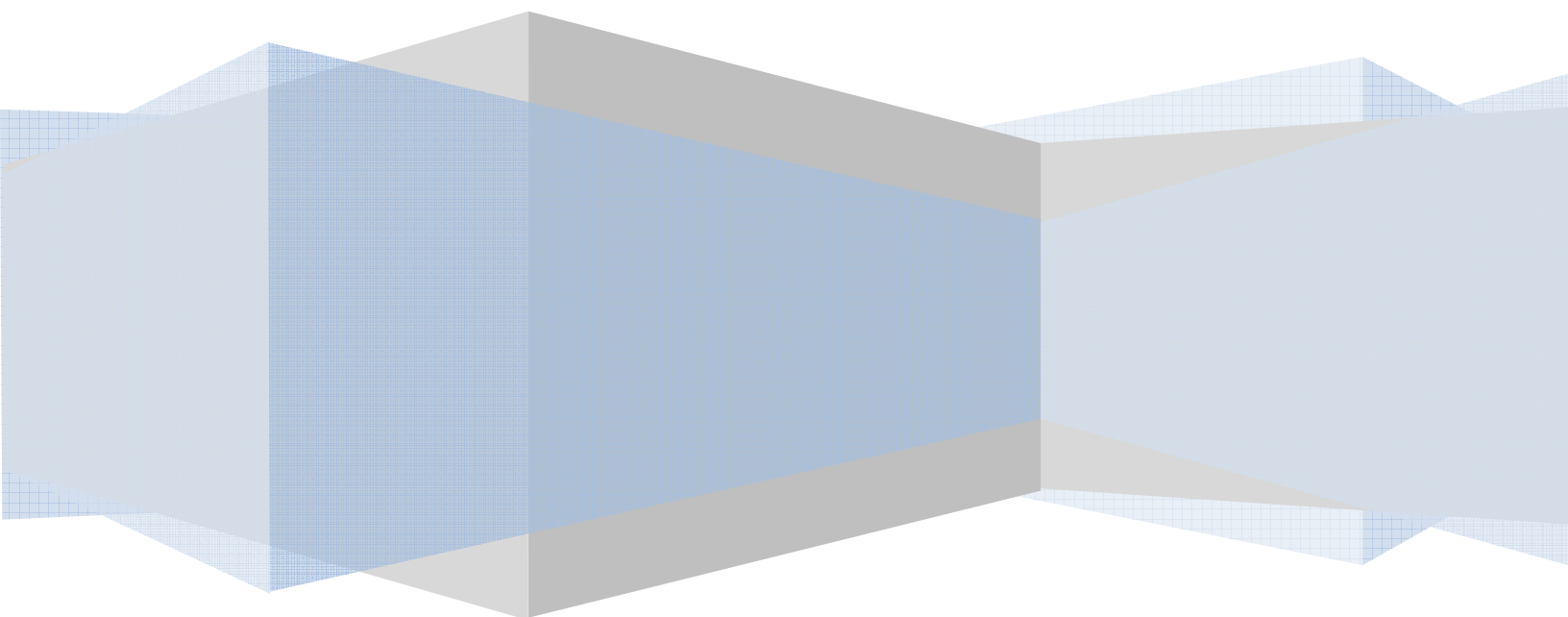**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

Afghanistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2010

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2010

OCTOBER 2010

FOREWORD

This MDG 2010 Report presents an analysis of progress on the MDG targets set by Afghanistan, one of the states striving to reduce poverty in the midst of serious insecure conditions that it continues to encounter. Emerging out of decades of conflicts, we took the bold step in 2004 to join the league of countries committed to pursue policies and strategies to reach the millennium development goal targets and reduce poverty. As a late comer to the league, we set our millennium development goal targets for 2020 instead of 2015. Through using a set of selected indicators this report measures our country's progress towards the targets it set for each of the goals from the original baseline position it started. Despite difficulties in data collection due to initial lack of technical capacity, inadequate resources and insecure conditions hampering data collection, the Central Statistics Organization and our line ministries have collected as much data as possible, which enabled us to prepare this report for the Millennium Summit. Our data analyses reflect our current position in the targets we have set, relative to our initial (baseline) conditions but our data also shows some absolute progress we have made, which might look small in closing the gap between the initial condition and the MDG targets, yet their achievements, which reflect a resource constrained determination in pursuit of the millennium development goals.
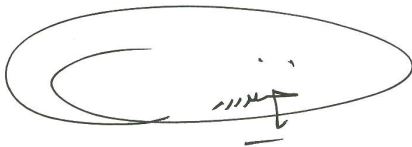
Our 2010 Report shows in which goals and targets advances have been made while not neglecting areas where progress is still lagging and inequalities continuing. We considered it important to acknowledge areas where progress has been inadequate and gaps between targets and achievements remain large in order that we are able to research and identify the issues that have hampered progress and develop strategies and programming in making targeted interventions to overcome the problems and achieve the desired results. Analyses and acknowledgement of the deficiencies in progress and inequalities in certain areas, even in those where initial progress is registered, are the strengths of this report as they provide solid stepping stones for faster climb to the targets set for 2020. Without recognition of the weaknesses and inadequacies, whether derived from internal or exogenous sources, and better planning for faster progress in these areas, we will never be able to get our country out of the poverty trap.

With the presentation of this report, we strengthen our resolve to poverty reduction, through making a progressive march towards the MDG targets we set for 2020. Passion in the form of political will to make targeted intervention for poverty reduction, courage to accept the problems we continue to encounter, and integrity in addressing the issues that now hamper our efforts, will help our march towards MDGs.

The groundwork for this report is prepared by a core team from the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Directorate under the Office of Deputy Minister for Policy in Ministry of Finance. For collecting the relevant data, the core team worked with the Government line ministries and agencies responsible for programming for the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the programs. The ministries and agencies have been identified in the main text. National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment financially supported by the European Commission's National Surveillance Systems Project - a joint venture of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Central Statistics Organization - provided the data required for the report. Memorandums of the International Financial Institutions, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asia Development Bank; data analysis of the United Nation agencies, such as, World Food Program, World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNIFEM, United Nations Environment Program, United Nations Mine Action Center, UNODC, International Labor Organization etc., contributed to strengthening the assessment of the MDG status. Various

3

UN Millennium Development Goal Reports provided guidance for ways to assess progress towards the MDGs, identify the deficiencies, which are slowing down progress in MDG achievements and in developing proposals for targeted interventions. A number of surveys conducted by civil society organizations, especially some undertaken by Oxfam, helped strengthen the analysis of the status of the MDG targets and needs for improved plans. Data presented in the United Nation's Global Development Report of 2009 provided additional insights. A recently published poverty status report produced under the World Bank auspices helped clarify the poverty scenario.

To this end, I would like to thank Wahidullah Waissi, Director of ANDS who led this process with the ANDS team in Ministry of Finance, namely, Shakir Majeedi, Allawdin Zalmai, Saifurrahman Ahmadzai, Shukria Kazimi and Shahenshah Sherzai. My appreciations also go to Dr. Nipa Banerjee, who contributed to the drafting process of this report with the continuous and untiring support from our Ministry colleagues. The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan gratefully acknowledges DFID's provision of technical assistance in support of preparation of this report.

Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal
Minister of Finance

CONTENT

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIMS	Afghanistan Information Management Systems
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANBP	Afghanistan New Beginning Program
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ARD	Agriculture and Rural Development
CBN	Cost of Basic Needs
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CSO	Central Statistical Organization
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DFR	Donor Financial Review
DIAG	Demobilization of Illegal Armed Groups
EC	European Commission
EMIS	Education Management Information System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)
GDI	Gender-related Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIPC	Highly-Indebted Poor Country
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HNP	Health, Nutrition & Population
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LICUS	Low-Income Countries Under Stress
LOTFA	Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MCN	Ministry of Counter Narcotics
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industries
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NEPA	National Environment Protection Agency
NPLs	Non-Performing Loans

NRVA	National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
NSC	National Security Council
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODP	Ozone Depletion Potential
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
PBAs	Program based Approach
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PRTs	Provincial Reconstruction Teams
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Education Program
UNICEF	United Nation Children Fund
UNMACA	United Nations Mine Action Clearance Agency
UNODC	United Nation Office for Drug Control
WHO	World Health Organization

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2010 REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Millennium Development Goals set measurable targets for enabling people to enjoy the minimum requirements of a dignified life. Understanding progress and challenges towards meeting the MDGs and the need to monitor relevant data are essential to readjust and modify country development strategies in order that MDG targets are met and contribute to the attainment of various elements of human development.

An issue to be clearly understood is that progress towards MDGs is not necessarily a sufficient condition for attaining human development. In Afghanistan MDG progress is analyzed in the context of the political, economic, social, governance, and security framework. Furthermore, Afghanistan's current condition, compounded by insecurity, makes review and progress of the MDGs extremely challenging, sometimes threatening to destroy any hard won MDG gains. On the other hand, data is often not available or difficult to collect due to security situation in some areas, data reliability issues and inadequate data management capacity.

Since Afghanistan was still recovering from decades of conflict, the Government endorsed the Millennium Declaration only in March 2004, and certain targets had to be tailored to the realities on the ground. Starting late would mean a later 15-year target and thus the time target for reaching its country-specific goals was set at 2020. Given the continuing insecure situation in certain regions of the country, Afghanistan added goal number nine to also address security issues in the country.

Considering MDG objectives as multidimensional, inclusive of social, economic, security and environmental development, Afghanistan decided to champion its multi-dimensional human development cause through an MDG-based national development strategy - the ANDS. The Afghanistan National Development Strategy is organized around three pillars – Security; Governance, Human Rights and Rule of Law; and Economic and Social Development. Each of the MDGs is reflected in one or more of these pillars and the underlying sector strategies.

Reviews of the MDGs show that Afghanistan's progress has been variable in different goal areas. Afghanistan has made improvements in reduction of infant mortality and under 5 mortality rates, visible improvements in bringing school-age children back go school, and improve gender gaps in certain spheres of life. A rapid progress in accessing telecommunication facilities since 2001 has been recorded, where Afghanistan had one of the lowest telephone access rates. By 2006, the percentage of cellular subscribers increased to 21, well on track to reach the target of 50% by 2015.

The Human Development Index of the 2009 Global Human Development Report ranks Afghanistan as lowest in Asia and second lowest in the world. In spite of annual progress, per capita income remains, the lowest in the region. Poverty is compounded by a lack of health and social services, as well as poor education and nutrition levels. Afghans have lowest access to safe drinking water, with only 3% of Afghans having access to safe drinking water, 12% to adequate sanitation and just 6% to electricity. 40% of the Afghan population remain unemployed and more than half vulnerable to poverty. Another 8.5 million or 37% of the people are in the borderline of food insecurity and thus hunger.

These figures indicate progress for Afghanistan started from a low base, and there is still potential to invest and bring better changes and improvements to the lives of people.

Poverty Profile: Poverty in Afghanistan affects 36% of the population, while more than half of the nation is vulnerable to poverty and is highly susceptible to becoming poor. One small negative shock has the potential to move many individuals into poverty.

Data breakdown of the poverty incidence reveals that the incidence is high in all part of the country although large differences exist between regions. Poverty in rural population is close to the national average while incidence in the urban population is much lower.

Literacy and Education: Over the last nine years, the sector has experienced a number of achievements unprecedented in the history of the country, particularly in terms of enrolment rates. Communities across Afghanistan have demonstrated the desire for a better future for their children by sending them to school in their millions. Tens of thousands of youth and adults, both female and male, who missed out on education, flock to literacy classes and vocational training. Households are making large personal and financial sacrifices to obtain education.

Recent findings show indicators of improvements in these areas (71% primary enrolment rates, 2010). Nevertheless gender gaps still persist both in literacy, primary school enrolment and all higher educational levels. Disparities between urban and rural areas in "access to education" also persist with fewer opportunities for women in rural areas. From an analysis of the trend and encouraging upward flow of data in most areas, the targets in the education sector, appears achievable. While the adult literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world – primary completion rates have gradually improved.

At output levels, thousands of classrooms and schools have been built, over 22 million textbooks delivered and number of teachers grown several folds. In keeping with the exponential increase in enrolment, the number of schools has increased to 11,800 in 2010 and the number of teachers reaches to 161,750 of which 30% are female.

Gender Equality: Gender equality has been on top of government agenda, and it is considered a major crosscutting issue for its MDG-based national development strategy. Afghanistan Constitution guarantees that at least 25% of all elected representatives should be female. The Afghan MDG target is to achieve 30% female representation by 2020. The female representation of 27% recoded in 2009/10 is promising and commendable given the societal and cultural barriers and years of Taliban rule that deprived women of basic rights.

The ratio of female literacy rate, for the age group of 15-24, measures progress towards gender equity in literacy and learning opportunities for women. Afghanistan has an adult population of 9.5 million people who are illiterate, of which 5.5 million are women. Ratio of girls to boys in education shows a decline as the level of education gets higher; 52% Primary, 45% secondary, and 21% Tertiary.

No clear data has been collected with respect to gender disparity in access to justice although there are indications that these issues are under review by the government. In terms of reducing gender disparity in economic areas, in general, women's position in the labor market is weak and significantly weaker than that in the south Asia region.

Child Mortality: An improvement in reduction of infant mortality and under 5 mortality rates has been recorded. Afghanistan remains a country with one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. 50% of the children are under weight for age and more than half of Afghan children remain under-nourished.

Maternal Mortality: No recent data is available for this indicator; however there have been improvements in some proxy indicators such as ante-natal care and skilled birth attendants. Afghanistan is one of the few countries in the world where women have lower life expectancy than men. Reproductive health complications is a leading cause of women's mortality, compounded by poor general health conditions, poor nutrition, lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, early marriages and thus early child bearing and absence of timely access to obstetrics care.

HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis: Lack of data in halting or reversing spread of HIV/AIDS is stark and thus no reliable estimate of the spread of HIV/AIDS can be made. Fight against malaria and tuberculosis has made some progress. Both prevalence of tuberculosis and death rates related to tuberculosis have been reduced.

Environment: In terms of the environment related target, deforestation is severe in Afghanistan. A slight decrease in carbon dioxide emission per capita is recorded but the baseline value had been set so low originally that the decrease hardly generates any positive impact. Also, the low carbon dioxide emission is the result of absence of heavy industrialization. A decrease in the proportion of people using solid fuels and relying on biomass or coal as the primary source of energy are also contributing factors in reducing environmental degradation. Environmental protection, especially for water resource management, continues to pose serious constraints on sustainable reconstruction efforts. With number of slum dwellers doubling from 1990, water, sanitation and energy demands have correspondingly increased.

Development of a Global Partnership: This goal includes several targets including youth employment, preferential trade agreement issues, access to affordable essential drugs, and access to new technologies, especially information and communication. Variable progress has been recorded in these areas. While progress in some of these areas does not appear extremely poor, overall, there is little evidence that most targets of Global Partnership for Development are achievable. Due to lack of predictability in donor financing, planning, commitments and disbursements, collection of data in these areas is difficult and monitoring progress is no easier despite government's efforts to collect data through the Donor Financial Review process.
While some data indicate improved donor commitments to MDG related social sectors, such as education, agriculture and rural development, health and education, the actual expenditure eventually do not match the volume of funds or investment in sectors indicated in the commitments. Donor financing is often not need based. In a post conflict situation, especially the troops contributing countries' investments are often politically or militarily motivated. Therefore, the basic service sectors (which also represent MDGs) are not high priorities in the list of donor investments. In other words, donor investments are not necessarily aligned to the high MDG priorities.

Enhancing Security: Professional training of the Afghan National Army has shown progress and considered to be successful. Fielding of Afghan national army on a nationwide scale has also increased considered to its baseline value in 2004. The increasing numbers in Afghan national army and national police are planned and recruitment is has been on-target. Despite some increase in counter-insurgency incidence Afghan National Army's independent operations have been successful that would lead the way towards transition phase planned for 2014. However, concerns remain on sustainability of a large armed force when donor funds are eventually withdrawn.

In terms of eradicating poppy cultivation, total number of hectares cultivating poppy has been reduced in the past three years consecutively. The target of reducing opium trade is off track even though combating opium in certain provinces has been significantly successful. Sustainability of

poppy reduction needs considerable attention. The opium problem is most deep rooted in regions of strong insurgencies in southern Afghanistan, indicating dangerous links between insecurity and drugs trade.

Afghanistan has made considerable progress in clearing land mines. In 2005, the known hazardous area was 715 sq. km although new hazard areas have been identified since 2005, reaching a highpoint of 1,231 sq. km. With clearance operations in the same period, the known hazard areas have been reduced to a current figure of 649 sq. km. This reflects an actual achievement of 582 sq. km of contaminated land removed. The most significant achievement is that the number of accidents related to land mines and victims has definitively been reduced steadily. The government, by completing its Ottawa Treaty Article 4 obligation to destroy all known stockpiled antipersonnel land mines has achieved the 24th MDG target.

Targeted Interventions and Better Aid: Targeted intervention in selected group of MDGs for fast tracking poverty reduction is required in Afghanistan; and this report provides public policy recommendations in such areas. Better aid is the area to be stressed most as close to 100% of Afghanistan's development budget is aid financed. Aid to Afghanistan has been far too prescriptive and driven by donor preferences rather than be responsive to Afghan needs and priorities. The donors and the government have established several mechanisms for making aid better for the purpose of fast tracking MDGs and poverty reduction.

Challenges and Constraints: Given the ongoing challenges, Afghanistan has not been able to have a complete census since 1979, although efforts are underway and pre-census analyses have been conducted. The Central Statistics Organization has estimates of population at province and district levels, which are based on information collected during 2003-05 household listing. This has also been updated in 2009. The National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment survey by The Central Statistics Organization is being used as main source of nationwide data on household information. The issue of inadequate human resource capacity and thus low institutional capacity in planning, implementing and monitoring MDGs is a major source of concern in Afghanistan, as in most fragile post-conflict states. Insecurity also hampers data collection, both in terms of access and sustainability of surveys. The Central Statistics Organization staffs have also been killed during the pre-census data collection process in insecure areas. These issues underline the need for creating an enabling environment for collection of data and monitoring the MDGs.

Conclusion: There are clear linkages between women's education, maternal health, child health and mortality; general family's health, in terms of sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, reduction of exposure to diseases and family's income. Lack of education and health facilities also has linkages with higher poverty rates. Coordination and cooperation between government agencies and between the government and the civil society help generate conducive conditions for social contracts between the government and the people and operation of a system of upward and downward accountability for progress towards MDGs for an equitable development. Supply side investments, supported with demand side policies, can assure progress. In Afghanistan, investments in education, health, water and sanitation can bring about rapid change in the life conditions of the poor. In the meantime, targeted interventions, including targeted social protection and employment programs are critical for all MDGs acceleration.

Finally, domestic resource mobilization is the primary source of sustainable MDG financing and implementation. Broadening the tax base and an improved tax collection system will raise significant resources. However, changes in tax structure should not impose heavy burden on goods and services that the poor consume more.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2010 REPORT

1.   INTRODUCTION

The start of the 21st century in the year 2000 launched a new millennium expected to bring new hopes, opportunities and aspirations for people around the world. The Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations which are designed to track development progress from 2000 through 2015 encapsulates such messages of hope. These Goals adopted by member nations of the UN set measurable targets for enabling people to enjoy the minimum requirements of a dignified life. The detailed time bound indicators for each of the MDGs allow for measuring progress towards key aspects of human development. Understanding progress and challenges towards meeting the MDGS and the need to monitor relevant data are essential to readjust and modify development strategies in order that MDG targets are met and they cater best to the attainment of elements of human development.

An element that must, however, be clearly understood for analytical purposes that progress towards MDGs is not necessarily a sufficient condition for attaining human development. The MDGs are designed to ease the constraints on people's ability to attain full human development potentials. These issues will form the basis of analysis of Afghanistan's MDG progress and human development status.

Afghanistan's Millennium Goals Report is a representative story of the strife of the bottom billion of the world and their governments to improve the life conditions of their people. Afghanistan's state of human development remained poor in 2000. The country could not even participate in the development of the Millennium goals in the year 2000. It was only in March 2004 that Afghanistan was able to begin planning its contribution to the global MDG agenda.

The legacy of poverty, violence and insurgency pose serious threats to human security. In Afghanistan during 2004/05, nearly 40% of the rural population remained food insecure, 50% of the population under 18 years of age with no hope of employment, 80% of the population was illiterate and life expectancy was under 45 years of age. Afghanistan's Human Development Index, a measure of the most basic human welfare, was among lowest in the world.

The government of Afghanistan endorsed the millennium declaration only in March 2004 where the first task was to take stock of the current state in each goal, review the data, as it existed in 2004 and analyze the issues that needed to be addressed to progress towards the goals. Although the MDGs were set by the UN, they could not be implemented in any country, unless they were nationally owned and driven as people's goals. Thus it was necessary to tailor the goals to realities on the ground in Afghanistan; the actions had to be planned by the government based on the needs of the communities.

Acknowledging the capacity constraints, the data constraints and accepting that the 1990s was a lost decade for Afghanistan, it was decided to extend the time for meeting the MDG targets for Afghanistan from 2015 to 2020, setting a 15-year timeframe from its start point 2004/05. In the meantime, some of the targets were modified to suit Afghanistan's conditions and a ninth goal on enhancing security was added. (Annex 1: Afghanistan MDGs)

Afghanistan's first MDG analysis paper outlined the longer term nature, scale and the scope of poverty in Afghanistan, on the basis of which key issues were identified and milestones set, progress towards which could be measured to meet the locally adopted MDG targets over the 10 to 15 years. As such, Afghanistan's first MDG Report (2005) established the overarching longer term framework for Afghanistan's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The latter identified the policies and programs to meet the MDGs in the long term, while promoting growth, reducing poverty and vulnerability.

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS 2008/09 - 2012/13) which is inclusive of PRSP requirements is organized around three Pillars- Security, Governance and Rule of Law, and Economic and Social Development. Each of the MDGs is reflected in one or more of the pillars. The year round work around MDGs and the annual MDG reports are useful for planning and analyses of shorter term MDG-based national targets for the ANDS and monitoring progress towards these.

More than any other instrument, ANDS is the fundamental vehicle for guiding and monitoring efforts to achieve MDGs by 2020. The priority placed on each goal of the MDG was determined through the process of developing the ANDS sector strategies. The way to prioritize the goals was to be determined in part by extensive ANDS consultative process and determination of the needs of the communities.

The earlier MDG reports reflect that Afghanistan has made some progress towards achieving the MDGs. However, the government and the people continue to encounter enormous obstacles to meeting these targets and promoting human development in Afghanistan. The scourge of war, insecurity, threats to the rule of law and governance, risk the country into falling back to violent conflict, absence of basic delivery of services and abject poverty, which pose hurdles not easy to overcome. Yet, the government does not want to get off the track of the MDGs, which provides one of the strongest hopes in remedying the most difficult elements creating the obstacles, which appear unsurpassable at times.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Data Collection Method and Sources

The contextual analysis and analyses of the data compiled are based on a literature review-academic, civil society organization, development practitioners' analyses and government and related agency documentation and reports.

The data and related analysis on poverty profile and some multi dimensional elements of poverty are based on information available in *Poverty Status in Afghanistan: A Profile Based on National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) 2007/08* (published in July 2010). The NRVA Report was extensively used for both data and analytic purposes.

Regular basic data collection on elements that "contribute" to the achievement of the MDG target is one of the tasks of the government line ministries. The line ministries measure development performance at various levels of outputs, outcomes and impact. The millennium development goals most frequently, reflect impact level results. Such results cannot be compiled at any single line ministry level because each ministry can only make small contributions to some of the MDG targets. In many instances, more than one ministry contributes to an MDG target. The compilation of data for MDG target achievement at the impact level and their full analyses would benefit from a special unit devoted especially to assessment of the country's progress towards the MDG targets.

In the absence of a yet well organized structure for MDG data collection, compilation and analyses of final results, the *data sources* used for this Report for certain elements are varied: line ministry surveys, UN estimates, CSO data and NRVAs of various years, although the latest publication of July 2010 on poverty status in Afghanistan represents an enormous advancement.

Difficulties continue because some methodologies used by line ministries are often varied. Comparability of information from various sources, and different definitions and methodology usage obviously create difficulty in drawing confirmed conclusions. Thus in many instances, the conclusions are based on approximations. However, the differentials between data findings being small, approximate conclusions can be drawn with some confidence.

With a planned methodology and a centralized system developed for data collection, recording and analyses, firmer conclusions on MDG progress will be drawn in future years. A unitary system will not only fill data gaps and differentials but will help establish realistic trends in MDG movements. Improved data collection and methodology will not only help in better progress monitoring of the MDGs but will support the monitoring of the ANDS sector and cluster strategy results and provide insights for policy makers.

2.2 Consultative Processes with the Line Ministries and other Agencies

A first round of data mainly on poverty profile was collected from the NRVA 2005 and 2007/08. Because the 2005 NRVA was undertaken at a different season (after the harvest), the profile developed was more positive as the condition during the lean season was absent. Review of the NRVA 2007/08 addresses the seasonality difference and reflected a different poverty profile and a less positive picture. The Poverty Status in Afghanistan report published in July 2010, helped clarify the poverty scenario better.

Similarly, a first round of data was collected for analysis purposes from the line ministries for the various MDG and targets. At this stage of data collection some of the data in various goal areas remained incomplete. Yet, the analysis with the data available had to begin in order that a first draft of the MDG Report could be shared with the line ministries. The first draft of the Report reviewed by the line ministries required some changes in data and clarification of their analysis; and also introduction of additional data. Each one of the line ministries contributed to this second round of consultative process. The CSO and the line ministries cooperated by submitting valuable data and clarification in a timely fashion. The ministries' reviews and comments helped enrich the MDG Report. The final MDG Report constitutes contributions of all relevant line ministries and the CSO.

3. CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Progress towards MDGs requires political will and commitments, conducive of political, security and economic conditions and adequate financial investments. An understanding of these issues in the country-specific context is an essential requirement for assessment of MDG implementation. Other than the general political, economic and security issues, sector-specific contexts that directly impact on MDGs also need careful analyses.

In Afghanistan political and security situations are closely integrated with the economy. In World Bank and IMF assessments, the perilous security situation overshadows the political and economic contexts and heavily impacts on activities related to development and human well being and security.

3.1 Recent Political Developments

A Grand *Peace Jirga* was held in May 2010 to formalize a reconciliation effort to bring all Afghans, including the insurgent groups, into a dialogue, the results of which are to materialize in course of time.

The ninth international conference in London held in January recommitted Afghanistan and donors to secure, stabilize and develop Afghanistan. Over 70 representatives from countries and international organizations attended the meeting and endorsed measures to improve security, development, governance, and regional cooperation, which are also essential factors for counter narcotics sustainable achievements. In a decisive step, the conference agreed to progressively handover more administrative and leadership functions to Afghans to secure their country's future.

A conference in Kabul was held on July 20, Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan, to begin implementation of the aims of the London Conference through a presentation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy's prioritization and implementation plan. The Kabul "Process" to implement an Afghan-led action plan to improve governance, social and economic development and security is to follow.

3.2 Economy and Trade Context

Despite the political and security difficulties, Afghanistan has enjoyed quite favourable macroeconomic conditions. The country witnessed a historically high GDP growth (22.5 percent) and declining prices in 2009/10. The growth was boosted by a strong agriculture sector (53 %) performance, helped mainly by ample and well-distributed rainfall. Wheat production nearly doubled to 5 million tonnes Services industry continued to grow in double digits, led by government services, financial sector and transport services. The industrial growth continues to be pulled down by modest manufacturing and construction sector growth rates; much lower than the early years of reconstruction. Mining, is flourishing, with almost 30 percent growth in the last two years. GDP growth is expected to reach 8.6 percent in 2010/11. Inflation is negative due to a fall in cereal prices. A small nominal appreciation of the Afghani against the US dollar and regional partners also played a role in keeping prices low. However, the disinflation of the food prices did not last long and the prices are recovering rapidly. Non-food prices have edged up slowly. Inflation is still expected to be contained at about 2%.

Afghanistan reached an important milestone in debt relief. After completing a series of prescribed reforms under the most challenging circumstances, Afghanistan has qualified for permanent debt

relief under the Highly-Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief initiative. Yet, Afghanistan has a high risk of debt distress because of the likelihood of shocks from uncertain GDP growth or grant element in borrowing.

Official exports experienced a down turn in 2009/10 but were offset by overwhelming donor inflows. The decline in exports is widespread, afflicting mainly the top two exports, dry fruits and carpets. According to World Bank/IMF predictions, for the year as a whole, the decline could moderate with a pick-up in the last quarter. In general, the external imbalances are offset by largely non-debt-creating inflows. Imports are largely governed by donor and military spending. A bumper food crop also helped lower the food import bill in 2009/10. To be noted, however, that official exports are only about a quarter of total exports, which include smuggling and transit trade.

Official statistics indicate the banking sector continues to show few signs of vulnerability. Nonperforming loans (NPLs) continued to decline and are now at the lowest level. However, there are concerns about official loan-classification standards and supervisory capacity, and therefore some caution is warranted in evaluating these figures. The banking sector needs close monitoring, as some of the banks are breaching prudential norms.

Fiscal performance improved in 2009/10 with a dramatic surge in revenue collection and strong containment of operational expenditures. Afghanistan collected 53 percent more revenue than the previous year and 16 percent more than budgeted. Improved tax administration underpins much of the revenue increase. Domestic revenue collection was higher by 68 percent and custom duties surged by 48 percent. Levying of a 2.5 percent ad valorem presumptive tax on all imports and strict enforcement of duty collection on fuel imports resulted in soaring custom collections. Even as the revenues surged, operational expenditures were contained by about 10 percent less than budgeted. As a result, fiscal sustainability indicated as a percentage of operational expenditure covered by domestic revenues, improved to 70 percent, from 60 percent in 2008/09. Preliminary results for the fiscal year 2009/10 show a better than expected performance in the core budget. A 10% containment of operational expenditure and a 16-percent surge in revenue is a show of good economic performance.

Despite the revenue surge and some other favourable indicators of economic advances, Afghanistan remains among the lowest of low-income countries, with revenue equal to just 9 percent of GDP.

Execution of the development budget continues to slide as the government managed to spend only 38 percent of budgeted expenditures. The low execution rate stems from several factors, such as the weak capacity of the government to formulate and execute investment projects, and the misalignment of donor priorities and funding cycles with those of the government. The commitment at the London conference to raise the level of donor spending through the core budget to 50 percent within two years is laudable, but might be difficult to achieve without appropriate donor cooperation.

On the governance front, Afghanistan has been given the second-worst corruption rating among the 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. Not that there has been no progress in launching governance measures but the pace of reform is rated as somewhat slow to capture international attention. Recent notable achievements include the declaration of assets by new cabinet ministers, the enactment of new Mining and Hydrocarbon laws and tightening of public financial management and public expenditure policies. The new

Public Finance Management Plan presented at the Kabul Conference and the planning undertaken to launch its implementation provides new hope.

3.3 Structural and Institutional Reforms

Afghanistan has remained on track in meeting structural reform benchmarks under the IMF's Poverty Reduction Growth Fund obligations. For the current review (December 2009-March 2010), the IMF expects two to three months' delay in completion of some of the reforms. The slowest component is the review of the financial health of public sector enterprises in relation to the budget. In complying with the HIPC completion point triggers, the government progressed with several important reforms in the last six months. It has substantially implemented a design for the civil service pension reforms, began tracking poverty-related budget expenditure, and published such spending in the annual progress report of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Several other laws governing the development of important drivers of growth are being passed.

3.4 Security

The security situation deteriorated in 2009, making it the most difficult year for both civilians and international troops, with highest casualties, since 2001. A 30 percent spike in security incidents over the previous year has been recorded, with 960 incidents per month. A number of troops contributing countries have announced exit dates or gradual withdrawal plans, with Netherlands having started the departure this August.

However, a surge in troop deployments announced by U.S. President in December 2009, and the Afghan-led plans for reconciling with the rank and file insurgents pose some potentials of improved security. A range of donors have pledged US$140 million for the Reintegration Trust Fund.

The US deployment of additional troops to Afghanistan and beginning of withdrawal of forces by July of 2011 is being considered as a successful indicator of transfer of control to Afghan security forces. Of these new troops, 5,000 would be dedicated to training Afghan security forces. The surge in security forces is endorsed by the international community and donors have committed to help in substantially increasing the numbers of Afghan security forces in order to facilitate the transfer of full responsibility to Afghans in five years. The government plans to increase army personnel from a current force level of 104,300 to 171,000 by October 2011. The Afghan national police force is also set to expand from 96,800 to 134,000 in the same time frame.

Challenges remain, with growth in the opium economy, continuing security threats, and ever present potential for ethnic tensions. In particular, the narcotic trade is a primary threat to stable political and economic development. The opium economy is spreading; and nascent state institutions are vulnerable to corruption. There is a risk of escalating narco-interests dominating the economy. Insurgents and other anti-government elements are also perceived to be benefiting from drug trafficking activities. The narcotics trade is thus undermining both stabilisation and development efforts in Afghanistan and in the region. Furthermore, it is not realized completely that narcotics is an international problem and needs multidimensional struggles at the international level. Mainstreaming counter narcotics issues is still a challenge.

Related in part to the drugs trade, the security situation remains fragile. In the south and east of the country especially the insurgency led by the Taliban and other armed groups has led to increased casualties during since 2006/07, with death rates escalating to the highest level in 2010

in both Afghan civilians, foreign troops, Afghan army and the police. The intensity of the insurgency in the south and east has been characterised by an increase in roadside bombings, burning of schools and suicide attacks. Killing of local officials has included reform minded senior figures, including provincial governors. A number of 2010 provincial election candidates and campaign workers have been killed. The work of NGOs, indispensable to the reconstruction process, is increasingly hampered; local Afghans working for international NGOs have increasingly been targeted. Illegal armed groups continue to pose a threat in certain parts of the country, particularly in the south.

Regional cooperation on security and economic issues is a prerequisite for stable and sustainable development in Afghanistan. In general terms, Afghanistan has developed constructive relations with its neighbours in recent years but continued efforts will be required to support overall stabilisation and development efforts in the country.

4.   MOVEMENTS IN MDGS AND TARGETS

GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets	
				2015	2020
Target 1: The proportion of people whose income is less than US $1 a day decreases by 3% per annum until the year 2020					
1.a. Proportion of population below $1/day poverty line	NA	NA	NA		
1.a. (alt.) Proportion of population below CBN poverty	33%	42%	36%	24%	21%
1.b. Poverty gap ratio	8%	9.4%	8%	5.97%	5.13%
1.c. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	9.3%	10.5%	9%		14.8%
Target 2: The proportion of people who suffer from hunger decreases by 5% per annum until the year 2020					
2.a. Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	41%	NA	39%	15%	
2.b. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (<2100 cal./day)	30%	39%	29%	11%	9%

Target 1. The proportion of people whose income is less than US$1.00 a day decreases by 3% per annum until 2020. (*Difficult to reach, especially in the absence of reliable data. A proxy indicator has been used.*)

- **Target 1.a**. *Proportion of population below CBN poverty line*. Poverty line was calculated on a Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method in Afghanistan. The baseline was set at 33% in 2005. However, 2005 NRVA survey did not include spring season and thus a small sample survey was conducted in spring of 2007 to supplement the data of 2005. The combined poverty estimates of 2005 and spring of 2007 showed a poverty rate of 42%, where the issue of seasonality was strikingly visible. An improved and expanded NRVA survey was conducted during 2007/08 to cover all four seasons and thus the latest available estimates show the country poverty at 36%. Same analysis should be considered for Target 1.b, 1.c and 2.b.

- **Target 1.b.** *Poverty gap Ratio*. The baseline value was 8% in 2005 NRVA. The combined 2005 and Spring 2007 NRVA shows the poverty gap ratio at 9.40%, an increase from the baseline. 2007/08 NRVA estimates the poverty gap ratio at 8%-back to the baseline value. The Afghanistan target set for 2020 is 5.13%.

- **Target 1.b.** *Share of poorest quintile in national consumption*. The baseline value was set at 9.3% in 2005. The combined 2005/07 NRVA estimated a higher rate at 10.50% and the latest NRVA 2008 estimate is 9.1% lower than the 2007 figure. The 2020 target of 14.80% presents a gap to meet.

Seasonality and Poverty (NRVA 2007/08) | Province-level Poverty Rates (NRVA 2007/08)
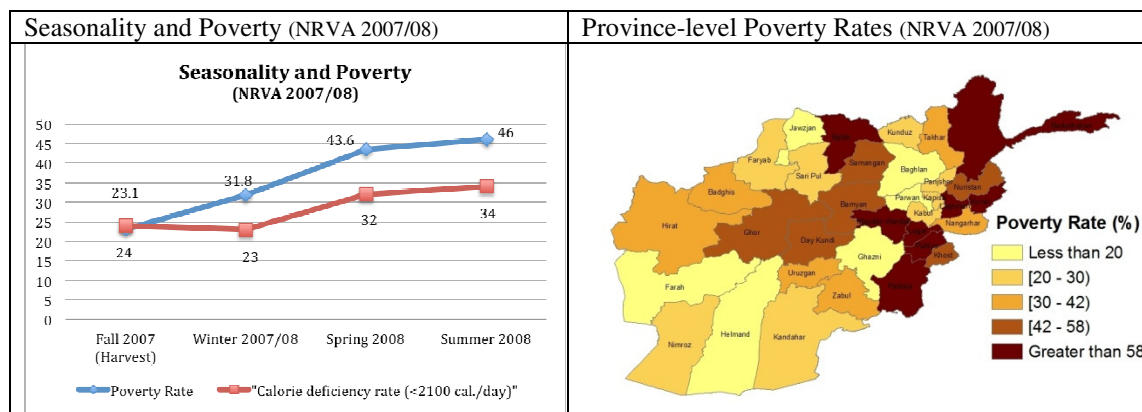
The above poverty rates, 42% (2005/07) and 36% (2007/08), are no directly comparable since these surveys conducted were different in design, coverage and seasonality. In the meantime, the recent 2007/08 NRVA promises to keep consistency for the coming years and can be used as a new baseline for country's poverty estimates.

Nevertheless, poverty rate remains high in rural areas and in the Kuchi population (over 60%). Poverty also varies greatly by region. According to NRVA 07/08, poverty is lowest in the central and South-western region. The central highlands with its harsh climate and remoteness show the poverty level to be as high as 45%.

Education and Poverty (NRVA 2007/08)	Map of Regional Poverty (NRVA 2007/08)
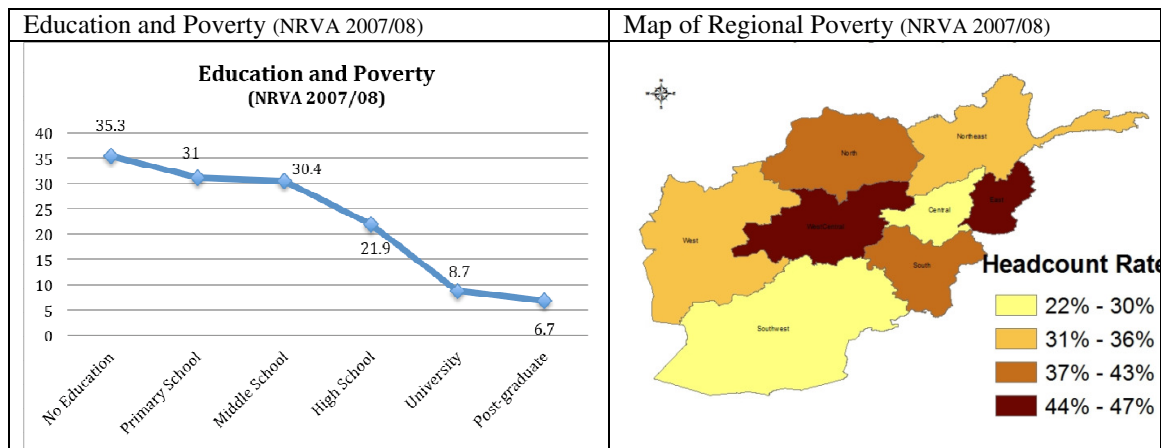
With 80% of the population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture, terrain characteristics directly affect poverty and well-being. The relief roughness that impacts on agriculture ranges from high mountain peaks to plains and lowlands and deserts. Most of the south western part of Afghanistan is composed of mid and high altitude plains while high mountain areas are in Nuristan, Badakhshan and central highlands. Poverty trends are higher in mountainous and plateau areas, while average poverty rate is lowest in the plains. The relationship between elevation and poverty is not always strictly linear. Roughness of terrain seems to play a stronger role. In addition, crop pattern, transportation, road connections and access to markets play important roles.

Target 2. The proportion of people who suffer from hunger decreases by 5% per annum until the year 2020
- **Target 2.a.** *Prevalence of underweight children less than 5 years of age*. The baseline value was set at 41% in 2002 by UNICEF. The latest data collected in 2004 reflects the figure of 39%. No further data is available on this target, which reflects negligence in data collection for an important group of the population, the children. In brief, reliable data on child malnourishment is not available.
- **Target 2.b.** *Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (2100 calorie per day).* Combined 2005/07 NRVA survey estimates were 39%. The 2007/08 NRVA provides the estimate at 29%, which indicates an improvement. Yet the potential of reaching the 2020 target of 9% appears farfetched.

Interesting reflections can be made on food consumption and food poverty based on available data. The impact of food price crisis can be seen in the pattern of food consumption and the quarterly pattern of poverty. The nominal food consumption stays largely unchanged throughout the year. However, once consumption is adjusted for the change in food prices (food price crisis), the consumption pattern changes. The real value of consumption is highest after the fall harvest. With the advent of winter, real expenditures decline by 20% and continue to decline as the food

price crisis hits the community. The food poverty rate increases with increased food price. Proportion of people consuming less than 2100 calories per day (caloric deficiency) increases by 42% with food crisis or price increase. According to the NRVA of 2007/08, immediately after the Harvest season, 24% of the population consumed less than 2100 calories and through gradual decline, in the lean season, the caloric deficiency increased to 34%. The average composition of food consumed actually also changes over the seasons, with increases in food prices. NRVA 07/08 reflects that in the harvest season, consumption of staples formed slightly 60% of the household's total caloric intake. By the lean season, when poverty nearly doubles, staples contributed about 70% on average to the total caloric intake. Notably, in Afghanistan, increase in rural food poverty is much greater than the urban poverty; and on average, poor households have lower levels of dietary diversity and nutrient intake.

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

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

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

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

(Radical improvements achieved but less than half of school age children are not yet enrolled in school and educational parity between boys and girls remains challenging)

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets 2015	2020
Target 3: Ensure that, by 2020, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling					
3.a. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	54%	60%	71%		100%
3.a. (alt.) Gross enrolment ratio in primary education	86%	130%	116%		110%
3.b. Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5	45%	NA	60%		100%
3.b. (alt.) Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)	25%	38%	58%		100%
3.c. Literacy rate of 15- to 24-year-olds	34%	37%	39%		100%

Target 3. Ensure that by 2020, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Net enrolment rates in Primary Education	Literacy Rates
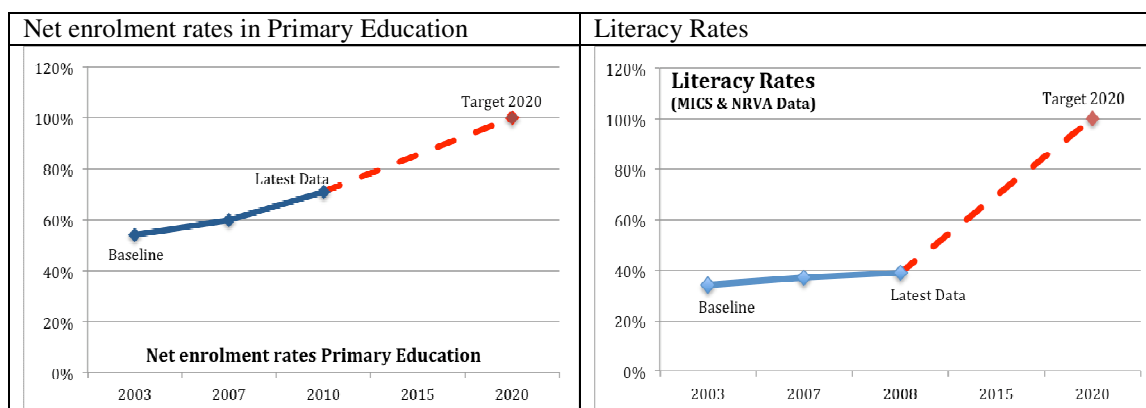
- **Target 3.a.** *Net enrolment ratio in primary education.* The baseline value was reported at 54% in 2003; an increase to 60% was visible by 2007. The 2010 data is encouraging reflecting 71% enrolment as against 100% in 2020.
- **Target 3.a. (alt)***, Gross enrolment ratio in primary educatio*n. The baseline was set at 86% by UNICEF in 2003. The data of 130% enrolment was collected by the Ministry of Education in 2007 and in 2010 the Ministry of Education's data dipped to 116%. Escalating insecurity could be offered as an explanation for this dive.

Certain explanations on net and gross enrolment will help clarify issues and explain differences in data provided by CSO and the Ministry of Education. Legally, net enrolment only covers children of 7-12 years of age. In calculating gross enrolment, age is not taken into account. Gross enrolment record, thus, can go over 100% of the total number of children of school enrolment age because gross enrolment counts people who are beyond the legal age of 7-12. CSO does not cover over aged and under aged children in calculating the net enrolment rate. CSO data on enrolment of number of children in grades 1-6 is calculated by number of children 7-12 years of age enrolled. However, the Education Management Information System (EMIS) of the Ministry of Education counts legally over aged and under aged children in both its net and gross enrolment rates. Thus, differences in data on primary school enrolment continue. In addition, there are differences in data between World Bank and EMIS because World Bank surveys cover

attendance of children in school while EMIS only covers enrolment and those who enrol might not attend schools. These issues need to be reconciled to lessen confusion for improved MDG reporting.

- **Target 3.b.** *Proportion of pupils starting at Grade one who reach grade five.* The baseline was set at 45% in 2003 by UNICEF. With a gap of several years, the Ministry of Education then recorded its data at 60% in 2010 as against the target of 100% in 2020, which might not be an easy target to reach.
- **Target 3.b. (alt),** *Primary completion rate total (% of relevant age group).* The baseline was set at 25% in 1994 by the World Bank. In 2005, the World Bank reported the rate at 38%. In 2010, the Ministry of Education's figure shows 58% as against 100% in 2020.
- **Target 3.c.** *Literacy rates of 15 to 24 years olds.* The baseline value was set at 34% by UNICEF in 2003. The NRVA 2005 figure was 31%. The NRVA collected data set it at 37% in 2007. The 2008 NRVA data estimate is 39% as against 100% in 2020. The trend reflects significant increases since 2005.

There are strong indicators of improvements in Afghanistan in recent years. From an analysis of the trend and encouraging upward flow of data in most areas, the targets in the education sector, appears achievable. While the adult literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world – primary completion rates have gradually improved.

Overall, only 17% of the male population aged 25 years and over and 6% of women in the same age group had any access to formal education until recently. Inequality had undermined education opportunities for millions of children in Afghanistan as in other developing countries. Half of school age children have never been inside a class room in Afghanistan.

The Back to School campaign launched in the school population helped to increase enrolment from 1 million in 2002 to nearly 7 million in 2010. New enrolments into grade one has ranged between 12-14% per annum in the last five years. Latest reports reflect that almost 37% of the children enrolled are girls.

Due to the difficulties of estimating net enrolment, gross enrolment figure is also reported which shows a significant improvement in enrolment over the last few years. This surge in enrolment partly results from enrolment of children who had been unable to attend school earlier. Yet, increased enrolment is an indicator that the education system is reviving from the destruction during the decades of war.

Retention at and completion of primary school levels remain a problem. UNICEF and the World Bank figures both show increase in retention rates but the figures do not match. According to the World Bank, Afghanistan's progress on primary school completion is still insufficient to meet its target. As stated above, EMIS does not take retention into account when calculating enrolment. Therefore, the World Bank and EMIS figures also do not match. (Overall, one needs to use the data with caution because various agencies have been involved in setting the baseline and collection of the data. In general, it is difficult to get a definitive picture of achievements due to reliable and comparable data).

The outcome figures on literacy are improving but slowly. The literacy rate in Afghanistan today is one of the lowest among developing countries rated at 23.5%, with 87% women illiterate. The regionally disaggregated data show a lag of the South-eastern region in educational achievements, with youth literacy rates very low in Helmand, Paktika, Uruzghan and Zabul. Other provinces in

the centre and north of the country still have youth literacy rates of less than 20%, whereas Kabul, the capital is the net gainer.

At output levels, thousands of classrooms and schools have been built, over 22 million text books delivered and number of teachers grown several folds. In keeping with the exponential increase in enrolment, the number of schools has tripled to 9,062 in 2007 including 1,337 all girls' and 4,325 co-educational schools. Similarly, the number of teachers has increased 7-fold to 142,500 of whom nearly 40,000 are female. Fifty thousand of these teachers have received in-service teacher's training. Despite the increase in the number of female teachers the number of women teachers represents only 28% of the total number of teachers. Stronger measures will be required to reach the MDGs target within the timeframe set.

Islamic education in Afghanistan has been reviewed and a broad-based curriculum has been developed through a national consultative process. The number of reformed religious schools that teach a broad-based Islamic education curriculum has increased to 336. A representative National Islamic Education Council has been established to oversee and monitor the delivery of Islamic education across the country.

There are nearly 220,00 people employed in the education sector of which nearly 155,000 are teaching professionals at all levels and the remaining non-teaching staff support the sector.

Over the last nine years, the sector has experienced a number of achievements unprecedented in the history of the country, particularly in terms of enrolment rates. Communities across Afghanistan have demonstrated the desire for a better future for their children by sending them to school in their millions. Tens of thousands of youth and adults, both female and male, who missed out on education, flock to literacy classes and vocational training. Households are making large personal and financial sacrifices to obtain education.

However, much remains to be done, to proceed forward to achieving the MDG vision through a series of immediate, medium and long-term actions and benchmarks that will facilitate the development of an education sector from which students will emerge literate, numerate and technologically proficient.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

(Potentials to achieve the goal is low)

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets 2015	2020
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education no later than 2020					
4.a. Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	60%	59%	66%	100%	
4.b. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education	33%	42%	45%	100%	
4.c. Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education	21%	23%	21%	100%	
4.d. Ratio of literate females to males (15- to 24-year-olds)	34%	37%	45%	100%	
Target 5: Reduce gender disparity in economic areas by 2020					
5.a. Ratio of female to male Government employees (central)	32%	32%	31%	50%	100%
5.b. Ratio of female to male Government employees (provincial)	16%	18%	16%	50%	100%
Target 6: Increase female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30% by 2020					
6.a. Proportion of seats held by women in national, provincial and district representative bodies	25%	24.9%	21.7%		30%
6.a (alt.) Appointed seats		3.5%	9.1%		
6.a (alt.) Political seats		0.13%	5.6%		
Target 7: Reduce gender disparity in access to justice by 50% by 2015 and completely (100%) by 2020					
7.a. Adoption, review and amendment of legislation that protects the rights of women, particularly in employment, family rights, property and inheritance and in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	NA	NA	NA	50%	100%
7.b. Adoption of legislation that criminalizes all forms of gender and sexual-based violence	NA	NA	NA	50%	100%

The indicator of equality of educational opportunity, calculated in terms of school enrolment is an important measure of country's overall development progress. It is also used to measure progress to achieving the Millennium Development Goal 3 of gender equality and empowering women. Eliminating gender inequality at all levels of education would help to increase the status and capabilities of women. Female education is accepted as an important determinant of economic development. Notably, it is significant that the ratio of girls to boys in primary school increased from 0.6% in 2003 to 66% in 2010, a 7% increase, which is highly commendable.

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education no later than 2020
- **Target 4.a.** *Ratio of girls to boys in primary education.* The baseline was set at 60% in 2003 by MICS and estimated to be 59% by the Ministry of Education in 2007. The Ministry estimates the figure to be 66% in 2010. According to the NRVA 2007/08, the net primary enrolment ratio for Afghanistan was 52% as against the NRVA figure of 37% in 2005. Notably, the data collected by various agencies do not align and this is a source of problem in analyzing a trend.
- **Target 4.b.** *Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education.* The baseline was set at 33% in 2003 by MICS. In 2007, the Ministry of Education estimate was 42% and in 2009, the Ministry set the percentage figure at 45%. A slow but steady rise is visible.
- **Target 4.c.** *Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education.* The baseline in 2005 was 21%. The estimate was 23% in 2008 (by Ministry of Higher Education). In 2009, the percentage figure of 21% recorded a dip.

- **Target 4.d.** *Ratio of literate females to males (15-24 year olds).* The baseline in 2003 was 34% (MICS). In 2005 the NRVA figure recorded 37%. The 2008 NRVA percentage figure was recorded as 45%.
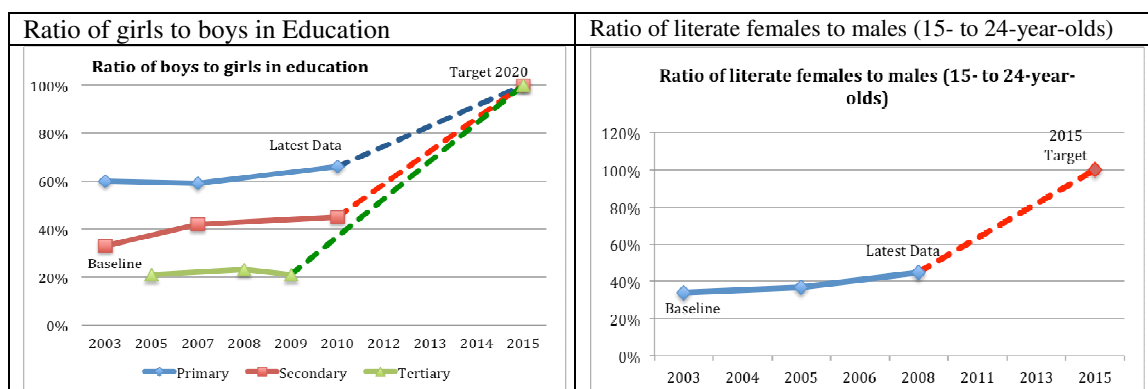
Ratio of girls to boys in Education	Ratio of literate females to males (15- to 24-year-olds)

Afghanistan has an adult population of 9.5 million people who are illiterate, of which 5.5 million are women. The target 4 will not be an easy reach, despite some improvements since the departure of the Taliban, in terms of opening up education to girls.

The ratio of female literacy rate, for the age group of 15-24, measures progress towards gender equity in literacy and learning opportunities for women. This is also a key indicator of empowerment of women in society as literacy is a fundamental skill of taking control of life, to engage with authority and gain access to wider learning opportunities. The value of the indicator at national level is 45%, a definite improvement from 37% of 2005.

In the education sector, large gender gaps still persist. Despite some improvements, the literacy of women is very much less than that of men. Of 9.5 million illiterate adult people in Afghanistan, 58% are women and 42% are men. But comparison of literacy across age groups shows an increase of female literacy, which suggests improvements in the education system. This is supported by the increase in enrolment of both boys, and especially girls, in primary schools. In Urban areas the target of 70% of girls' primary school enrolment is within reach.

Due to loss of years of absence of access to education, especially at higher levels, secondary and tertiary, the male/female ratio does not look positive. According to the latest NRVA, the ratios for primary, secondary and tertiary education are respectively 69/49 and 28%, indicating a large inequality of access to education, which increases with educational level.

In addition, disparities between urban and rural areas persist, with fewer opportunities for women in rural areas. It is difficult to operate literacy or education programs for girls in remote and insecure regions. A lower number of women teachers and reticence in female teachers to serve in remote and insecure areas are additional problems in the progress of MDGs in this area.

Target 5. Reduce gender disparity in economic areas by 2020
- **Target 5. a.** *Ratio of female to male government employees (central).* The baseline was set at 32% in 2003 by CSO. In 2008 the figure remained at 32% (CSO). In the 2008 NRVA survey, the new data is recorded as 31%
- **Target 5. b**. *Ratio of female to male government employees (provincial).* The baseline was set at 16% in 2003 by CSO. In 2008, the figure recorded was 18% (MoWA).

These MDG indicators are measure of gender equality and women's empowerment as well as the degree to which labor markets are open to women in industry and service sectors. A higher share in paid employment could secure for women's better income, economic security and well-being and as a result, a position of dignity in the society and family. In general, women's position in the labor market

is weak as they participate less in economic activities and mostly employed in vulnerable jobs. In Afghanistan, women remain at a disadvantage in securing paid jobs; the overall share in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is only 8%, which is significantly below that of the South Asian region, the region with the lowest share of employment for women in the world.

It is argued that a positive by-product of gender based barriers to the labor market is that there are less number of girl child labor and thus it less affects their educational opportunities by tying them up with employment instead of attending schools. However, women activists consider such assumptions as untenable. It is very much possible that girls not counted in formal child labor category are not in schools but are confined at their homes for domestic work or are forbidden to pursue education.

In the absence of availability of reliable employment data, the indicator used has been to monitor the ratio of female to male government employees, the government being the largest formal sector employer. In Afghanistan, almost four times males than females work at the central level of the Afghanistan government. A slight improvement in the ratio at the provincial level is visible. The progress, however, is insufficient and slow to meet Afghanistan's set 2020 MDG target on gender equality. Economic participation, should, in fact, take into account gender parity in earnings. Aggregate differences in pay/wages should be measured to develop policies for eliminating such disparity.

Target 6. Increase female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30% by 2020
- **Target 6. a.** *Proportion of seats held by women in national, provincial and district representative bodies.* The baseline value was set at 25% in 2004 by the constitution. In 2007, the data shows the figure of 24.90% very close the baseline. In 2009/10 a figure of 27% is recorded by the National Assembly, as against 30% target set for 2020.
- **Target 6. a. (alt).** *Appointed Seats.* No baseline was set. A figure of 3.50% is recorded for 2009 and 9.1% in 2009, as against the target of 30% for 2020. The progress is not promising.
- **Target 6. a. (alt)** *Political Seats.* No baseline value was set. 2008 recorded a figure of 0.13% and 5.6% in 2009/10 (both CSO figures). The target for 2020 being set at 30%, the progress is slow and target seems not reachable at the current pace.

Afghanistan Constitution guarantees that at least 25% of all elected representatives should be female. The Afghan MDG target is to achieve 30% female representation by 2020. The female representation of 27% recoded in 2009/10 is promising and commendable given the societal and cultural barriers and years of Taliban rule that deprived women of basic rights. With respect to appointed and political seats, the progress is slower. Less than 1% political appointments go to women. Besides, the Civil Service Commission figures reflect that women occupy extremely few high ranking civil service positions. Female representation is weaker in provinces and even lower at district levels.

Target 7. Reduce gender disparity in access to justice by 50% by 2015 and by 100% in 2020 *(difficult to achieve)*
- **Target 7. a.** *Adoption, review and amendment of legislation* that protects the rights of women, particularly in employment, family rights, property and inheritance and in accordance with the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- **Target 7. b.** *adoption of legislations that criminalizes all forms of gender and sexual-based violence.*

No clear data has been collected with the distinct purpose of measuring progress towards these MDG targets although there are definite indications that these issues are under review. Many of the laws addressing Target 7.a and 7.b are being reviewed and adopted under the auspices of Articles of the Constitution.

GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets	
				2015	2020
Target 8: Reduce by 50%, between 2003 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate, and further reduce it to 1/3 of the 2003 level by 2020					
8.a. Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	257	191	161	115	76
8.b. Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	165	129	111	70	46
8.c. Proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles (%)	35%	68%	55.9%	90%	100%

Target 8: Reduce by 50% between 2003 and 2015, the under 5 mortality rate and further reduce it to one third of the 2003 level by 2020
(Improvements achieved but Afghanistan remains one of the countries with lowest infant mortality rates)
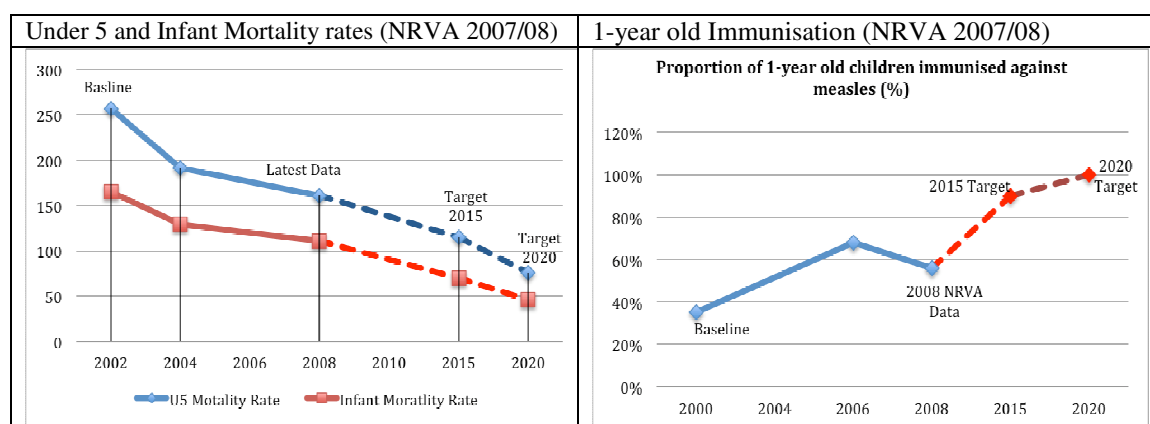
- **Target 8 a.** *Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)*, the baseline value was set at 257 in 2002. In 2006, the estimate was set at 191 by Afghanistan Health Survey. In 2008 the NRVA revised the figure to 161 as against the target of 76 in 2020. A consistent progress is reflected and yet Afghanistan is a country with one of the highest under 5 mortality rates.
- **Target 8. b.** *Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births.* The baseline value was set at 165 in 2002. In 2006, Afghanistan Health Survey reported the figure at 129. NRVA retained the data unchanged in 2006. In 2008 NRVA estimated the figure at 111, as against the target of 46 in 2020. A small improvement has been recorded.
- **Target 8. c.** *Proportion of one year children immunized against measles.* This indicator is important to measure progress towards the goal of reducing child mortality. The baseline value was set at 35% in 2002. In 2006, the figure jumped to 68%. A regression is seen in the data collected by NRVA in 2008, which estimates the 55.9% of children being immunized, as against 100% target set for 2020, is among the lowest in the world. UN estimates of figures for neighbouring countries are higher.

Reliable data on child malnourishment is not available. The Afghanistan Health Survey data suggests that there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of chronically malnourished children since 2002 from 41% to 39%. But this small decrease would still be too small for meeting the MDG target even of the general Millennium target of 2015. Afghanistan had set no target for 2020.

A critical point to note is that child survival efforts are intensifying in South Asia. Afghanistan's health sector has no doubt made a recovery after years of war and has made some progress both in terms of infant mortality and under-five mortality rates. Up to 2005/06, Afghanistan was ahead of schedule on its targets to reduce under-five and infant mortalities and it had reached the Afghanistan Compact benchmarks. However, the under-five mortality rate shows only modest improvement in the global context, as does the infant mortality rate and both in Afghanistan are still among the highest in the world. 50% of the children are underweight for age. More than half of the Afghan children under 5 are under nourished. 257 out of 1000 babies die before the age of five. 165 die within first year. The progress in measles vaccination has been impressive and some estimates claim that Afghanistan will achieve full measles immunization by 2012.

An important issue for future consideration is that under-5 children related data should be sex disaggregated to the extent possible.

These assumptions are based on optimistic projections of consistent progress at the rates witnessed earlier. Same effective health policy adoptions boosted fast progress, the nationwide implementation of the basic packages of health services being one of them. To maintain the rate of progress, extension of health services to remote and poorer areas will be required and only sustained efforts will ensure that Afghanistan will reach the targets set for 2020.

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets	
				2015	2020
Target 9: Reduce by 50% between 2002 and 2015 the maternal mortality ratio, and further reduce the MMR to 25% of the 2002 level by 2020					
9.a. Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100.000 births)	1600	NA	NA	800	400
9.b. Proportion of births attended by skilled personnel (%)	6%	18.9%	24%	50%	75%
9.c. Fertility rate (number of live births per woman)	6.3	7.2	6.27	4.7	3.1
9.d. Proportion of women receiving professional ante-natal care (%)	12%	32.3%	36.5%	25%	50%

Target 9: Reduce by 50% between 2002 and 2015 the maternal mortality ratio and further reduce the MMR to 25% of the 2002 level by 2020
(some improvements but Afghanistan remains in the lowest category in maternal health situation)
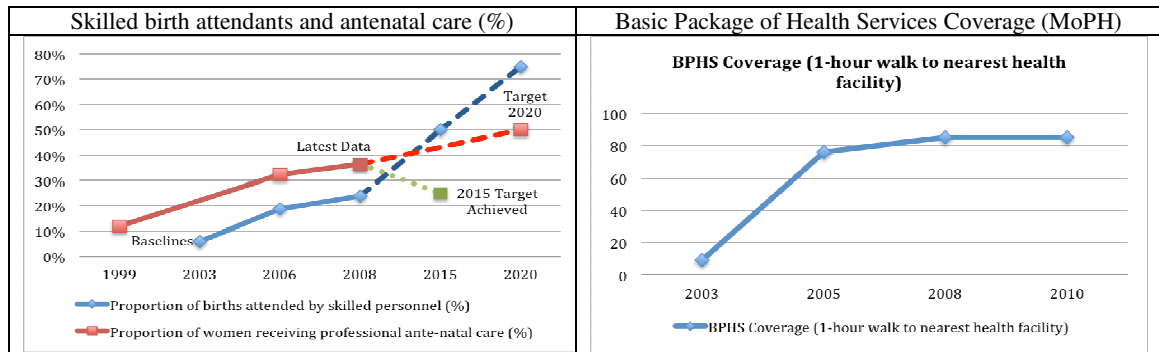
- **Target 9. a.** *Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 births*. The baseline value was set at 1600 in 2002 by UNICEF against the 2020 target of 400. No recent data available.
- **Target 9. b.** *Proportion of births attended by skilled personnel (%).* The baseline value was set at 6.0% in 2003 by MoPH. In 2006, the data recorded was 18.90% and in 2008 it was 24% surveyed by NRVA against the 2020 target of 75%.
- **Target 9. C.** *Fertility rates, number of live births per woman.* The baseline value was set at 6.3 in 2002, by UNICEF/CSO. In 2007, the number was estimated at 7.2 (UNICEF) and 6.27 by NRVA in 2008 as against 3.1 for the 2020 target.

Although general mortality information is seriously outdated, it is estimated that Afghanistan is one of the few countries in the world where women have lower life expectancy than men. Currently, an Afghanistan mortality survey with special focus on maternal mortality is being undertaken by MoPH and the updated data is expected to be available soon.

Overall, reproductive health complications is a leading cause of women's mortality, compounded by poor general health conditions, such as those related to nutrition, lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and gross absence of access to skilled birth attendants and timely access to emergency obstetric care. In addition, early pregnancies, narrowly spaced births and high fertility exacerbate maternal mortality.

Approximately, a million babies are born annually in Afghanistan, which exacerbates maternal mortality. Key to the reduction of maternal mortality is eradication of child marriages, spacing of births and awareness building in both male and female population on women's reproductive rights.

The overall contraceptive prevalence rate has been found to be 23% but the proportion of women using even one method of modern family planning is considerably lower. Only 15% women reported using one modern family planning method. Large difference is observed between urban, rural and Kuchi population and levels of education because women with some education are more likely to use contraception.

Reduction in fertility rate is one of the first essentials in a poverty stricken economy. A fast growing population, without a fast expanding economy poses a number of challenges- food insecurity, income insecurity and absence of education and skills training to prepare the younger generation to earn decent incomes. These issues create disenfranchised youth who serve as easy recruits to the insurgencies and anti-governmental elements. Addressing fertility issue is central to containing such problems.

Ante-natal Care (ANC) has increased in Afghanistan, which would help to reduce maternal mortality rates. The percentage of pregnant women receiving Ante-natal Care is 36%, which is low in international and regional perspective. Yet, there are signs of slight improvements, with 36% of women reporting use of skilled Ante-natal Care services; 17% saw a midwife; 13% saw a doctor; and less than one percent saw a nurse. Use of Ante-natal Care services was more than twice in urban when compared to rural areas. Access to Ante-natal Care services was lowest amongst the Kuchis.

The number of births attended by skilled personnel has made improvements. Even though the overall figure of skilled birth attendants is very low, the trend indicates a substantial increase compared to the previous estimates. The 2003 MICS found a national rate of skilled birth attendant use of 6%. The NRVA updated survey of 2008, reported the national rate at 24%, indicating an increase of skilled birth attendance of 6% since 2003.

A few annotations from the Millennium Global Report of 2009 are lessons to carry forth for planning more effective MDG actions: giving birth safely remains privilege of the rich and fewer than half of pregnant women have the benefit of prenatal care. For MDG progress, attention to the poor mothers will pay off.

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

(Difficult to achieve or even assess in the absence of data)

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets 2015	Targets 2020
Target 10: Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS					
10.a. HIV prevalence among blood donors	NA	0.21%	NA	-	-
10.b. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	NA	2.2%	NA	-	-
10.c. % of population aged 15-49 with comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS	-	50%	NA	-	-
10.d. Contraceptive prevalence rate (national)	6.4%	15.4%	15%	50%	60%
10.e. Contraceptive prevalence rate (rural)	5.1%	-	6.93%	50%	60%
10.f. Contraceptive prevalence rate (urban)	23.7%	-	8%	50%	60%
10.g. Proportion of blood samples screened for HIV/AIDS and STDs	-	-	52%	100%	100%
10.h. Proportion of women's unmet needs for family planning met	-	-	-	50%	30%
10.i. Proportion of IV drug users are in treatment by 2015	-	-	10%	60%	80%
Target 11: Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases					
11.a. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria	-	-	-	-	-
11.a.(alt.) Incidence rates associated with malaria (Routine reporting)	2.67%	1.18%	1.6%	1%	0.6%
11.b. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures	18%	20%	26.7%	85%	95%
11.b.(alt) Under-fives sleeping under insecticide-treated nets	NA	5.7%	4.9%	-	-
11.c. Prevalence rates associated with tuberculosis (per 100.000 population)	440	231	NA	224	143
11.d. Death rates associated with tuberculosis (per 100.000 people)	52.5	32	NA	27.4	19.1
11.e. TB cases detected under DOTS (%)	15%	70%	80%	70%	-
11.f. Tuberculosis treatment success under DOTS	86%	90%	87.8%	85%	-

Target 10. Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

- **Target 10 a.** *HIV Prevalence among Blood donors.* 0.21% recorded for 2007 by NACP. No further data is available or collected.
- **Target 10. b**. *Condom use rate for contraception.* 2.20% is recorded for 2006 and no further data is available.
- **Target 10.c**. *% of population from age 15 to 49 with comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS*. No data collected.
- **Target 10. d.** *Contraceptive prevalence rate (national).* The baseline value recorded in 2003 is 6.4%. The figure for 2006 is 15.40%. In 2008 NRVA study records 15% as against 60% for the 2020 target.
- **Target 10. e.** *Contraceptive prevalence rate (rural).* The baseline in 2003 is 5.1% as per MICS. NRVA figure for 2008 is 6.9% as against 60% for the 2020 target.
- **Target 10. f.** *Contraceptive prevalence rate (urban)* The baseline in 2003 is 23.7% as per MICS. NRVA figure of 2008 records the figure as 8% where the target for 2020 is 60%.
- **Target 10. g.** *Proportion of blood samples screened for HIV/AIDS and STDs.* No baseline recorded for this indicator in 2004, however the recent data from MoPH shows a baseline of 52% as against 100% target of 2020.

- **Target 10.h.** *Proportion of women's unmet needs for family planning met.* No data collected to date as against the 30% target set for 2020
- **Target 10. i.** *Proportion of IV drug users is in treatment by 2015.* The 2009 data by MoPH records 10% as against 80% target set for 2020.

The lack of data is stark and little effort is being made in collecting data in order that prevention or spread can be contained.

Due to lack of data, there is currently no reliable estimate of the spread of HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan. Some data suggests that the problem is localized in high risk groups such as IV drug users. Use of contraceptives remains low, which implies that spread of transmission is high. According to the 2006 data only 2% of the population use condoms.

Other than better and systematic data collection, the MDG targets for HIV/AIDS should be revised to match the national AIDS control program.

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

- **Target 11. a. (alt)** *Incidence rates associated with malaria (routine reporting).* The baseline value established in 2003 was 2.67%. In 2007, the recorded figure shows 1.18%. The malaria survey of MoPH in 2009 records the figure 1.6% as against 0.60% for the 2020 target. The incidence has been reduced.
- **Target 11. b.** *Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures.* The baseline value was established at 18% in 2003 by WHO. MoPH estimated the figure to be 20% in 2007. In 2008, the MoPH malaria survey determined the figure to be 26.7%. There is a steady albeit slow progress.
- **Target 11. b. (alt)** *Percentage of children under 5 sleeping under infanticide treated nets.* No baseline value was established. However in 2006, the estimate was 5.70% and in 2008 the malaria survey of MoPH estimated the figure as 4.9%, which is a dip from the estimate of 2006. Nets supply being one of the very economical ways to preventing malaria, more efforts in this direction will be beneficial.
- **Target 11. c.** *Prevalence rate associated with tuberculosis (per 100,000 populations)*. The baseline was set at 440 in 2000 by WHO and 231 in 2008 as against the target of 143 in 2020.
- **Target 11. d.** *Death rates associated with tuberculosis (per 100,000 people).* The baseline was set at 52.5 in 2000 by UN Stats. In 2008 WHO figures show a decrease 32 persons as against 19.1 target of 2020.
- **Target 11. e.** *Tuberculosis cases detected under DOTS.* The baseline set in 2000 was 15% and in 2006 at 70%. In 2009 MoPH estimated it to be 80%. Diagnosis and detection improved and has surpassed the 70% target of 2015.
- **Target 11. f. (alt)** *Tuberculosis successes under DOTS.* The baseline was established at 86% in 2000 by WHO and at 90% in 2007 by NTP. In 2009 MoPH estimated the data to be 87.8%, higher than its target of 85% in 2015.

The fight against malaria and tuberculosis (TB) has made some progress. According to UN data, the prevalence of TB has been reduced by 40% since 2000. Death rates related to TB has also been reduced.

It appears that the extension of the basic packages of health services have improved access to treatment of these diseases.

Despite the commendable effort made by the national authorities and the support of bilateral and multilateral partners, the health system continues to face critical challenges related to the political, social and economic determinants of health and the performance of the health system functions. Years of war, political instability and lack of security have negatively impacted the economy and have led to high levels of poverty, illiteracy (particularly among females), environmental degradation and poor health status. The positive political developments have raised the expectations of the people for better employment, housing, education and access to quality health services.

In terms of healthcare investments in children, the NRVA data shows that the poor in Afghanistan are still at a disadvantage and they receive less health services than the non-poor. An instance is that access to antenatal care drops as households become poorer. Antenatal cares helps ensure better health for babies and children and are highly correlated with high cognitive development. Less than one in four pregnant women in the poorest quintile receive any antenatal care. In the richest quintile, access to antenatal care turns more than doubles.

Another important component of child and maternal care is safe child delivery. However, skilled birth attendance in Afghanistan is low by any standards. Despite some improvements in the past, Afghanistan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Using skilled personnel for delivery will improve such situations. The most recent NRVA data reveals that only 25% of child deliveries are attended by skilled personnel. This figure is much lower when compared to other low income countries. Skilled birth attendance is much lower among the poor. While the coverage in the richest quintile is 49%, it drops to 10% in the poorest quintile.

The deployment of health professionals and the provision of services remain hampered by lack of security in some areas of the country. The health sector weaknesses severely slowdown MDG progress in general as the largest number of MDGs and targets are related to health. The heath impediments, for instance, severely impact on both child and maternal mortality rates.

The prospects for health system strengthening are nevertheless promising in view of the political commitment at the highest level, the vision developed by the leadership of the MoPH, the generous contribution of the development partners, and the dedication of the national health professionals, despite hardship and difficult working environment. The national efforts to strengthen health system and to improve its performance in achieving its goal of improving health, reducing health inequalities, ensuring equity in health financing and improving population satisfaction would require enormous donor support to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets	
				2015	2020
Target 12: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources					
12.a. Proportion of land area covered by forest	1.6%	1.3%	1.7%	2.1%	-
12.b. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area	0.34%	0.30%	0.36%	0.5%	-
12.c. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per US $1,000 GDP (PPP)	NA	NA	NA	-	-
12.d. Carbon dioxide emissions (metric tonnes per capita)	0.0371	0.5134	1.9	-	-
12.d. Consumption of ozone-depleting CFC (total annual consumption in ODP tons)	380	94.5	30	0	-
12.e. Proportion of population using solid fuels (%)	100%	94%	92%	90%	-
Target 13: Halve, by 2020, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation					
13.a. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	23%	41.4%	27.2%	-	61.5%
13.b. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural (%)	12%	5.2%	5.1%	-	66%
Target 14: By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of all slum dwellers					
14.a. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (%)	1.5%	61%	NA	58.1%	72.3%
14.a. (alt.) Total slum population	2,458,024	4,500,000	NA	1,543,639	-

Target 12. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and *programs to reverse the loss of environmental resources.*

- **Target 12. a.** *Proportion of land area covered by forest.* The baseline value set was 1.60%. The latest available data from 2007 NRVA is 1.30%, lower than the baseline value. In 2009, the estimate was 1.70% (MAIL/FAO).
- **Target 12. b**. *Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity in surface area.* The baseline value was set at 0.34% in 2004 by CSO. In 2006, the estimate made by UN Stat was 0.30%, a regression; and in 2009, NEPA set it at 0.36%, showing a slight progression.
- **Target 12. c.** *Energy use kg oil equivalent per US $1000 GDP (PPP).* No baseline value was set. There are no clear estimates reported yet.
- **Target 12 d**. *Carbon dioxide emissions (metric tons per capita*) the baseline was set at 0.0371 in 2000 by UN Stats. In 2006, the estimate was 0.5134 (ADB, NEPA, UNEP). The value set was 1.9 by NEPA in 2009.
- **Target 12. d.** *Consumption of ozone depleting CFC (total annual consumption on ODP tons).* The baseline value was set at 380 in 1995/97. In 2006, the estimate was 94.5 and in 2009, it was set at 30. A progressive trend is visible.
- **Target 12. e**. *Proportion of population using solid fuels (%)*. The baseline was set at 100% in 2003 by NRVA. The NRVA adjusted it to 94% in 2005 and to 83% in 2008 although NEPA set it at 92% in 2009. This indicator refers to the population that relies on biomass or coal as the primary source of energy for cooking and heating.

Deforestation is severe in Afghanistan, decreasing the forest size from 1.65 to 1.3%, indicating a regression from 1993. There is a slight decrease in coverage of the protected areas. A slight decrease in carbon dioxide emission per capita is recorded but the baseline value had been set extremely low for carbon dioxide emission. The low carbon dioxide emission is hardly due to public policies but it is because of absence of industrialization which tends to contribute to an upward increase of carbon dioxide emission.

A good indicator that contributes to target 12 is the decrease in the proportion of the population using solid fuels. This has decreased by several percentage points since 2000 according to NRVA although NEPA figures are higher and indicates less progress. This is an instance wherein conflicting data creates confusion.

Target 13. Halve by 2020, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

- **Target 13. a.** *Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source (urban and rural).* The baseline value was set at 23% in 2003 (MICS/UNICEF). In 2008, there was an estimate of 41.4% from NRVA survey of 2007, however the estimate is adjusted now to be 27.20% in 2008. A target for 2020 was set at 61.50%.
- **Target 13. b.** *Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation (urban and rural by %).* The baseline was set at 12% in 2003. In 2007, the NRVA estimate was 5.20%, and in 2008 the NRVA adjusts it back to 5.1%.

Environmental protections, especially for water resource management continue to pose serious constraints on sustainable reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Afghanistan largely lags behind its neighbours in accessing safe water and sanitation. In UN estimates, Afghanistan has the worst provision of safe water in the world. However, according to the 2008 NRVA survey, 27% of Afghans have access to safe drinking water up from an UNICEF estimate of 23% in 2003. If such trends continue, Afghanistan might achieve its 2020 target of 61.5% of the population accessing safe water, although extrapolation from two surveys always leaves apprehensions about data reliability. NRVA based calculation estimates that 58, 20 and 16 percent access is available to urban, rural and Kuchi populations respectively,

There are also large differences in regional access to water. Access to water in the Kabul province is far better than in the central highlands. Namely, Daikundi and Nuristan provinces access far lower water sources.

Improved sanitation facilities have been estimated at 5.10% which is lower than the MICS 2003 estimate of 12%. In Afghanistan, only in urban areas, 21% of the population has access to facilities such as sewers, septic tanks, simple pit or ventilated improved pit latrines. Access of rest of the urban or Kuchi population to sanitation is less than 1%. Afghanistan is definitely off track in its target of 2020 set at 66%.

The potential for fast progress does not look promising for target 13, despite the 13a indicator showing a slight progress. The indicator 13b reflects a regression. Even if access of proportion of population to water and sanitation increases, sustainability of such access will remain risky, unless serious measures are planned and progress monitored.

The 2007 NRVA also identified large regional inequalities in access to sanitation. While capital Kabul provides access to 60% of the population, in the central highlands, access is almost non-existent. In Daikundi and Nuristan accesses are 3% and 2% respectively. Similarly access to sanitation and toilet facilities differ from 0% in Bamyan and Daikundi to 25% in Kabul province.

Environment is a cross-cutting issue in ANDS, which implies that all projects/programs, which touch on environmental issues, must set some environmental results targets and monitor progress.

A continued rise in greenhouse gas emissions is a reminder of the climate change problem. Carbon dioxide emissions have impact on greenhouse gas effects. Global rise in temperature and increased carbon dioxide emissions have impact on health of human beings, animals and plants. In 2006, global carbon dioxide emission reached 29 billion metric tons, an increase of 2.5 % from 2005 and 31% from 1990. The continued growth of global emissions demands that combating climate change is a global priority.

Target 14. By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of all slum dwellers.

- **Target 14. a.** *Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (%).* The baseline was set at 1.50% in 1990 by UN Stats. MoUD set the estimate at 61% in 2008 as against the 2020 target of 72.30%.
- **Target 14. a. (alt)** *Total slum population.* The baseline value was set at 2,458,024 in 1990 by UN Stats. In 2008, the estimate was 4,500,000 (MoUD). No 2020 target was set.

The UN statistics shows the number of slum dwellers in Afghanistan as doubling from 1990. The trend will continue over the coming few years and might even accelerate due to urban development and growth. Afghanistan's total slum population is estimated to grow from 7.5 million in 2005 to 12.62 million in 2015, which will create challenges in terms of provision of services (electricity for instance). Access to electricity in Kabul has vastly increased in the last two years but other areas encounter severe electricity access problems, with only 20% of electricity coverage in other areas of the country to urban dwellers.

In addition, access to land is limited for urban dwellers but according to 2005 NRVA, progress has been achieved in terms of land registration and thus security of tenure. The increase in land registration is huge, starting from 1.5% in 1990 to 40% in 2005 and almost 61% in 2008.

Environmental Sustainability in Afghanistan:
More than 20 years of war, a decade of drought and the unsustainable use of natural resources, have degraded the environment. Water shortages and deforestation are particular concerns for Afghanistan's development. Forests, which play an important role in maintaining the retention capacity of watersheds and mitigating climatic fluctuations, have been destroyed. Logging for construction materials and firewood led to a large reduction of forest cover from 3.7% in 1970s to 1-1.7% today.

Environmental problems concern both the countryside and the cities. Afghanistan's economy depends on agriculture to provide livelihood for the majority of its people. There is no alternative economic occupation for many of them. Water shortages, desertification and soil erosion have therefore a direct impact on their well-being.

City dwellers may be sheltered to a certain degree from the economic effects of these environmental problems, but they suffer instead from air pollution, a lack of waste disposal systems and a shortage of clean water. Lack of appropriate urban development policies, large population movements and unplanned urban development, energy shortages and lack of clean energy sources have damaged the air quality in urban areas through-out the country.

Overall, environmental concerns in both rural and urban areas are increasing due to poverty, lack of awareness, related to environmental degradation, conflict-various aspects of which cause environmental damages, uncontrolled import of goods such as adulterated fuel/lubrication

material, machinery and industrial components damaging the environment. There has been enormous encroachment on green sites tees and vegetation covers.

Global climate changes in general affect Afghanistan's already fragile resources. While Afghanistan hardly contributes to regional or global change in climate, it is one of the countries which suffers from the global climate change. It has been observed that climate change disrupted agriculture development in Afghanistan by exacerbating drought (through a decline in surface or sub-surface water resources, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs and ground water) and increased the severity and frequency of heat waves. The key climatic hazards in Afghanistan are periodic droughts and potentials of desertification.

NEPA/UNEP, with the support of EC developed the environmental accord of 2007 and the related regulatory frameworks and put in place wide ranging programmes of reforestation and water basin management to deal with the most serious environmental challenges in the country. A number of environmental policies, strategies and guidelines developed since 2004; however, they require financial resources and technical support for implementation.

Environmental policy is in a nascent state in Afghanistan. Environmental policy objectives have been formulated by international agencies in cooperation with the former Interim Administration and the current Government. The following areas into which Afghanistan's most pressing environmental needs fall have been identified by donors and the Government alike:
- Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and management, including combating desertification,
- Integrated pollution control, and
- Private sector investment in the environment sector.

In addition to these identified sector needs, there is a chronic need to build up institutional capacity in government to develop and take forward environmental policies.

Planned efforts to take concrete actions will help address these issues. The UNEP, with support from the EC, is supporting the drafting of an environmental framework law which will provide for the establishment of detailed regulations, rules and procedures.

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets 2015	Targets 2020
Target 15: Deal comprehensively and influence the provision of foreign aid through appropriate measures to enable Afghanistan develop sustainability in the long term					
15.a. Proportion of total bilateral, sector allocable	-	13%	11%	NA	NA
15.b. ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	26%	14%	13%	NA	NA
15.b (alt.) Proportion of external budget spent on social sectors (education, health, rural development, social protection)	28%	34%	20%	27.5%	-
15.c. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	26%	44%	44%	100%	-
15.d. ODA received as a proportion of GDP	49%	28%	31%		-
15.e. Proportion of ODA provided to help build capacity	9%	12%	NA	18%	-
Target 16: Develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system including a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction					
16.a. Percentage of total export to countries with which Afghanistan has a preferential trade agreement	11.8%	20.7%	27.7%	-	100%
Target 17: Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth					
17.a. Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex and total	26%	47%	NA	-	0%
Target 18: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries					
18.a. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	65%	75%	75%	85%	100%
Target 19: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication					
19.a.Cellular subscribers per 1,000 population	1	210	500	500	800
19.b. Internet users per 1,000 population	0.7	17.2	37	200	400

Target 15. Deal comprehensively and influence the provision of foreign aid through appropriate measures to enable Afghanistan develop sustainably in the long term.

- **Target 15. a.** *Proportion of total bilateral sector allocation.* No baseline was reported in 2005, however Ministry of Finance has reported 13% for 2008 and 11% for 2010. There are no targets set for this indicator.

- **Target 15 b**. *ODA of OECD/DAC donors allocated to basic social services (basic education, primary health, nutrition, safe water and sanitation).* The baseline was set for 26% in 2004 by MoF. 2009 data recently reported suggests 14% and MoF estimated 13% for 2010 while no targets are defined for 2015 and 2010.

- **Target 15. b. (alt)** *Proportion of external budget spent on social sectors (education, health, rural development, and social protection).* The baseline set was 28% in 2003 by MoF. MoF's DAD data reflect 34% in 2007 and 20% in 2009.

- **Target 15. c.** *Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied.* The baseline was 26% in 2004 (MoF). MoF-OECD provided the figure of 44% in 2005. MoF reported 44% for 2010 calculated by Aid Management Department.

- **Target 15. d.** *ODA received as a proportion of GDP.* The baseline was 49% in 2004 (MoF/IMF), 28% in 2005 (MoF/OECD) and 31% in 2009.

- **Target 15. e.** *Proportion of ODA provided to build capacity.* The baseline was set at 9% in 2005 (MoF/OECD). MoF provided the figure of 12% in 2007. No latest data are reported and because the Paris Declaration Monitoring Report for 2010 is not yet published, that would contain this information.

Target 16. Develop an open, rule based, predictable, trading and financial system, including commitments to good governance, development and poverty reduction.

- **Target 16. a.** *percentage of total export to countries with which Afghanistan has a preferential trade agreement.* The baseline value was set at 6% in 2003 (CSO/MoCI), but later revised to 11.8%. The estimates for 2007 was 13.40%, and again revised to 20.7%; and for 2008, 27.70% against a target of 100% in 2020 is reported.

Target 17. Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.

- **Target 17. a.** *Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, disaggregated by gender and total.* The baseline value for 2003 was 26% (AIMS). NRVA estimated it at 47% in 2008, with no further data collected.

It must be noted that Afghanistan faces a serious challenge in providing job opportunities in the formal sector matching the required skills and of the expectations of high school and university graduates.

Target 18. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies provide access to essential drugs in developing countries.

- **Target 18a.** *Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.* The baseline was set at 65% in 1999 by WHO. In 2008, MOPH set an estimate of 75% as against the target of 100% for 2020.

Afghanistan is almost on track to achieve the 2015 target on access to essential drugs but more acceleration will be required to achieve the 2020 target.

Target 19. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication.

- **Target 19. a.** *Cellular subscribers per 1000 population.* The baseline was set at 1 in 2003 by UN Stats, at 210 for 2008 by MCIT, and at 500 in 2010 by MCIT against the target of 800 in 2020. According to the latest NRVA, there is 0.1 telephone line and 6 mobile phones per hundred population.
- **Target 19. b.** *Internet users per 1000 population.* The Baseline was set at 0.7 in 2003 by UN Stats, at 17.2 in 2006. NRVA 2007/8 reports that the number of internet users per hundred populations is 0.3. In 2010 the number was set at 37 by MCIT, against the 2020 target of 400. This number indicates forth lowest internet use in the world after Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste.

Afghanistan has made rapid progress in accessing telecommunication facilities since 2001, when Afghanistan had one of the lowest telephone access rates. By 2006, the percentage of cellular subscribers increased to 21, well on track to reach the target of 50% by 2015. Internet access has increased to 1.7% of the population, which will not enable Afghanistan to reach the 2015 target. Regardless, these figures indicate progress for Afghanistan that started from a low base. Yet the current figures do not compare favourably with regional standards.

While progress in Targets 18 and 19 does not appear too poor, overall, there is little evidence that most targets of Goal 8, Global Partnership for Development, are achievable.

Due to lack of predictability in donor financing, planning, commitments and disbursements, collection of data in these areas is difficult and monitoring progress is no easier. The data collection remains poor despite government's efforts to collect data through the Donor Financial Review (DFR) process.

The donors' accountability to the government of fund investment by amount and sectors is less than satisfactory. Donor Financial Review processes are hardly ever accurate and often do not contain the full data. Although data in the graphs above show improved investments in MDGs related social sectors, such as education, agriculture and rural development and health and nutrition, investments do not match the volume and areas of needs in these sectors as well. The graphs clearly identify security sector investment to be dominating the aid scenario.

Donor financing is often not development needs based but in a post-conflict situation, especially the troops contributing countries' investments are politically or military motivated. Therefore, the basic services sectors, such as education, health, water and sanitation are often not high priorities in the list of donor investments. In other words, donor investments are not necessarily aligned to the high MDG priorities.

The global partnership issues are integrally linked to the 2005 Paris Declaration principles of Aid Effectiveness, which require donor-government cooperation. Across the developing world, aid effectiveness (as per the Paris Declaration principles) has made little progress. In fragile and post conflict countries, in which accountability and public finance performance are not fully trusted by donors, aid effectiveness principles are even slower to progress. Aid agencies have been accused of chasing their own interests – which has resulted in a geographic imbalance of aid with resources focused on those areas suffering from actual conflict while ignoring areas which are comparatively secure and could better benefit from sustainable development. As a result, aid has often failed to adjust to Afghanistan needs. For example, 10-15% of all Afghanistan land is arable to farming and despite 80% of Afghans relying upon agriculture as their primary livelihood; only 5% of international aid goes to that sector. According to some estimates 35-40% of all international aid to Afghanistan has been "wrongly spent". The military dominates the Afghan aid landscape. The militarization of aid is typified by the massive investment in Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) whose funding has increased by some 2,500% since 2004 while traditional development spending is one-third of what it was six years ago.

Despite indications of capacity built in individuals and in certain institutions due to strong Afghan leadership, overwhelming evidence exists that capacity building by donors has failed in Afghanistan, despite 26 billion dollars of investment in capacity and institution building. Two thirds of foreign assistance deliberately by-passes the Afghan government and, undermines the government's role in state and institution building.

GOAL 9: ENHANCE SECURITY

Indicators	Baseline Data	Data by 2008	Latest Available	Targets	
				2015	2020
Target 20: Reform and professionalize the Afghan National Army by 2010					
20.a. Military expenditure as a % of GDP	17%	2.1%	2.6%	4%	4%
20.a (alt.) Military expenditure as a % of Public Expenditures (core + development budget)	43%	10%	14.1%	20%	20%
20. b. Professional Training of the ANA (% of personnel having undergone a full training)	42%	60%	-	100%	100%
20.c. Nationwide fielding of the ANA (total of 13 Brigades)	46%	80%	-	100%	100%
20.d. Operational Capability (Battalions with validated capability)	0%	60%	-	100%	100%
Target 21: Reduce the misuse of weapons, and reduce the proportion of illegally held weapons by 2010					
21.a. Number of firearms licensed	NA	5,385	12,062	-	-
21.b. Gun crime, as a proportion of overall reported crime	NA	16,543	*37,584	-	-
Target 22: Reform, restructure and professionalize the Afghan National Police by 2010					
22.a. Citizen confidence in the police's ability to provide security and access to justice	NA	70.8%	NA	100%	-
22.b. Ratio of reported crime to convictions	NA	NA	NA	100%	-
Target 23: All emplaced antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2013. All other explosive contaminants destroyed by 2015					
23.a. Number of high impacted communities	281	74	**654	0	-
23.a (alt.) Hazardous areas (sq km)	715	722	649	0	-
23.b. Total number of impacted communities	2,368	2,268	2,115	0	-
23.c. Number of Afghans directly affected (Millions)	4.2	3.5	3.4	0	-
23.d. Number of mine/UXO victims (deaths and injuries per month)	100	58	42	0	-
Target 24: All stockpiled antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2007. All other abandoned or unwanted explosive stocks destroyed by 2020					
Number of stockpiled antipersonnel landmines destroyed	28,895	0	0	-	Target Achieved
Number of remaining ERW stockpiles to be destroyed (Total unexploded ammunition, MT)	NA	28,676	28,008,174	-	-
Target 25: Reduce the contribution of opium to the total (licit and illicit) GDP to less than 5% by 2015, and to less than 1% by 2020					
25.a. Eradicate poppy cultivation by 2020 (hectares cultivated)	131,000	157,000	123,000	-	0
25.b. Reduce the number of Afghans dependent on opium for their livelihoods by 75% by 2015 and by 90% by 2020 from the 2005 level (Millions)	1.7	2.4	1.5	0.6	0.2
* Total cumulative reported gun crimes (not proportion to total crimes) from March 2008 to June 2010 ** This metric no longer used by the program, however, there are 654 communities designated as high priority in the 1389 Work plan (Integrated Operational Framework)					

Target 20: Reform and professionalize Afghan national Army (ANA) by 2010

- **Target 20. a.** *Military expenditure as a percentage of GDP.* The baseline value was set at 17% in 2005 (NSC/IMF) as against the target of 4% in 2020. Core budget figures for the year 2008 and 2010 were reported 2.1% and 2.6% respectively. This obviously does not include off-budget military expenditures.

- **Target 20. a. (alt).** *Military expenditure as a % of public expenditure (core and Development budget).* The baseline was set at 43% in 2003 by MoF. The 2007 information was estimated at 25% and was corrected at 10% and 2010 data 14.1% as against 20% in 2020.

- **Target 20. b.** *Professional training of the ANA (% of personnel undergone full training).* The baseline was set at 42% in 2005 and at 60% in 2008 both by MoD as against the 100% target set for 2020.
- **Target 20. c.** *Nationwide fielding of the ANA (total of 13 brigades).* The baseline was set at 46% in 2005 and at 80% in 2008 both by MoD, as against 100% for 2020 target. .
- **Target 20. d.** *Operational capability (battalions with validated capability).* The baseline was 0% in 2005 but 60% in 2008 (MoD) as against the 100% 2020 target.

With respect to ANA training, it is considered to be a relatively successful program. The quantitative targets have been reached. Yet, more practical and concrete indicators of improved performance of the trained ANA would help raise the comfort zone of both the government and the international community. Security challenges in some parts of the country remain high. The southern and eastern regions virtually remain inaccessible to humanitarian or development aid according to the local civil society organizations and international NGOs.

Despite its recent positive domestic revenue mobilization record, Afghanistan is bound to be dependent on external assistance both for its recurrent and development budgets for a long time. Large army and police force maintenance will have to be the priority fiscal issues to be tackled by the administration and policies developed to address the fiscal issues.

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

- **Target 21. a.** *Number of firearms licensed.* No baseline set in 2005. The estimate set for 2008 was 5,385 (MOI), the collective number of arms licensed from 2008 up to now is reported to be 12,062.
- **Target 21. b.** *Gun crime as a proportion of overall reported crime*. No baseline for 2005. MoI registered 16,543 in 2008, 16,440 in 2009 and 4,601 in 2010 (only first quarter of the Solar year).

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

- **Target 22. a.** C*itizens' confidence in the police's ability to provide security and justice.* No baseline was set for 2005 but the number for 2008 was reported at 70.8%, however no recent data is reported.
- **Target 22. b.** *Ratio of reported crime to convictions*. No baseline for 2005 and no further data is collected or reported.

According to MoI and MoD, many of the indicators for the Security goal, decided upon in 2004 are no longer reflective of the changing realities and thus some of them are incorrect or inadequate to measure progress. Since these issues were not clarified or raised before the 2010 MDG Report preparation, MoI and MoD will go along with this year's reporting on Goal 9. However, through inter-ministerial discussions and a consultative process, they will develop some new indicators, which upon a review will be included for reporting in 2011

The training program currently provided to the police helps generate para-military troops and not civilian police, required for maintenance of law and order for the protection of the civilian population.

Target 23. All emplaced anti-personnel mines destroyed by 2013. All other explosive destroyed by 2015

- **Target 23. a.** *Number of high impacted communities.* The baseline was set at 281 in 2005. The estimate for 2008 is 74. No other data is recorded. *(This target is no longer used. However, there are 654 communities designated as high priority in the 1389 integrated operational work plan)*
- **Target 23. a. (alt)** *hazardous areas (sq. kilometres).* The baseline for 2005 was 715 (UNMACA). Data availability is: 722 for 2008 and 649 for 2010.
- **Target 23. b.** *Total number of impacted communities*. The baseline for 2005 was 2,368 (UNMACA). Figures for 2008 (ANDMA) is 2,268 and 2,115 in 2010 (UNMACA).
- **Target 23. c.** *Number of Afghans directly affected.* The 2005 baseline was 4,200,000 (UNMACA). The data for 2008 is 3,498,502 and 3,406,753 for 2010.
- **Target 23. d.** *Number of mine/UXO victims (deaths and injuries per month).* The baseline was 100 in 2005, going down to 58 in 2008 and to 42 in 2010.

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

- **Target 24. a.** *Number of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines destroyed*. In 2005, the number was set at 28,895 (UNMACA). For 2008 and 2010, the numbers were set at zero. Completion was achieved and zero level was reached in October 2007.
- **Target 24. b.** *Number of remaining ERW stockpiles to be destroyed (total unexploded ammunition-MT).* No baseline number available for 2005. For 2006 ANBP set the number at 28,676 and for 2010, it is 28,008,174 (MoD). ANBP is no longer operational. The responsible center is now MoD, which now holds all information on this target.

Afghanistan has made considerable progress in clearing land mines. In 2005, the known hazardous area was 715 square kilometres although new hazard areas have been identified since 2005, reaching a highpoint of 1,231 sq. km. But with clearance operations in the same period, the known hazard areas have been reduced to a current figure of 649 sq. km. This reflects an actual achievement of 582 sq. km of contaminated land removed from the database as of 15 July 2010. The most significant achievement is that the number of accidents related to land mines and victims have definitively been reduced steadily. The government, by completing its Ottawa Treaty Article 4 obligation to destroy all known stockpiled antipersonnel land mines has achieved the 24th MDG target.

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

- **Target 25. a.** *Eradicate poppy cultivation by 2020 (hectares cultivated).* The 2004 baseline was 131,000 and 157,000 in 2008 (both MCN and UNODC). The 2009 data is 123,000 as against zero in 2020.
- **Target 25. b**. *Reduce the number of Afghans dependent on opium for their livelihoods by 75% by 2015 and by 90% by 2020 from the 2005 level.* The baseline was set at 1,700,000 (1.7m) in 2003. In 2008 the number was 2, 400,000 (2.4m) (UNODC involved in both data estimates). Recent 2010 MoCN/UNODC reports suggest a figure of 1.5m. The 2020 target is 200,000

The target of reducing opium trade is off track. The figure is not reduced sustainably based on many factors. From 2004 to 2005, the cultivation is decreased; increased again in 2006 and

reached to the peak in 2007. However, from 2007 to 2009 the cultivation areas have decreased consecutively. Although combating opium has been significantly successful in certain provinces. Poppy-free provinces have reached to 20 in 2009. In 2010, four more provinces are almost poppy-free. The opium problem is most deep rooted in regions of insecurity and strong insurgencies in southern Afghanistan, indicating dangerous links between insecurity and drugs trade. 98% of poppy cultivation is concentrated in Southern and Western regions. In 2010, the opium production has decreased 48% reduction from 2009, but the price of opium has increased and can encourage farmers for poppy cultivation this year.

5. CONSTRAINS AND CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING MDG GOALS

5.1. Data Collection Constraints:

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

Afghanistan does not have a complete census since 1979. But CSO has estimates of population at province and district levels, which are based on information collected during 2003-05 household listing, which has also been updated in 2009.

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

It has been found difficult to collect information on morbidity history of infants and health indicators of children under five who are under women's custody. Similar difficulties has been encountered in collection and recording of data related to women's economic participation, participation in public life, women's role in decision making and women's access to justice. Yet, efforts are ongoing to cover these gaps through use of proxy indicators as reflected in this report. Perfection has not been reached for which reason Afghanistan is not included in global gap index. CSO itself admits the lack f gender sensitive data in women's participation in the economic and various other sectors.

5.2. Security Constraints:

Lack of access to certain regions bogs down data collection. In rural areas, surveys can cover only 40% of the areas. CSO staff had been killed during the pre-census data collection process. NRVA had to leave large portions of three provinces due to security concerns. Data collection from regions that are safe to enumerate can only create incomplete and un-objective data on which MDG milestones cannot be based, making proper performance measurement a far fetched dream. Information from the troops contributing countries' and their Provincial Reconstruction Teams has not been forthcoming, despite several attempts from the government.

These issues underline the need for state building and peace building, with the aim to establish security and state legitimacy, creating an enabling environment for collection of data, monitoring MDGs.

5.3. Capacity Constraints:

Human development in Afghanistan is showing improvement in the health and education indicators. Public administration and services have gradually been restored, especially in respect of health, education, rural development and finance.

The issue of inadequate human resource capacity and thus low institutional capacity in planning, implementing and monitoring MDGs is a major source of concern in Afghanistan, as in most fragile post-conflict states. Yet to not abandon MDGs, considered as basic for Afghanistan's development, the government is utilizing strategic options for buying capacity and building capacity (temporary or long term).

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

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

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

5.4. Lack of Coordination:

Often a single area of need or sector is surveyed by different survey teams (government, NGOs or other institutions and organizations), which creates confusion, raises expectations and eventual bitterness when planning promises are not realized, with no impact on livelihoods of communities surveyed. This highlights the need for coordination of surveys and use of national data sets. Harmonized work between the international community and the government will result in coordinated planning and undertaking activities for priority results attainment with promising advances towards MDG targets.

5.5. Financial Constraints:

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

Notably, outside of the scope of the fragile states, a study on 50 countries finds that the resources and know how necessary to achieve the MDGs do exist. Fast progress over the next 5 years must focus on strategies, policies and interventions that have proved to be successful, while making a radical break from those strategies that did not work.

6. TARGETED INTERVENTION IN SELECTED GROUP OF MDGS FOR FAST TRACKING POVERTY REDUCTION

Eradication of extreme poverty is the first goal under the MDGs. Poverty remains a core issue for Afghanistan. Analyses and deductions derived from the National Risk & Vulnerability Assessment surveys rank the people of Afghanistan amongst the most severely vulnerable people in the world today. MDG review and monitoring process in Afghanistan selectively identified a few themes which could be highlighted for the purpose of accelerating progress towards poverty reduction. Not that all these themes are absolutely slow progressing, although some are, but special thrust and adoption of strategies for putting some of these MDG themes on a fast track would be useful to consider for poverty reduction purposes. .

For the 2010 MDG report, the following themes are highlighted: Profiling the poor and the strategies to emphasize for fast track poverty reduction; compendium of actions for fast tracking support to subsistence farmers; targeted intervention in health and education; gender parity issues and their importance in a country's progress; and realities and politics of aid in a post conflict country.

6.1. Factors Impacting on Poverty and Required Interventions: Suggested Public Policy Options

6.1.1 Poverty and Subsistence Agriculture:

A vast majority of the poor vulnerable people in Afghanistan depend on subsistence agriculture as their livelihood. The contribution of the agriculture and water sector to poverty reduction is thus of paramount importance.

There is much agricultural potential in Afghanistan, but only irrigation can address the potentials of such production every year. Unfortunately, only about a quarter of Afghan agricultural land is now irrigated. In the past three decades, Afghanistan's irrigated cropped area decreased by almost 70%, and crop productivity plummeted to less than 50% of pre-war levels. For small holders cultivating opium, access to irrigation as part of overall support for licit agriculture and rural development is a priority. In the short-term, water storage reservoirs are essential, and over the medium-term, degraded water catchment facilities must be restored.

Afghanistan's natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. Forest cover stands at only 50%, a reduction of 30% over recent years, and rangeland is also damaged due to war, population growth, livestock increase, decrease in the absolute area of rangeland due to expansion of settlements and farming, and over-harvesting of grasses and bushes.

Damage to irrigation and other water systems, soil, rangeland and forests must be reversed for the agricultural economic sector to grow and contribute to poverty reduction of the rural population.

6.1.2 Poverty, Household Size and Fertility Rate:

There is a strong correlation between poverty and household size and the number of children in Afghanistan. A large household, with many children resulting from **high fertility rate** negatively affects the per capita consumption in the household. Smaller family sizes will help lessen poverty burdens.

6.1.3. Poverty, Literacy and Education

Literacy and education are key factors in explanation of poverty and therefore should be incorporated into poverty reduction strategies. Education helps entry into the labor market, employment and in social life. Afghanistan data shows that households of illiterate heads are 31% more likely to be poor than their literate counterparts.

While education is an important determinant of poverty reduction; and it is common for poor children to miss out on education. Net primary enrolments in poor households are much less than in non-poor households. Thus targeted intervention to enrol poor children in primary school should be a component of poverty reduction strategy. Provision of special incentives to poor families for sending their children to school should be considered.

Overall, the Government will maintain a momentum it has recently gained in further expanding educational opportunities, especially on rural areas and the Kuchi population. Policy and program development should be based on the reasons for children not attending schools. Provision of food rations for children attending schools has proved to be a successful strategy in some countries. Distance and access issues, financial obstacles and cultural barriers for girls are some of the areas surveyed and addressed in targeted programming. Small school buildings in rural areas, placement of female teachers with incentives are programming issues to consider.

6.1.4. Health and Poverty Linkages

Poor health is a dimension of poverty. Reversely, betterment of health reduces poverty and helps contribute to development. Major health sector issues that the Afghan poor face are: poor health, affectation with diseases, lack of nutrition and high fertility (HNP, Health, Nutrition & Population). The quality of health services is poor, comprising lack of access to services (too distant or dilapidated infrastructure); lack of medical supplies; staff number inadequate or poorly trained.

Lack of education and awareness exacerbate problems. Uneducated people do not go for medical care in a timely fashion. They are unaware of observing basic hygiene, sanitation and nutritional requirements and methods to prevent diseases. Because betterment of health is essential for poverty reduction and development, health should be prioritized within Afghanistan's economic and development plans.

Major dimensions that the government's public policy addresses are: adequate resource investment; response to the needs of the most disadvantaged; targeted investments in priority health issues: HNP, service delivery and building health awareness.

For addressing income deficiency factors, the tools are health insurance, fee waivers, targeted food subsidies.

To reduce non-income disadvantages for the poor, public policies should focus on improving awareness of health services; improving quality of services: technically and making them user friendly; improved access to services through investments in roads; introducing health interventions more relevant for health profile of the poor; increased budget allocation can surge health spending; civil service reform can create opportunities to hire more health workers.

6.2. Gender

Whereas on most development indicators Afghanistan ranks at the very bottom end of the international community, the position and living conditions of Afghan women are particularly poor. The government of Afghanistan is committed to various international legal and national policy frameworks. Within such frameworks special attention is given to the following areas; security, legal protection and human rights, leadership and political participation, employment and poverty, health and education. Analysis of trends in these areas show some progress but not adequate to promote gender parity.

With respect to the GDI (Gender Related Development Index), the females fall short in all dimensions. Life expectancy, literacy rate, gross school enrolment ratio and a descent standard of living vary radically between men and women in Afghanistan. As an example, a typical woman receives only 4 years of education if she is lucky enough to allow any access to education at all. Gender empowerment measure (comprised of political participation and decision making, economic participation and decision making and control over economic assets and resources) cannot be measured in the absence of appropriate data.

Gender inequality and discrimination are most stark in the two most important sectors that help human development. These are the sectors of health and education.

6.2.1. Female Health

Women face significant reproductive health problems, they are more likely than men to be malnourished, subjected to injuries arising from violence. Participatory poverty assessment found a gender bias in the way poor communities address women's health issues. A family is more likely to send a sick man to the hospital than a woman who manages the household. Overall, access to health services is more constrained for women than men since they have to be accompanied by a male escort, thus doubling the cost for accessing health services. 49% of women cite distance as a reason and 49% mention expenses according to the NRVA survey of 2008. Cultural factors, such as, a female not allowed to be seen by a male medical professional cause problems. Under-representation of female health staff significantly contributes to the low level of antenatal, birth attendance and post natal care. The result is high maternal mortality ratio.

Targeted public policy interventions and increased investments into these areas will help address equity issues for women.

With respect to pregnancy related health risks, early marriage, lack of contraception, close spacing of pregnancies create health problems for women. Sharp focus on these issues is essential. Reproductive health has particular importance for women and girls as a high price is paid for high fertility, closely spaced births, early pregnancies and poor maternal health provisions, in terms of antenatal and delivery care. Targeted policy measures to import temporary female health professionals and intensified actions to promote women's training as health professionals are recommended.

6.2.2. Female Education

Educating girls underpins the achievement of all other MDGs. Educated women help communities and societies healthier, wealthier and safer, and help to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and tackle the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Progress has been hampered by a number of factors: funding constraints, political will, cultural barriers, and insecure situations, lack of accessible school infrastructure, trained female teachers and thus inadequate quality of schooling for girls. Targeted public policy intervention in all of these areas is recommended for addressing the gender parity issue.

6.2.3. Highlights of Conclusion on Gender Parity

Overall, the NRVA 2007/08 confirms that a consistent pattern of relative deprivation for women exists across all dimensions of individual and social development. The gender gaps are large in all areas, ranging from education, health and nutrition, to decision making power at community level and level of the household and income. Women's participation in economic activities is being low.

One of the targeted policies could be directed to facilitate women's employment in the public sector, especially public administration, health and education. A precondition of such a policy is to create educational adequacy of women, wherein large gender gaps persist. In recent years, however, progress in gradual reduction of the gap in literacy and primary education is visible, especially in urban areas. The rural areas and vulnerable communities, such as the Kuchis, suffer from educational deprivation. Therefore, the policy should be primarily targeted to the vulnerable communities and rural areas where large majority of children live and where girls' enrolment is approximately 38%. Targeting of adult population of 9.5 million illiterate people (5.5 million of whom are women) is a recommended policy, at least in terms of generating basic reading and writing skills.

A number of elements common to all developing nations will help focus on the most important issues to be addressed in Afghanistan, as well, while making adjustments to fit the country's social, cultural and religious dimensions:

- A country's development and progress go hand in hand with women's development and advancement and thus focus on women's advancement should be considered a necessary precondition for development.
- Gender parity in education will be difficult to achieve without targeted affirmative actions.
- Gender gap will continue to be more evident in secondary and post secondary schooling and targeted attention. Affirmative actions to these areas is recommended.
- Women will remain vulnerable in the job front assuming the largest share of unpaid work and targeted policies to improve situations for women in these areas will be required.
- Global crisis will put forth newer hurdles to women's employment with women's employment growing slowly and global partnership in ameliorating this situation is suggested.

6.3.   Poverty and Environment

Poverty is one the key elements that result in environmental degradation and resource depletion. As the population depends on subsistence agriculture and meagre resources, food insecurity is an inevitable consequence. These problems in return result in harvesting of vegetation covers, over use of rangeland, deforestation for fuel; and hunting of animals and birds for food, all with enormous damage to the environment. Competition between communities in access to and use of resources also generate social and economic tensions.

6.4.   *Better Aid for MDG Progression*

It is acknowledged that much has been accomplished since 2001 through the generous support of the international community and Government efforts, in terms of democratic development, improvements in health care and immunization, expansion of primary education, construction of roads, transport and telecommunication infrastructure, initial economic growth, community based and led rural development and training of state security forces, all of which have made significant differences in the lives of ordinary Afghans. Yet, national and international perception persist that most Afghans still endure conditions of hardship and millions live in extreme poverty; and that progress towards many of the MDGs which impact most on the lives of the poorest has been grossly inadequate.

With respect to aid, which this section focuses on, it is assessed that aid to Afghanistan has been far too prescriptive and driven by donor preferences rather than be responsive to Afghan needs and priorities. A large percentage of donor finances are devoted to security investments, on which reporting is spotty. The tying of aid still remains an issue, whether by formal contracts or more informal pressures.

Oxfam reports reflect the following trends related to the following staggering indicators:
• A large percentage of aid to Afghanistan is tied, requiring the procurement of donor-country goods and services.
• Nearly 80% of aid by-passes the Afghan government.
• Technical assistance is not appropriately coordinated with the government.
• Profit margins on reconstruction contracts for international and Afghan contractor companies are high, with very high salaries paid to full time expatriate individual consultants.

With this background, the donors and the government should devote more planning thoughts for making aid better for the purpose of fast tracking MDGs and poverty reduction.

7. CONCLUSION: WAY FORWARD

There are important synergies among MDGs, acceleration in one goal, speeds up progress in others or lack of progress in some goals bogs down other MDGs progress. There is clear linkage between women's education, maternal health, child health and mortality; general family's health, in terms of sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, reduction of exposure to diseases and family's income. Conversely, lack of women's access to education, health, income facilities will generally bog down gender parity in the society and economy and act as deterrents to development.

Political will, policy commitments and transparent public communication are central to MDG progress. Coordination and cooperation between government agencies and between the government and the civil society help generate conducive conditions for social contracts between the government and the people and operation of a system of upward and down ward accountability for progress towards MDGs for an equitable development.

Building capacities to deliver services for reaching the MDGs and thereby restoring citizens' confidence in government functionaries are important in post conflict situations. In Afghanistan, Ministries of Education, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Public Health and Agriculture (with recently developing potentials) provide models for service delivery that earn citizens' confidence and contribute to state legitimacy. Institutional development of other ministries to this end is advisable.

Higher per capita growth (driven often by agricultural productivity on which a large sector of the population is dependent in Afghanistan), employment creation, access to income, assets and opportunities are key to increasing food security and alleviating poverty related to hunger. Emphasis on these aspects is thus recommended to promote MDGs progress.

Inputs for increasing farm income are priorities for reduction of food insecurity in Afghanistan. Investment in infrastructure, technology, credit for industrial and agricultural development is all incentives that will help bring structural economic changes to promote income growth. In Afghanistan, the new ARD strategy includes some action in these areas and will hopefully contribute to faster progress towards attainment of the MDGs.

Supply side investments, supported with demand side policies, can assure progress. In Afghanistan, investments in education, health, water and sanitation can bring about rapid change in the life conditions of the poor.

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

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

In situations of stability, wherein the governance functions well, support of civil servants taking policy leaderships and pushing for actions are critical in moving MDGs. In conflict states, however, wherein government is not as functional and coordinated as desirable, non-state actors

could be invested with the responsibility of service delivery under government contracts. The latter policy has proved to be successful in Afghanistan with delivery of health programs, NSP and girls' community education programs.

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

Constitutional and legal reforms to protect women's rights to empower women and increase their political participation are important to promote gender parity in Afghanistan.

Targeted interventions, including targeted social protection and employment programs are critical for all MDGs acceleration.

Supporting diversification of livelihoods away from environment or climate sensitive activities is important. Low carbon activities benefit households through supply of clean energy and employment creation in non agricultural activities. Traditional energy sources cause indoor air pollutions with health hazards. Resources to finance adaptation to climate change must be additional to current aid flows to Afghanistan.

Domestic resource mobilization is the primary source of sustainable MDG financing. Broadening the tax base and improved tax collection raise significant resources. However, changes in tax structure should not impose heavy burden on goods and services that the poor consume more. Afghanistan's revenue mobilization has been on target and through the *Kabul Process* significant initiatives will be launched to mobilize revenue. Revenue expenditure must be well planned to address some of the priority MDG areas in order that Afghanistan does not have to depend fully on external assistance for MDG progression.

Global partnership needs to strengthen in support of MDGs, which does not imply only increase in volumes of aid but support in capacity building; policy support; incentives and rewards for improved progress towards MDGs; and finally, de-politicization and demilitarization of aid in support of MDG needs based development.

Most least developed countries striving to delineate policies, strategies and programming to reach the Millennium Development Goals, suffer from degrees of fragility. But they do not essentially suffer from conflict, especially violent conflict that not only place hurdles on the MDG path but in effect have strong potentials of eradicating any development gains made.

Conflict, fragility and violence, more often than not, increase poverty by creating internal displacement, deaths, gender violence and reduction in licit economic activities and unemployment. Afghanistan is one of the Low Income Countries under Stress (LICUS), which is not only fragile but encounters violent conflict of a high degree. The level of insecurity such fragility and conflict generate indeed impact on the country's overall development, not to speak of the impact on the MDGs. Because of the severe impact that a conflict situation can have on MDG progress, it is important that the MDG review process is cognizant of the situations of fragility and conflict being experienced.

In Afghanistan, decades of war, uncertainties and insecurity have delegitimized the state and its institutions. Basic governance services, justice and rule of law remained undelivered as the institutions were depleted of resources. Destruction of professionals, property and infrastructure took heavy tolls on capacity, communication, education, health systems, and livelihoods. Such destruction drowned people into a pit of poverty and a vicious circle of further tensions, conflict, violence and more insecurity. Such enormous devastations severely affected the ability of the country to clear the path to MDGs. In fact, unabated conflict and violence eroded and weakened even existing capacities in the country.

As major resources are diverted to address the crisis related expenditure, children are denied education, women denied maternal care and basic level of security to citizens are no longer provided. Lack of rule of law and access to justice are likely to increase violence against women, affecting gender equality and empowerment of women.

Quantifying the impact of conflict on the achievement of MDGs has not yet been systematically undertaken. Only approximate correlations are identified. Establishment of a framework, which could help to identify the concrete ways that conflict impacts on MDGs will be of use and will help develop measures for identification of better indicators of reduction of risks in the path of MDGs.

What are the specific institutional impediments to MDG implementation? The status and policies of the institutions responsible for justice, security and civil protection and their contribution or lack of it to related MDGs would provide indicators for risk reduction. In Afghanistan the justice system is nearly non-existent despite efforts at reforms; and thus support from justice institutions for eradication of inequity and discrimination is minimal. The police force is weak and perceived as corrupt. Thus, expectations of civil protection from this institution are low. Strengthening and vigilance of these institutions are high priorities. In addition, all instruments of violence and conflict should be put under vigilance to minimize their debilitating effect on MDGs. In Afghanistan illegal militias, possession of ammunitions and weapons still go uncontrolled creating threats in the way of MDG progress.

The distribution of conflict and violence is an issue to be aware of in the review of MDGs in the country. There are differences between rural and urban areas, especially affecting the MDGs in education and health. Remote areas have less access to schools. Distance to schools impact on girls' mobility and school enrolment, creating gender disparity. Similar problems dominate the health scenario, when rural and especially remote areas' residents lack access to health services. The issue of women's inability to travel and expenses related to such travel, create hurdles in health MDG achievement.

MDG progress in the insecure regions of the south and east is minimal because of the difficulty of delivery of basic social services. Schools and often health clinics cannot operate due to threats from insurgents. Female teachers can not be offered protection and safety and nor can girls attend schools in many parts of the southern and eastern regions of Afghanistan. Medical professionals cannot operate with safety in these areas. Absence of female health practitioners and midwives prevent antenatal, delivery and post natal care, which severely impact on maternal mortality and infant mortality rates. Indeed, in insecure regions, other diseases as malaria and tuberculosis are difficult to control due to the inability to provide clinical services. Polio has been almost eradicated from Afghanistan, except in a number of districts in Helmand and Kandahar, where the insurgents have prevented immunization operations to continue.

In the absence of any systematic quantified impact analysis of conflicts on MDG review in Afghanistan, the few examples above do draw a causal linkage between conflict and MDGs and the conflict-violence nexus eroding national capacities to manage risks in the process of MDG advances.

It is the process undertaken in meeting each goal that might help the country to determine to what extent the risk of conflict and its impact can be reduced on the MDGs. Therefore, planning and programming for MDGs in situations of insecurity must pay special attention to the analysis of the risks and how their impact can be minimized. If development planning for MDGs is devoid of risk identification and planning for mitigating risk impacts, adverse results may occur, with social and economic development and MDG progress being affected negatively.

Absence of mechanisms for reconciliation in post conflict societies is damaging for MDG progress because conflicting groups oppose MDG processes to discredit the government. Afghanistan's initiative in the reconciliation and reintegration process might be of benefit for MDG progress.

A national ownership of the process of the MDG is important; especially in a post-conflict country like Afghanistan as such ownership has the potential of contributing to state legitimacy, stability and national solidarity. The government and its institutions' cooperation with the civil society to mediate and reduce conflict and design mitigation measures to eliminate the bottlenecks to long term development and MDG achievement should be useful instruments for the government in promoting MDGs through a national solidarity creation process.

It is highly recommended that the next MDG Report of Afghanistan be based on a fuller analysis of the quantified and qualitative impact of conflict on the achievement of MDGs.

Goals	Global Targets	Afghan Targets
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	**Target 1:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than US $1 a day	**Target 1:** The proportion of people whose income is less than US $1 a day decreases by 3% per annum until the year 2020[1]
	Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	**Target 2:** The proportion of people who suffer from hunger decreases by 5% per annum until the year 2020[2]
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	**Target 3:** Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	**Target 3:** Ensure that, by 2020, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling[3]
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	**Target 4:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	**Target 4:** Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education no later than 2020[4]
		Target 5: Reduce gender disparity in economic areas by 2020[5]
		Target 6: Increase female participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of governance to 30% by 2020[6]
		Target 7: Reduce gender disparity in access to justice by 50% by 2015 and completely (100%) by 2020[7]
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	**Target 5:** Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate	**Target 8:** Reduce by 50%, between 2003 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate, and further reduce it to 1/3 of the 2003 level by 2020[8]
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	**Target 6:** Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	**Target 9:** Reduce by 50% between 2002 and 2015 the maternal mortality ratio, and further reduce the MMR to 25% of the 2002 level by 2020[9]
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	**Target 7:** Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	**Target 10:** Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
	Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	**Target 11:** Have halted by 2020 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability	**Target 9:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources	**Target 12:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources
	Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation	**Target 13:** Halve, by 2020, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation [10]

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[1] Target and target date were changed due to lack of availability of baseline data for 1990 and to account for Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

[2] Target and target date were changed due to lack of availability of baseline data for 1990 and to account for Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

[3] Target year was changed to 2020 due to Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

[4] Target year was changed to 2020 due to Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG. Tertiary education was included in the target.

[5] Target was added to ensure appropriate policy focus on this area in Afghanistan. The indicator used to monitor this target was changed in order to reflect the fact that Government is the largest employer and the revised indicator reflects the Government's commitment to removing gender disparities in civil sector employment.

[6] Increase in female participation in decision making positions is a precondition to ensuring sustainable improvements in the conditions of women. The indicator used to monitor this target was changed so as to Better captures women's political participation at sub-national levels.

[7] Ensuring access to justice a key issue in women's empowerment.

[8] Target and target date were changed due to lack of availability of baseline data for 1990 and to account for Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

[9] Target and target date were changed due to lack of availability of baseline data for 1990 and to account for Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

[10] Target year was changed to 2020 due to Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

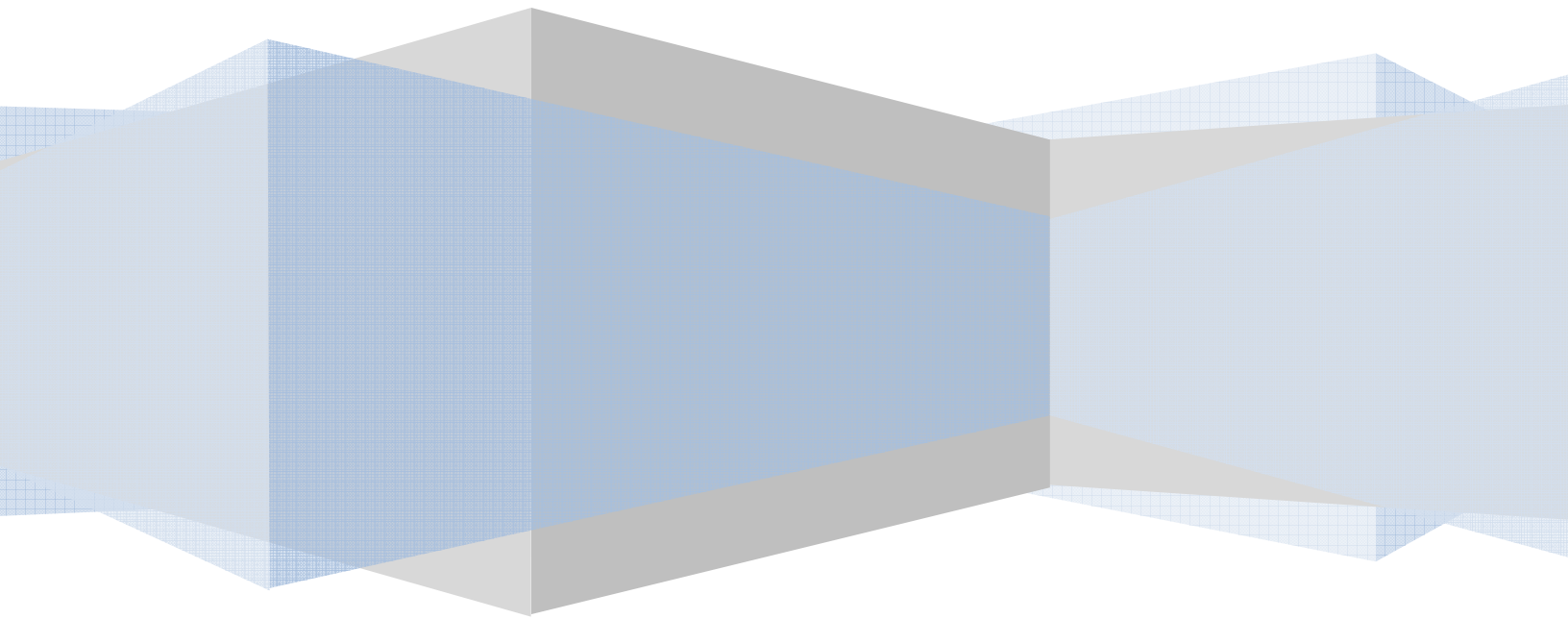| Goals	Global Targets	Afghan Targets
	Target 11: By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers	**Target 14:** By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of all slum dwellers[11]
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	**Target 15:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	**Target 15:** Deal comprehensively and influence the provision of foreign aid through appropriate measures to enable Afghanistan develop sustainably in the long term
	Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system	**Target 16:** Develop an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction
	Target 16: Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	**Target 17:** Develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
	Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	**Target 18:** In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
	Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication	**Target 19:** In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication
	Target 13: Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries	**N/A**
	Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States	
Goal 9: Enhance security[12]	**N/A**	**Target 20:** Reform and professionalize the Afghan National Army by 2010 [13]
		Target 21: Reduce the misuse of weapons, and reduce the proportion of illegally held weapons by 2010
		Target 22: Reform, restructure and professionalize th Afghan National Police by 2010
		Target 23: All emplaced antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2013. All other explosive contaminants destroyed by 2015[14]
		Target 24: All stockpiled antipersonnel mines destroyed by 2007. All other abandoned or unwanted explosive stocks destroyed by 2020
		Target 25: To reduce the contribution of opium to the total (licit and illicit) GDP to less than 5% by 2015, and to less than 1% by 2020[15]

[11] Target year was changed to 2020 due to Afghanistan's late start for achievement and tracking of MDG.

[12] Due to Afghanistan's special situation it was deemed necessary to include a separate goal on security, which is the necessary precondition for the sustainable achievement of all other MDGs.

[13] Targets 20-22 reflect the need to achieve stability by re-instating the state's monopoly on the legitimate use of force. This is done by disbanding and disarming illegal armed groups and strengthening the government institutions (Army and Police) tasked with maintaining peace and enforcing the rule of law.

[14] Targets 23-24 deal with the legacy of previous conflict, particularly in terms of clearing unused remnant of war and other unexploded devices.

[15][15] Targets 25 addresses the root causes of continued instability, focusing in priority on the illegal drugs trade, which fuels the insurgency by providing a source of revenue and patronage over the population.