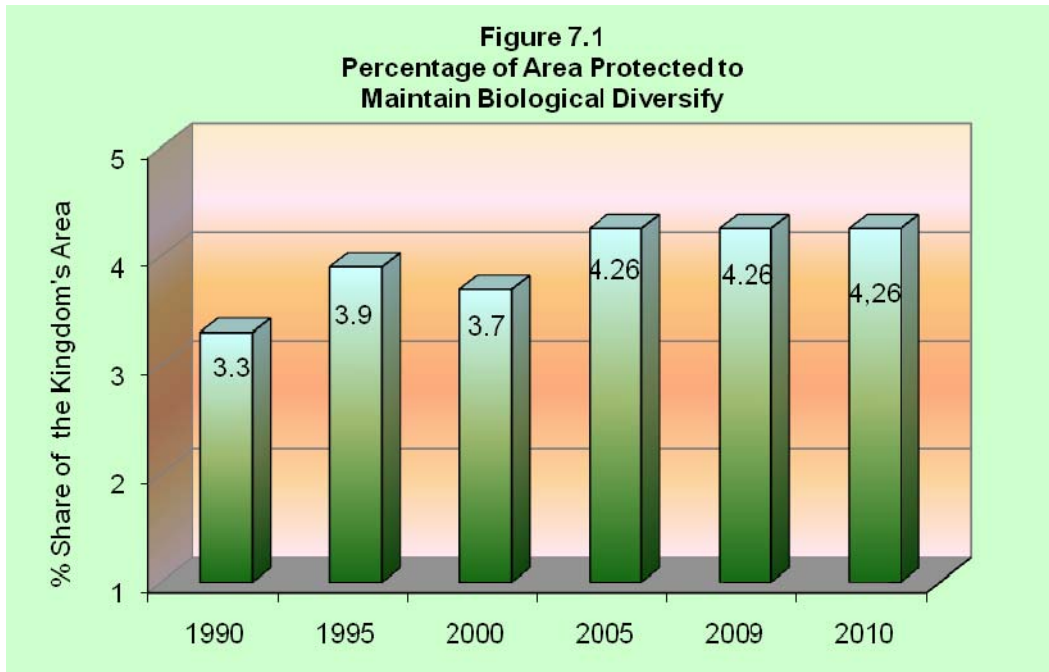
### **Conservation of Marine Life as a Natural Resource**

Industrial plants conduct a number of environmental protection programs that seek to maintain quality of water intended for discharge into the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea. Periodic monitoring of water quality is carried out through application of more than 30 standards that cover several aspects (physical, chemical and organic), and these standards are measured either automatically or through sample taking and laboratory analysis. The monitoring program aims at assuring the safety of marine environment. In this regard, SABIC conducts ongoing monitoring of these standards in the two industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu, with a strict commitment to environmental legislations on marine life. Other programs are also conducted by several sectors to monitor quality of groundwater used for domestic and agricultural purposes.

#### **■ Wildlife Conservation:**

In the area of conservation and development of biodiversity, the Kingdom has devoted significant efforts and has developed a set of measures and policies that focus on conservation of terrestrial and marine wildlife. In this regard, NCWCD re-introduced endangered species into their habitats. It also looks after administration of 16 protected zones with a total area of 82.7 thousand square kilometres, or 4.26% of the Kingdom's area (Figure 7.1). In addition, NCWCD research centres breed endangered species and re-introduce them in some protected areas. On the other hand, it continues its efforts to monitor changes in ecosystems in protected areas.

Over the past five years, two of the largest protected zones, Harrah Alharrah in Jouf region and Khunfa in Tabouk region, have been demarcated. Moreover, a new protected area at upper Jabal Shada in Baha region have been announced.



## ■ **Desertification Control:**

The Kingdom exerts tremendous efforts to control desertification and sand creeping in order to conserve the desert environment and related biodiversity. Promotion of public awareness as to the importance of collective work in implementing national desertification control programs is also part of these efforts. In this context, the Ministry of Agriculture extended protection to 40 sites in various regions of the Kingdom with an aim to protect plants from overgrazing. The Ministry also set up three stations for breeding of grazing plant seeds, plus 27 nurseries for grazing and forestry plants, in addition to a bank for genetic origins of plants. A centre has also been set up to receive satellite images to monitor sand creeping which threaten human habitable and cultivable areas. In addition, a specialized centre has been established for desert studies and control of desertification, with an objective to encourage research and studies in this field.

Furthermore, wide-scale efforts are made to conserve forests and to enforce the relevant regulations. The country also seeks to reverse deforestation through implementation of reforestation projects, stabilization of sand dunes through trees plantation, and

establishment of national parks. Work is under way on a project for demarcation of forests in the Southern Region of the country by the Space Research Institute of KACST using remote sensing technology.

### ■ **Quality of Life:**

The proportion of population with sustainable access to safe drinking water stood at about 96% in 2010, while the proportion of population with access to sanitation networks and domestic septic tanks reached 100% in 2010. Per capita water consumption in the Kingdom is estimated at about 240 litres per day.

The proportion of households with access to secure tenure is about 99%. This term refers to households that own or rent their housing or live in social housing or employer-provided housing, with access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The number of housing units in the Kingdom reached about 4.6 million in 2010 with some 651,000 units up from 2004.

The government provides housing units to needy households. The Ministry of Housing constructs housing units for the needy groups in all regions of the Kingdom, while REDF provides finance of housing for a great number of the citizens. Moreover, the charitable societies play an important role in providing housing to the most needy citizens.

## **CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL**

The various national environment strategies, both those already in place and those under preparation, provide a clear vision and specific targets for ensuring environmental sustainability. However, sectoral, spatial and time factors represent a challenge that impedes their implementation and requires additional administrative and technical capacities, as well as adequate coordination among various government and private agencies.

The major challenge facing supply of water and sanitation services is represented in water scarcity. Therefore, it deems imperative to intensify the efforts of consumption rationalization and to ensure optimal utilization of renewable water resources and

reclaimed waste water. The other major challenge is to raise the quality of water and sanitation services and to enhance their economic and social efficiency.

## **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

The Ninth Development Plan stresses the vital role of environmental protection and improvement of the quality of life whereas the MDGs constitute an important part of its objectives. This important aspect of the development process is expected to gain increased support to improve the Kingdom's environmental indicators. Emphasis will also be placed on ensuring environment conservation and protection against pollution and degradation and reducing pollutants resulting from emissions of industrial plants and transport means (Box 7.3).

**Box (7.3): Selected Targets and Policies, from the Ninth Development Plan (2010-2014), Relevant to MDG 7**

- To develop a national plan to respond to environmental disasters
- To install 4 weather monitoring radars, 10 stationary marine monitoring stations, 40 air quality monitoring stations, 8 climate monitoring stations in the protected areas, supply and installation of 100 agricultural climate monitoring stations, 21 automatic monitoring stations, and 3 mobile stations to measure noise level.
- To enhance private sector involvement in environmental development programs.
- To strengthen IT structure and studies that address various issues of the environment and its protection.
- To implement 600,000 domestic water connections and 15,000 km of water networks, to bring coverage rate to 88%.
- To implement 700,000 new wastewater connections and 12,000 wastewater networks, to bring coverage to 60%.
- To increase waste recycling rate to 75%.
- To give priority, in government housing support, to segments that cannot obtain adequate housing through market mechanism.
- To finance around 109000 housing units by REDEF.

**Box (7.4): Overview of Current Situation**

**Will the goal have been achieved by 2015?**

<u>✓Expected</u>	Probable	Not possible	No Answer Due to Insufficient Data
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**Supportive environment**

<u>✓Good</u>	Moderate	Poor but Improving	Poor
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**Box (7.5): Monitoring and Evaluation Environment**

Relevant Factors	Evaluation		
Data collection capacities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Quality of survey data	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical follow-up capacities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Statistical analysis capacities	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Ability to incorporate the results of analysis into the policies and resource planning	<u>✓Good</u>	Medium	Poor
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Good	<u>✓Medium</u>	Poor

# **GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a major donor and a key partner in international development. The Kingdom is a leading donor, with the total aid provided by it to developing countries estimated to be more than \$103.5 billion between 1973 and 2010.

The aid provided by the Kingdom to the developing countries, as a share of GDP, exceeded the 0.7% share of donor countries GDP targeted by the UN for support of development. This aid included untied, non-refundable aid and developmental soft loans provided by the Saudi Fund for Development. More than 95 developing countries in Asia, Africa and other regions of the world have benefited from this aid. The current percentage of aid to GDP of donor countries does not exceed 0.31%, i.e. at a level below that of 1990 which was 0.34%.

## **SAUDI ARABIA'S FOREIGN AID CHANNELS**

The Kingdom provides aid through different channels, mainly the Saudi Fund for Development, which acts as the official channel for economic and social development aid. In addition, the Kingdom contributes to multilateral, regional and international development funds such as the World Bank, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Islamic Development Bank, and the OPEC Fund for International Development, ... etc.

Foreign aid offered by the Kingdom are disbursed through different mechanisms, including soft loans, grants, relief aid, and debt relief where more than \$6 billion of poor-countries' debts have been forgiven.

The Kingdom provides aid to developing countries through the following channels:

■ ***Saudi Fund for Development (SFD):*** The Fund was established in 1974 to participate in financing development projects by granting loans to developing countries, and to promote national exports through finance and export guarantees. SFD is a legal entity with an autonomous financial status. It commenced its activity with a capital of SR10 billion (\$2.7 billion), which has since been increased thrice to reach SR31 billion (\$8.3 billion). SFD provides soft loans, without discrimination between countries in need of assistance, and concentrates on financing priority development projects, particularly in poor countries.

■ ***Regional and International Development Institutions:*** The Kingdom contributes to a large number of Arab, regional and international development institutions (Table 8.1). It is a founding member of the World Bank and the IMF, and enjoys voting power in both institutions, and is represented by an executive director in each. It is also a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) which is a member of the World Bank Group. MIGA is entrusted with channelling foreign direct investment to developing countries through offering risk guarantee to investors and lenders and providing technical assistance to enable such countries to attract and retain foreign investment.

Saudi Arabia is the largest contributor to the capital of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Cumulative finance operations, approved during the period 1976-2010, amounted to about \$70.3 billion. The Kingdom is also a major contributor to the OPEC Fund for International Development, which was established in 1976 by OPEC member countries as a development finance institution.

It is also noteworthy that the Kingdom's private sector took the initiative in founding the Arab Gulf Program for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), which provides technical assistance to several developing countries.



**Table (8.1)**  
**Saudi Arabia's Contributions to Arab, Regional and**  
**International Development Institutions up to 2010**

(US \$Million)

<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Kingdom's Contribution</b>	<b>Kingdom's Contribution (% share of the capital)</b>
Arab Monetary Fund	2808.0	416.3	14.8
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	334844.8	10757.7	3.2
African Development Fund *	*	336.3	4.5
OPEC Fund for International Development	3435.0	1033.3	30.1
Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development	10000.0	1000.0	10.0
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	3652.0	439.8	12.0
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development	6993.0	1677.7	24.0
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	2800.0	685.0	24.5
Islamic Development Bank	27846.0	6574.1	23.6
World Bank	189943.0	5403.8	2.8
African Development Bank	101095.3	188.1	0.2
International Development Association (IDA)	199130.9	2348.5	1.2
Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development	350.4	78.7	22.5
International Finance Corporation	2369.4	30.1	1.3
The Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation	194.5	13.1	6.8
Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit	232.0	20.9	9.0
Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector	1000.0	76.2	7.6
International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation	750.0	120.0	16.0
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	1912.8	59.8	3.1
Special Account for Support of SMEs in the Arab Countries	2000.0	500.0	25.0

\*) *The African Development Fund has no capital; it depends on grants by donor countries.*

*Source: Saudi Fund for Development, Annual Report 2010.*

■ ***Sectoral Government Agencies:*** The Kingdom provides aid through specialized government agencies, such as medical aid by the Ministry of Health, food aid by the Ministry of Agriculture, and university scholarships by the Ministry of Higher Education.

■ ***Saudi Arabia Red Crescent Authority:*** This Authority, together with related government agencies, provides emergency and humanitarian aid to countries affected by disaster and crisis.

■ ***Organized Charity Activities:*** These include aid raised and offered under government supervision, through ad hoc committees, in response to specific events, such as natural disasters and humanitarian crises due to armed conflicts and famines. These kinds of assistance are emergency aid tied to specific events.

## **FORMS OF SAUDI FOREIGN AID**

Saudi foreign aid is provided in the following forms:

■ ***Soft loans:*** The Kingdom gives soft loans to developing countries periods that may last up to 30 years, with a grace period of ten years. These loans are granted within the framework of bilateral agreements between the Kingdom and the borrowing country, or through multilateral agreements, where the Kingdom shares aid provision with other donor countries.

■ ***Grants:*** These could be in cash or in kind, with eligibility criteria determined on a case-by-case basis.

■ ***Humanitarian Relief and Assistance:*** This kind of aid is provided in response to emergencies resulting from natural disasters, famines or armed conflicts.

■ ***Educational Fellowships:*** Within the framework of the Educational Fellowships Program, the Kingdom provides scholarships to students in developing countries to study in Saudi universities.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The Kingdom is one of the foremost donors of relief aid. In 2010, Saudi Arabia extended emergency relief to people affected by war, earthquakes, floods, snow and draught in Pakistan, Bangladesh at a total of \$ 242.6 million in addition to \$50 million to Haiti in response to the earthquake disaster of 2010.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AID

This section reviews bilateral and multilateral economic and social aid provided by the Kingdom in 2010 and the accumulative volume of aid over the 1975-2010 period, along with the sectoral distribution of aid.

■ ***Bilateral Aid in 2010:*** During 2010, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) signed 24 bilateral loan agreements to finance the implementation of 24 projects in 21 developing countries. Of these projects 12 are in 11 African countries, 11 are in 9 Asian countries and one project in another region. The total value of such aid amounted to SR2439.3 million. Accordingly, the number of countries to whose projects the SFD offers finance has increased to 77 countries.

Following is the sectoral distribution of the Fund's total finance during 2010:

- Energy Sector: five projects have been financed with a total amount of SR949 million, i.e. 38.9% of the total fund.
- Social Infrastructure: finance of 11 projects with total amount of SR890.5 million, or 36.5% of the total finance.
- Agriculture Sector: Finance of 3 projects with a total amount of SR 296.3 million, or 12.2% of total finance.
- Transport and Communications Sector: finance of 3 projects with a total amount of SR 133.5 million, or 5.5% of total finance.
- Other Sectors: finance of 2 projects with a total amount of SR170.0 million, or 7% of total finance.

■ **Multilateral Aid:** Through the SFD, the Kingdom participated, during 2010, in financing 15 development projects in 14 developing countries, at a total value of SR1791.3 million, (Table 8.2).

**Table 8.2**  
**Loan Agreements Signed in 2010 (joint finance of some projects)**  
(SR. Million)

Country	Project Title	Total Cost	Fund's Contribution (loan amount)	Other Financing Partners and Amount of Finance
Indonesia	Building two university hospitals in the universities of Sblis Mer and Andalas	484.10	135.00	Islamic Development Bank, (US\$ 63.97) million
Bahrain	Promoting the electric power transmission network: 220 volts dual potential; and 66 kilovolt.	2902,00	187.50	Islamic Development Bank, (US\$ 280.00) million. Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (US\$100.00) million.
	Bahrain Development Bank Operations Program.	1001.00	100.00	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (\$40 million).
Jordan	Al-Samra Power Generation Plant (third stage)	750,00	193.00	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (23.00) million Kuwait Dinars. Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (30.00) million Kuwait Dinars.
Tajikistan	Kolbab-Klay-Rhomb Road	348.75	75.00	Islamic Development Bank, (US\$30.00) million. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (\$25.00) million. Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (\$20.00) million.

Country	Project Title	Total Cost	Fund's Contribution (loan amount)	Other Financing Partners and Amount of Finance
				The OPEC Fund for International Development, (US\$ 15.00) million.
China	Building and equipping of three hospitals in Ganso region	310.91	75.00	The OPEC Fund for International Development, (US\$ 10.00) million.
Gambia	Brekama-Darslamy Road	65.00	28.50	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, (US\$ 7.50) million.
Sierra Leone	Power generation in the Western region (first and second stages)	102.49	6.00	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, (US\$ 15.00) million.
Mali	Construction of Tawsa Dam	732.80	93.75	Islamic Development Bank, (US\$ 50.00) million. The OPEC Fund for International Development, (US\$ 8.00) million. Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, (US\$ 10.00) million. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, (US\$ 21.00) million. West Africa Development Bank, (US\$7.50) million. Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, (US\$20.00) million.
Cote d'Ivoire	Sungrobo-Yamoscro Road (second section: Tabo-Tamody) (additional loan)	315.00	30.00	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, (US\$ 8.00) million. The OPEC Fund for International Development, (US\$ 8.00) million.

Country	Project Title	Total Cost	Fund's Contribution (loan amount)	Other Financing Partners and Amount of Finance
Syria	Expansion of Nasirya power plant	1384.00	525.00	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.
Mauritania	Water distribution network in the Capital city	510.00	95.00	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (10.00) million Kuwait Dinars.
Ethiopia	Countryside electricity in Tijjja-Djahbor region	172.24	37.50	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (US\$10.00) million. The OPEC Fund for International Development, (US\$ 13.00) million.
Sri Lanka	Development of Kaloganga Basin	624.56	172.50	The OPEC Fund for International Development, (US\$ 28.00) million.
Cape Verde	Construction and rehabilitation of eight educational schools.	83.55	37.50	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (US\$ 2.90) million.

■ ***Accumulative Volume of Aid (1975–2010):***

The number of soft loan agreements concluded by the Saudi Fund for Development since its creation in 1975 and up to the end of 2010 totalled 489 agreements for funding of 472 development projects and economic programs, with a value of SR 33.30 billion. 77 developing countries benefited from this aid of which 43 are in Africa, 27 in Asia and 7 in other regions.

■ ***Sectoral Distribution of Aid:*** Saudi foreign aid offered through the Saudi Fund for Development to implement priority projects in developing countries, aimed at development of the infrastructure, has helped those countries to promote their economies. The largest shares of such aid were received by the transport and communications sector (30.4%), the social infrastructure sector (24.2%), the energy sector (20.4%), the agriculture sector (15.8%), the industry and mining sector (5.4%) and the other sectors (3.5%).

Table (8.3) shows the sectoral and geographical distribution of Saudi foreign aid in the form of soft loans by the Saudi Fund for Development.

**Table 8.3**  
**Sectoral and Geographical Distribution of Cumulative Loans by the Saudi Fund for Development**

(SR. Million)\*

Sector	Africa		Asia		Other Regions		Total		% of Total
	Number of Projects and Programs	Amount	Number of Projects and Programs	Amount	Number of Projects and Programs	Amount	Number of Projects and Programs	Amount	
<b>1. Transport and Communications</b>									
a) Transport									
• Roads	62	2879.30	37	3279.82	2	62.40	101	6216.45	18.67
• Railroads	7	541.08	8	1094.88	-	-	15	1635.96	4.91
• Sea Ports	10	742.53	9	745.32	2	112.60	21	1600.45	4.80
• Airports	10	250.15	6	141.59	-	-	16	391.74	1.18
b) Communications	4	142.69	2	133.93	-	-	6	276.62	0.83
<b>2. Agriculture</b>	62	3779.23	18	1465.31	-	-	80	5244.54	15.75
<b>3. Energy</b>	15	1693.48	35	4975.81	1	111.06	51	6780.35	20.36
<b>4. Social infrastructure</b>									
a) Water and Sanitation	18	1131.33	14	921.68	2	57.00	34	2110.01	6.34
b) Education	27	1349.13	26	1522.29	-	-	53	2871.42	8.62
c) Health	14	578.26	16	1267.55	2	168.75	32	2014.56	6.05
d) Housing and Urban Development	11	645.12	8	413.62	-	-	19	1058.74	3.18
<b>5. Industry and Mining</b>	12	1277.21	6	665.39	-	-	18	1942.60	5.83
<b>6. Other Sectors</b>	20	571.59	5	473.26	1	112.50	26	1157.35	3.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>15576.03</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>17100.45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>624.31</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>33300.79</b>	<b>100</b>

\* One US\$ = 3.75 SR.

Source: Saudi Fund for Development, 2010 Report.





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