



STATE OF KUWAIT  
Ministry of Planning

# STATE OF K U W A I T

The Millennium Development Goals  
Progress Report 2005



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STATE OF  
**KUWAIT**

The Millennium Development Goals  
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# State of Kuwait: The Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2005

## Foreword

This is the second report on the Millennium Development Goals in Kuwait. The first report was entitled "State of Kuwait: Country Report on the Millennium Development Goals: Achievements and Challenges: 2003". The current report, using a UNDP recommended methodology for monitoring progress towards achieving the goals and utilizing the most up-to-date information from national and international sources, is for all intents and purposes an update of the first report.

Being an update it is perhaps not surprising that the current report confirms the findings of the 2003 report alluded to above. Overall The State of Kuwait is found to be in a fortunate position of being able to achieve almost all the MDGs. Indeed some of the goals have already been achieved a few years ahead of the designated date of 2015. Already achieved goals include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the achievement of universal primary education, the target on the elimination of gender disparity in all educational levels, the reduction in child mortality, the improvement in maternal mortality, and the combating of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Regarding the eighth goal of developing a global partnership for development The State of Kuwait is proud to note that since its independence it has been active in providing official development assistance to developing countries through its specialized aid agency the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. As of the 1st August 2005, the Kuwait Fund extended development loans to 101 countries in all continents, 16 Arab and 85 non-Arab countries, with a total loan commitment of about US\$11.8 billion.

Be the above as it may, The State of Kuwait faces a few challenges regarding the achievement of some targets under a few goals. Important among these is the political empowerment of women under the third goal. While it is recognized that such target involves a process of political struggle under various societal settings, I am happy to note that May 16, 2005 marked a landmark in the political struggle of Kuwaiti women. On this day, the Kuwaiti Parliament extended political rights to women. Thus, potentially the indicator of "the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments" will show a time trend during the remaining ten years to the achievement of goals. We caution, however, that progress on this score will depend on the dynamics of the political process.

The major challenge facing The State of Kuwait is that related to the 7th goal of "ensuring environmental sustainability", especially with respect to the energy use and the carbon dioxide emissions indicators. Our view is that as far as The State of Kuwait is concerned these are biased indicators in the sense that they are closely related to the nature of the oil economy of the country. However high the level of these indicators may be for the State of Kuwait, their contribution to "global warming" is not likely to be significant. But, of course, The State of Kuwait is committed to observe all types of recommendations that aim at the wise use of natural resources to the benefit of humankind.

Having noted the above, I would like to close by commending this second report as a key input of The State of Kuwait's participation in the September 2005 UN Summit on the MDGs. The analysis and information presented in the report should help increase the awareness of the various stakeholders in our country as to where we stand regarding the global compact against poverty as expressed in the MDGs.

**Massouma al-Mubarak, (Ph.D.),**

Minister of Planning

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# Preface

The Millennium Development Goals are doubly significant for The State of Kuwait. They are significant to The State of Kuwait as a developing country since they offer a framework to monitor development progress, identify achievements as well as challenges. The MDGs are also significant to The State of Kuwait as a "developer" country - a remarkable donor and investor in world development.

As this monitoring Report shows, as a developing country, The State of Kuwait has achieved impressive progress since independence in areas covered by the MDGs ranging from the eradication of absolute poverty to advances in health and education. Kuwaiti women's recent acquisition of political rights is the latest accomplishment to celebrate. Exercising these rights through women's participation in parliament is a quest that has to be addressed in order to meet the respective MDG target.

The multi-faceted progress and its continuation since the year 2000 is reflected in Kuwait's record in meeting the MDGs. The State of Kuwait either has met or is on its way to meeting most of the MDG targets.

Yet there are challenges. In the area of the environment, for example, The State of Kuwait can be considered a victim of its success. Rapid economic growth has both burdened the environment and left it lagging behind other areas of progress.

Kuwaiti commitment to reform and to further progress can draw on the MDG framework in establishing developmental targets that are particularly pertinent to Kuwait's priorities and aspirations. In cases where MDG targets seem irrelevant to The State of Kuwait or have been exceeded by national progress, there can be scope for considering at the national level alternative targets. For example, under the seventh MDG, which concerns the environment, the first target of forest cover is irrelevant to The State of Kuwait. An alternative target related to water security can be adopted to better reflect national priorities in connection with the environment.

The dual significance of the MDGs to The State of Kuwait emanates from the country's unique status as both a developing, and a "developer," country. The latter role is evident in Kuwait's remarkable record as a donor. As we commemorate the fifth anniversary of the international community's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, it should not be forgotten that Kuwait's commitment to international development reached impressive levels. Following the first and second oil booms, Kuwaiti Official Development Assistance as a percent of Gross National Income reached international historic highs at multiples of the UN target of 0.7%.

The eight MDGs can have relevance to Kuwait's policies as a donor. Goal 8 concerning international partnerships is of special importance to The State of Kuwait not only as a donor but also as an international trader and overseas investor.

I am pleased that this monitoring report, the second in a series, is a product of the partnership between the Government of Kuwait's Ministry of Planning and the United Nations represented by the United Nations Development Programme. MDGs continue to provide points of reference for this partnership, which is grounded in Kuwait's national development priorities.

## **Moez Doraid**

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The State of Kuwait



## I. Introduction and Background:

1. As is well known the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted by 189 countries at the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000. According to Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, the adoption of the MDGs "drawn from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, was a seminal event in the history of the United Nations. It constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address, as a single package, peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms". The MDGs form a "blue print agreed by all world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions- a set of simple but powerful objectives that every man and woman in the street can easily support and understand"<sup>1</sup>.

2. In his report to the UN General Assembly in July 2002 the UN Secretary-General noted that the MDGs "express the resolve of the world's political leaders to free their fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to make the right to development a reality for everyone, and to free the entire human race from want"<sup>2</sup>.

3. Eight MDGs have been identified by the UN. These are the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; the achievement of universal primary education; the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; the reduction of child mortality; the improvement of maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and, developing a global partnership for development.

4. The State of Kuwait is committed to the achievement of the MDGs. According to the IMF, latest estimates the 2003 per capita GDP for The State of Kuwait is reported as US\$16394, comparable to per capita incomes in a number of OECD countries<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, The State of Kuwait is classified as a high human development country with a human development index for 2002 of 0.838 where it ranked as the 44th country out of 55 such high human development countries, and the 2nd country among four high human development Arab countries<sup>4</sup>.

5. Despite its affluence, The State of Kuwait is also classified as a developing country. As such, it is expected to report on progress achieved in realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2003, and in collaboration with the UNDP country office, the Ministry of Planning (MOP) produced the first country report on MDGs entitled "Kuwait: Country Report on the Millennium Development Goals: Achievements and Challenges 2003" (hereinafter referred to as MOP-UNDP (2003)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> UN, (2005), *The Millennium Development Goals Report*; New York; p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> See UN (2002), *Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General*; report no. A/57/270; page 8; [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

<sup>3</sup> See IMF, (2005), *Kuwait: Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix*; Country Report no. 05/234, [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org).

<sup>4</sup> See UNDP, (2004), *Human Development Report 2004*; table 1, p. 139; [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org). Bahrain ranks as 40th, Qatar 47th and UAE as 49th.

<sup>5</sup> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the designated coordinating agency on monitoring progress towards achieving the goals in collaboration with UN agencies, other UN partners, the World Bank, the IMF and OECD. The main purpose of the collaboration is to ensure a common assessment and understanding of the status of the MDGs at both the global and national levels.



6. The MOP-UNDP (2003) report adopted the dominant methodology for assessing progress towards achieving the goals that involves comparing the required rates of change in the various quantitative indicators with the actual performance since 1990. It is noted that such a methodology can be invoked in the form of direct calculation of the rates in question or alternatively by estimating trend equations <sup>6</sup>.
7. In its Human Development Report 2003 the UNDP adopted a version of the direct method noted above. According to this method what is needed are end point observations on the MDG indicators where a simple average rate of change is to be calculated in the form of the change in the value of the indicator divided by the time span separating the two observations. In view of the fact that the UNDP is the UN organization charged with monitoring progress towards achieving the MDGs this current report follows its recommended methodology <sup>7</sup>. Depending on available information the base year used is 1993 while the last years for which information is available is 2004 or the closest year. Thus, this report updates the results in the MOP-UNDP (2003) report using the UNDP methodology.
8. The rest of this report is composed of two sections. In section (II), using the UNDP methodology, progress towards achieving the MDGs in The State of Kuwait will be presented. The section is organized in such a manner that its sub-sections deal with the analysis of each goal. Unlike MOP-UNDP (2003) for each goal, and targets under goals, the relevant information on indicators and the results are presented in tabular format. Details of the information used for The State of Kuwait, and the sources of such information, are provided in annex table (A.1). Section (III) summarizes the results and highlights the challenges that remain to be dealt with by The State of Kuwait.

<sup>6</sup> For the details of these methods see MOP-UNDP (2003: 4, footnote 7).

<sup>7</sup> According to UNDP (2003: 348-9) for any MDG indicator  $x$  the actual annual rate of progress, call it  $G(x)$ , is to be calculated as follows:  $G(x) = [(xt1 - xt0) / xt0] / (t1 - t0)$ , where  $t0$  is 1990 or the year closest for which data are available;  $t1$  is the most recent year for which data are available;  $xt0$  and  $xt1$  are the values of the MDG indicator for the subscribed years. It is noted that this formula needs to be slightly amended for net primary school enrolment ratio, gender equality in education and the proportion of the population with access to safe water and sanitation, for each of which the most desirable value is 100%. For each of these indicators "progress is to be expressed as shortfall reduction" according to the following actual annual rate of progress:  $G1(x) = [(xt1 - xt0) / (100 - xt0)] / (t1 - t0)$ . The required rate of progress to meet the various targets by 2015 (iMDG), call it  $G^*(x)$ , depends on the various quantitative specifications, call each one of them  $-x$ , (e.g.  $-0.5$  for poverty and hunger;  $0.5$  for safe water and sanitation;  $-0.67$  for under-five mortality; and  $1$  for primary enrolment and gender equality in education); thus  $G^*(x) = [-x / (iMDG - t0)]$ .



## II. Progress and Achievements:

### Goal 1: Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger:

9. Two major targets under this goal have been specified: (a) to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (living on less than US\$1.08 per person per day) by the year 2015<sup>8</sup>; and (b) to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015. Three indicators have been selected to reflect progress in achieving the target on extreme poverty: the head-count ratio, the poverty gap ratio and the share of the poorest 20 percent of the population in national consumption (i.e. the share of the poorest quintile)<sup>9</sup>. Similarly, two indicators have been selected to monitor progress with respect to the reduction of hunger target: the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age; and, the proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

10. To look at the implication of the target on extreme poverty for The State of Kuwait, MOP-UNDP (2003) used the latest information available in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey for the Year 1999-2000 (HIES). It is shown that according to the HIES results the average per capita expenditure for the poorest Kuwaitis amounted to KD.108.4 per month, equivalent to US\$353.4 per month or about US\$11.8 per person per day. This means that the average expenditure of the Kuwaiti poor is about ten times higher than the international poverty line of US\$1.08 per person per day. Based on these results MOP-UNDP (2003) concluded that "as far as income poverty is concerned The State of Kuwait has already eliminated extreme poverty".

11. The third indicator for monitoring progress in reducing poverty is a variable that relates to relative deprivation as reflected in the share of the poorest 20 percent of the population in national consumption. In view of the non-availability of long time series data on the distribution of consumption expenditure, MOP-UNDP (2003) followed the recommended UNDP methodology of comparing the indicator in question for two points in time.

12. In the case of The State of Kuwait the information provided in the HIES of 1986-1987 is taken to represent the base year. To obtain the share of the lowest quintile in consumption expenditure for Kuwait Lorenz curves were fitted on the HIES data for the 1986-1987 and 1999-2000. The results show that the share of the lowest quintile in the distribution of expenditure for the Kuwaitis was 7.99 percent in 1986/87 and it increased to about 8.5 percent in 1999/00<sup>10</sup>. Thus, it can be concluded that over the 1990s the share of the lowest quintile among the Kuwaitis has increased indicating an improvement in the distribution of expenditure.

<sup>8</sup> As is well known, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty is the head count ratio at the indicated threshold level of expenditure of US\$ 1.08 per person per day, which is known as the poverty line.

<sup>9</sup> For a given poverty line,  $z$ , the head-count ratio,  $H$ , is defined as the number of people with consumption expenditure equal to or less than the poverty line,  $q$ , as a ratio of total population,  $n$ . Thus,  $H = q/n$ . The poverty gap ratio,  $P1$ , is defined as the sum of the relative gaps between the income of the poor and the poverty line normalized by total population. It can be shown that  $P1 = H(1 - \bar{y}/z)$  where  $\bar{y}$  is the average income of the poor. The share of the poorest 20% of the population is a measure of relative poverty, based as it is on the Lorenz curve of the distribution of consumption expenditure.

<sup>10</sup> For technical details on the procedure used to estimate the Lorenz curves, and the results, see MOP-UNDP (2003: 6, footnotes 9 and 10).



*Goal 2: Achieving Universal Primary Education:*

13. Under this goal only one target is specified. The target requires that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Three indicators for the achievement of this goal have been identified. These are the net enrolment ratio in primary education; the proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5; and the literacy rate of those aged 15-24 years. Table (1) presents the relevant information and results with respect to the achievement of the goal in question. Note that as per the adopted methodology the required rate of annual progress for the first two indicators is 4.8 percent while that for the literacy rate is 4.6 percent. The actual annual rate of progress is calculated as "shortfall reduction" in view of the fact that the desirable value for each one of these indicators is 100 percent <sup>11</sup>.

**Table (1): Indicators for the Primary Education Goal in Kuwait**

Details	Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education	Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 Who Reach Grade 5	Literacy Rate of 15-24 Years of Age
Value at the Base Year (1993, except where specified)	87.4 (base year 1994)	94.8 (base year 1994)	98.4
Value at the Terminal Year (2004)	89.1	97.5	99.9
Required Annual Rate of Change (%)	4.8	4.8	4.6
Observed Annual Rate of Change (%)	1.4	4.7	9.4
Status of Achievement	Represents a challenge.	Can be achieved.	Achieved

14. As the table shows net enrolment ratio in primary education was 87.4% in 1994 and increased to 89.1% in 2004. The actual rate of progress towards achieving the target, in the sense of "shortfall reduction", is only 1.4 percent per annum compared to the required rate of annual progress of 4.8 percent. As a result, the achievement of this target represents a challenge to The State of Kuwait as per the conclusion of MOP-UNDP (2003).

15. The proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 was 94.8% in 1994 and increased to 97.5% in 2004. The actual rate of progress towards achieving this target, in the sense of "shortfall reduction", is 4.7 percent per annum compared to the required rate of annual progress of 4.8 percent. As a result, the achievement of this target is feasible in the light of progress made since the early 1990s, albeit with additional marginal efforts to be exerted.



11. The required annual rates of increase use a horizon of 21 years for the first two indicators and 23 years for the third indicator.



16. The literacy rate of those aged 15-24 years was 98.4% in 1993 and increased in a systematic fashion to 99.9% in 2004. The actual rate of progress towards achieving this target, in the sense of "shortfall reduction", is 9.4 percent per annum compared to the required rate of annual progress of 4.6 percent. Looking at the record this goal has, for all intents and purposes, been achieved, nearly ten years ahead of time.

### Goal 3: Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women:

17. The only target under this requires the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015. Four indicators for the achievement of this goal have been identified: the ratio of girls to boys in the three levels of education; the ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 years old; the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; and, the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament.

18. Note that in accordance with the adopted UNDP methodology the annual rate of progress for the gender equality indicators in education could have been based on the "shortfall reduction" formula in view of the fact that "the most desirable value is 100 percent", noting that two of them are supposed to be achieved by 2005 rather than by 2015. However, since the targets have already been achieved by 2004, the calculations involved are no longer applicable as table (2) shows. What remains is the indicator on the relative literacy rate for the age category 15-24 for which the "shortfall reduction" method will be applied.



**Table (2): Education and Literacy Indicators for Gender Equality in Kuwait**

Details	Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary Education	Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary Education	Ratio of Girls to Boys in Tertiary Education	Ratio of Literate Females to Males of 15-24 Years of Age
Value of Indicator in 1993	99.7	109.9	216.1	97.6
Value of Indicator in 2004	102.5	124.1	145.2	99.2
Required Annual Rate of Change	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	4.6
Observed Annual Rate of Change	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	6.1
Status of Achievement	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Virtually Achieved

19. Detailed information on the ratio of girls to boys in the three conventional levels of education for the two years 1993 and 2004 confirms that The State of Kuwait was able to achieve the goal of gender equality in education as required by the MDGs. As a result of these achievements, it is perhaps not surprising to find that the target ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 years old has virtually been achieved by the year 2005 as required. The ratio in question increased from 97.6% in 1993 to 99.2% in 2004, recording an annual rate of progress of 6.1 percent far in excess of the required rate of 4.6 percent per annum. Thus, judging gender equality by the

relevant ratios in education and literacy The State of Kuwait was able to achieve the MDG on gender equality in education by the year 2004 as required.

20. The share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is an indicator of the economic empowerment of women. In 1993, this share was 31% increasing in a systematic fashion to reach 39.3% in 2004. On the assumption that the most desirable ratio is 0.5 and applying the "shortfall reduction" method it is calculated that the actual rate of progress is 3.97 percent per annum almost equal to the required rate of progress of 4 percent per annum. Thus, if gender equality in terms of the economic empowerment of women is interpreted as requiring that the share of women in non-agricultural employment becomes 50% then it seems reasonable to suggest that the goal of the economic empowerment of women can be achieved if past trends continue up to the year 2015.
21. The proportion of seats held women in national parliaments is an indicator of the political empowerment of women. As is well known The State of Kuwait has been a democracy since its independence in 1961. It has a one chamber national parliament, the National Assembly, the members of which are periodically elected in free, open and fair elections according to the relevant laws and regulations for such electoral processes. Given legal, cultural and historical factors, and until May 2005, women were excluded from the political process. As such, therefore, the proportion of seats held by women in the Kuwait National Assembly has been a zero since independence.
22. On May 16, 2005 the Kuwaiti Parliament (Majlis al Ommah) extended political rights to Kuwaiti women by amending the election laws. This historic achievement is now encoded in Law number 17 for the year 2005, which was signed on 4th June 2005 by his Highness the Deputy Amir and the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad AL-Abdullah AL-Salem AL- Sabah. Despite this major achievement in the political empowerment of women, caution needs to be exercised in dealing with this indicator in the sense that there exists no guarantee that the number of women in Majlis al Ommah would immediately increase. Cultural factors and political dynamics are involved in the determination of the results of competitive elections.

#### ***Goal 4: Reducing Child Mortality:***

23. The child mortality rate is an aggregate indicator of the health of children. Indeed the under-five mortality rate is the aggregate health indicator preferred by UNICEF. With this understanding, the goal on child mortality requires the reduction of the under-five mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. Three indicators have been identified for the achievement of this goal. These are the under-five mortality rate; the infant mortality rate; and



the proportion of one year olds children who are immunized against measles. Note that for the third indicator the "shortfall reduction" method will be used in view of the fact that the most desirable value for the indicator is full coverage of immunization. Table (3) provides the relevant information and the results.

**Table (3): Child Mortality Indicators for Kuwait**

Details	Under-5 Mortality Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Proportion under one year old immunized against measles
Value of Indicator in 1993	12.9	11.2	95.4 (base year 1994)
Value of Indicator in 2003	9.9	8.2	97.4
Required Annual Rate of Change (percent)	-3.1	-3.1	4.8
Observed Annual Rate of Change (percent)	-2.3	-2.7	4.8
Status of Achievement	Represents a challenge	Represents a challenge	Can be achieved



24. As the table shows the under-five mortality rate in The State of Kuwait was about 13 per thousand in 1993 and declined to 9.9 per thousand in 2003 recording an annual rate of decline of 2.3 percent. The required rate of decline to reduce the under-5 mortality rate as per the MDGs is 3.1 percent per annum. Thus, for this indicator The State of Kuwait is challenged to exert additional efforts on the health of children to achieve the MDG in this respect. By 2015, starting from 1993, the observed under-5 mortality rate in The State of Kuwait should be about 8.6 per thousand. Note, however, that given the already low under-five mortality rate future progress on this indicator will probably depend on advances in medical sciences and improvement in the quality of health care.

25. The infant mortality rate in The State of Kuwait is estimated as about 11 per thousand in 1993 and declined to 8.2 per thousand in 2003, thus recording an annual rate of decline of 2.7 percent. The required rate of decline to reduce the infant mortality rate as per the MDGs is 3.1 percent per annum. Thus, for this indicator The State of Kuwait is challenged to exert additional efforts on the health of infants to achieve the MDG in this respect. By 2015, starting from 1993, the observed infant mortality rate should be about 7.5 per thousand. Once again, given the already achieved low infant mortality rates future progress on this indicator will probably depend on advances in medical sciences.

26. The proportion of one year olds children who are immunized against measles is estimated as 95.4% in 1994 and increased to 97.4% in 2003, thus recording an annual rate of increase of 4.8 percent. The required rate of increase to reach complete immunization coverage of the one-year-old children, starting from 1994, is also 4.8 percent per annum. Thus, according to these results this indicator can be achieved.

27. Despite the challenge posed by under-5 mortality and the infant mortality indicators, and in view of the rapid advances in medical sciences, it seems reasonable to suggest that The State of Kuwait is well poised to achieve the MDG on the health of children.

### **Goal 5: Improving Maternal Health:**

28. The achievement of this goal requires the reduction of the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015. Two indicators are identified for the achievement of this goal. These are the maternal mortality rate and the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. As is well known, the maternal mortality rate is defined as the annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100 thousand live births. Table (4) provides the relevant information, and the results, for this goal.

**Table (4): Maternal Health Indicators for Kuwait**

Details	Maternal Mortality Rate	Proportion of Births Attended by Health Personnel
Value of Indicator in 1993	7.6 (base year 1995)	100
Value of Indicator in 2003	3.5	100
Required Annual Rate of Change (percent)	-3.8	Not applicable
Actual Annual Rate of Change (percent)	-6.7	Not applicable
Status of Achievement	Can be achieved.	Already achieved.

29. As the table shows the maternal mortality rate is available for 1995 as the base year where it is estimated as 7.6 women deaths per 100 thousand live births; the rate declined to 3.5 women per 100 thousand live births in 2003 recording an annual rate of decline of 6.7 percent. The required rate of decline is 3.8 percent per annum. On the basis of this performance, the target of reducing maternal mortality by three quarters from its base year value can easily be achieved. Starting from 1995 as a base year, by 2015 The State of Kuwait is required to attain a maternal mortality rate of about 1.9 woman deaths per 100,000 live births.

30. Available information reveals that skilled health personnel attend all births in The State of Kuwait and that this has been the case since 1993 or possibly earlier. This is indicated in the table as 100% achievement for the two end-point years. Thus, on the basis of these observations it is perhaps clear that the goal on maternal health has already been achieved in The State of Kuwait.



### **Goal 6: Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases:**

31. Under this goal two targets are specified. The first target requires the halting, and the eventual reversal, of the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 while the second target requires the halting, and the eventual reversal, of malaria and other diseases by 2015. Indicators for measuring progress



towards the achievement of the first target are the HIV prevalence rate among 15-24 year old pregnant women; the condom use rate in the contraceptive prevalence rate <sup>12</sup>; and the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. For the achievement of the second target the indicators are the prevalence and death rates associated with malaria; the proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures; the prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis; and, the proportion of TB cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short courses (DOTS).

32. As noted in MOP-UNDP (2003) the indicators relating to the HIV/AIDS target are not readily available for Kuwait <sup>13</sup>. However, the epidemiological fact sheet for Kuwait in the UNAIDS website provides an assessment for the situation in 2004 <sup>14</sup>. These fact sheets are prepared by UNAIDS and WHO in collaboration with national governments and research institutions. The information in the updated sheets was not different from that used in MOP-UNDP (2003) report.

33. According to UNAIDS 2004-updated epidemiological fact-sheet for The State of Kuwait, since 1992 between 500 to 800 pregnant women are tested yearly and no evidence of HIV infection among this group has been found. In 2000, all of the 417 pregnant women who were screened have tested negative while the HIV prevalence rate among blood donors was found to be 0.01 and only one patient with sexually transmitted disease (STD) has tested positive out of 417 STD cases. It is also reported that while in 1993 and 1996 one percent of intravenous (IV) drug users tested were positive none was found for the year 2000 out of 193 IV drug users. In 1999, four HIV positive infections were detected among 764 tested prisoners, no HIV positive case was found in 2000 out of 1503 prisoners who were screened. On the basis of this evidence, it seems fair to conclude that The State of Kuwait was able to protect its citizens from the spread of HIV/AIDS <sup>15</sup>.

34. Regarding the second target related to malaria and other diseases it should be noted that The State of Kuwait is a malaria-free country and as such, the two indicators relating to malaria are recorded as zero. Similarly, the prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis are zero.

35. On the basis of the above observations it seems reasonable to suggest that The State of Kuwait should be able to combat HIV/AIDS not only by 2015 but also in a continuous fashion.

12. The UN notes that among contraceptive methods, only condoms are effective in preventing HIV transmission. Note also that the condom use rate is measured for women in a union and depending on cultural factors; it can be a very difficult rate to estimate. It is also expected that in the future the indicator will be supplemented by an indicator on condom use rate in high-risk situations and an indicator of knowledge and misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS by those aged 15-24 years.

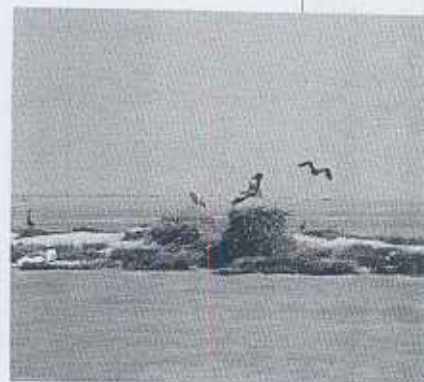
13. UNAIDS 2004 Report on the Global Epidemic notes that with "the exception of few countries, systematic surveillance of the epidemic is not well developed in North Africa and the Middle East. Furthermore, there is inadequate monitoring of the situation among populations at higher risk". See the Report in [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org), p. 34; see also UNAIDS (2004), AIDS Epidemic Update 2004; [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org), pp. 65-68.

14. See UNAIDS, UNICEF and WHO, (2004), Kuwait: Epidemiological Fact Sheets on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections: 2004 Update; [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org).

15. Reported AIDS cases over the period 1990-2001 amounted to 64, increasing from one case for 1990 to a maximum of 19 cases in 1998 and declining to 12 cases in 2000 and 5 cases in 2001.

## Goal 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability:

36. Under this goal, three targets are specified. The first requires the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Five indicators are identified for measuring progress in achieving this target. These are the proportion of land area covered by forest; land area protected to maintain biological diversity; GDP per unit of energy use to proxy energy efficiency, per capita carbon dioxide emissions, and the proportion of population using solid fuels. The second target requires the halving of the proportion of people without access to sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015. For the achievement of this target only one indicator is identified which is the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source. The third target is a global one requiring the achievement of significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. For the achievement of this global target, two indicators are identified: the proportion of people with access to improved sanitation; and, the proportion of people with access to secure tenure.
37. The target regarding the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes was achieved in The State of Kuwait in 1995 when the Environment Public Authority (EPA) was established by law number 21 of 1995 as amended by law number 16 of 1996. EPA is charged with the protection of the environment. The legislation establishing EPA has given it a high profile requiring the supreme council of the authority to be chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister. Two of the four indicators identified for this target do not seem to be relevant to The State of Kuwait. According to international classification, given the geographical location of the country as well as its size, the proportion of land area covered by forests is zero and land area protected to maintain biological diversity is negligible as a proportion of the total area of the country<sup>16</sup>.
38. For the third indicator, GDP per unit of energy use which is measured as kilogram oil equivalent per \$1GDP in purchasing power parity, and the fourth indicator, per capita carbon dioxide emissions, table (5) provides the relevant information and the results<sup>17</sup>.



<sup>16</sup> See <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>. In terms of protection of biological diversity, national designations include 3 marine parks, one national park, 14 nature reserves, 4 protected areas, 2 parks and one scientific reserve. Presumably, the proportion of the total area covered by these national designations is negligible.

<sup>17</sup> The source of the data is <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>.



**Table (5): Energy Use and Carbon Dioxide Emissions Indicators for Kuwait**

Details	Energy Use (kg of oil equivalent per \$1 GDP in PPP)	Per Capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions (tons per capita)
Value of Indicator in 1993	0.36	16.4
Value of Indicator in 2001	0.46 (final year 2000)	21.3
Required Annual Rate of Change (percent)	Reduction	Reduction
Actual Annual Rate of Change (percent)	3.5	3.7
Status of Achievement	Major challenge	Major challenge

39. The available information from UNEP, in time series format, shows the energy use indicator has fluctuated widely from a low of 0.36-kilogram oil equivalent of \$1 GDP in purchasing power parity in 1993 to a high of 0.59 in 2000. The table shows that on the available information, and using the UNDP method, the energy use indicator recorded an annual rate of increase of 3.5 percent. The required trend for environmental sustainability is one of decline. As such, therefore, progress on this indicator represents a challenge<sup>18</sup>.
40. Similarly the UNEP source shows that the fourth indicator, per capita carbon dioxide emissions, fluctuated widely during the 1990s recording a low of 10 tons per capita in 1992 and a high 25.7 tons per capita in 1997. The table shows that on the available information, and using the UNDP method, the per capita carbon dioxide indicator, recorded an annual rate of increase of 3.7 percent. The required trend for environmental sustainability is one of decline. As such, therefore, progress on this indicator represents a challenge<sup>19</sup>.
41. As noted in MOP-UNDP (2003) the fifth indicator, proportion of population using solid fuels, has been zero for quite a long time on account of the highly urbanized nature of the society as well as on account of the fact that the economy is oil-based implying the availability of non-solid fuels to the population. The report also noted the fact that The State of Kuwait is located in a desert region, with forest coverage, and hence there exists no significant implication for the use of solid fuels on the environment.
42. The second target requires the halving of the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015. For the achievement of this target only one indicator is identified which is the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source. As noted in MOP-UNDP (2003) the proportion of the population with sustainable access to improved water source has been 100% for a long period.
43. The third target on the achievement of significant improvement in the lives of at least 100

18. In this respect, it should be noted that the UN (2005) report on the Millennium Goals noted that progress "is being made in improving energy efficiency and access to clean technology and fuels" p. 31.

19. In this respect it should be noted that the UN (2005) report on the Millennium Goals noted on p. 32 that the "rich countries produce the most greenhouse gases" with an average of 12.6 tons per capita in 2002.

million slum dwellers by the year 2020 is vaguely formulated and its relevance to The State of Kuwait is clearly limited. Nonetheless, recent information on the distribution of households by type of residence can be interpreted as relevant to the indicator of the proportion of people with access to improved sanitation. This information has been reported in MOP-UNDP (2003) and is based on data from the Public Authority for Civil Information. According to this source 97% of Kuwaiti families, live in premises that have improved sanitation.

44. Finally, regarding the indicator of the proportion of people with access to secure tenure MOP-UNDP (2003) notes that about 99.7% of the Kuwaiti households had access to secure tenure as of 31st December 2002. Of these 86.9% were living in houses, 11.6% were living in modern flats and about 1.2% were living in traditional houses and annexes<sup>20</sup>.

### *Goal 8: Developing a Global Partnership for Development:*

45. In the original formulation of this goal seven targets were specified. Of the seven only the one dealing with the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system is of general applicability. However, due to the vagueness of the target no indicators have been identified to measure progress towards achieving the target. The remaining six targets are group of countries, or world region, specific (e.g. the special needs of least developed countries and landlocked countries) or thematic (dealing with the debt problems of developing countries; and unemployment, drugs and technology use in developing countries). It is noted that indicators for the overall goal of global partnership for development are currently being refined. Currently identified targets are 17 in number classified broadly based on official development assistance indicators (5 indicators), market access (4), debt sustainability (4), and others (4).
46. In its recent report on the MDGs the United Nations reiterated the overarching objective of development as being poverty reduction: "At the heart of the Millennium Development Goals is the understanding that fighting poverty is a collective undertaking and that all countries have a stake in the results. Primary responsibility to achieve the goals rests with developing countries, but international support is critical, especially for the poorest countries and for countries handicapped by geographical isolation"<sup>21</sup>. Thus, official aid is judged critical to the poorest countries while trade is judged important to middle-income countries.
47. Noting that The State of Kuwait has been a donor country since 1961, it is perhaps reasonable to argue that the most relevant indicator under this goal is that of the ratio of GNP provided as official development assistance (ODA) to other developing countries<sup>22</sup>. According to available information, Kuwait's ODA/GNP ratio fluctuated widely over the period since 1990.



<sup>20</sup> For the source of these figures, see MOP-UNDP (2003: 13).

<sup>21</sup> See UN (2005: 36).

<sup>22</sup> Official Development Assistance (ODA) is defined as net disbursements of loans made on concessional terms (net of repayments of principal) and grants made by official aid agencies and multilateral institutions to promote economic development and welfare in developing countries and territories. ODA includes loans with a grant element of at least 25% (calculated at a rate of discount of 10%). The best source for data on ODA is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).



It achieved its highest value of 5% in 1990 but declined in a systematic fashion to 0.2% in 2003. The overall average of Kuwaiti ODA over the period 1990-2003 is 1.31% of GNP with a standard deviation of 1.22 percentage points. Thus, the overall average Kuwaiti ODA is almost double the agreed UN target of 0.7% of GNP for the advanced countries. Despite this declining trend it should be noted that Kuwait's participation in the process of creating a global partnership for development as a donor is an active and significant one<sup>23</sup>.

48. With respect to this goal, it is perhaps important to note that The State of Kuwait has established a specialized development agency since December 1961, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). From 1974 onwards, KFAED extended its operations to other developing countries. As of 31 March 2002, the authorized and paid-up capital of KFAED was US\$6.25 billion. As of 1st August 2005, the total loan portfolio of the Fund reached US\$11.8 billion benefiting 101 countries. The distribution of loans to developing country groups was as follows: 16 Arab countries (with a total of US\$6.1 billion); 18 East and South Asia and the Pacific countries (US\$2.5 billion); 16 Central Asia and European countries (US\$0.8 billion); 19 West African countries (US\$1.2 billion); 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries (US\$0.3 billion); and 21 Central, South and Eastern African countries (US\$0.9 billion)<sup>24</sup>.

### III. Challenges:

49. The analysis in section (II) shows that The State of Kuwait is poised to achieve almost all of the MDGs by the designated year of 2015. Indeed, the analysis has shown that The State of Kuwait has already achieved a number of these goals ahead of schedule. To help appreciate this conclusion table (6) provides a summary of the results of the analysis in terms of the status of achievement of the indicators under each goal.
50. Methodologically, it should be noted that for a number of goals a summary assessment is made easy by the fact that a number of them are specified with one target and one indicator. For some other goals, such an assessment would require attaching weights to targets and within targets weights for indicators. In the absence of a multiple weighting scheme only qualitative judgments can be made on the feasibility of attaining the MDGs. In the summary below, implicit weights are used and readers are invited to appreciate these weights in the light of their reading the detailed analysis in the text.

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23. The commitment of Kuwait to helping developing countries has recently been reconfirmed by His Highness the Prime Minister in his speech before the Second South's Summit of the Group of 77 & China held in Doha, Qatar, during the period 14-16 June 2005. With reference to the New World Order His Highness stated that "In this context, we stress the importance of procuring financial resources for development and the coverage of obligations related to development relief. We also reiterate the need for the North states to abide by their commitment to allocate (7%) of their Gross National Product for worldwide development assistance... Since independence, the State of Kuwait has realized the importance of development throughout the Southern hemisphere " and has shown its commitment through the "Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development of which assistance has reached over 101 nations worldwide, with a total amount of over 12 Billion Dollars".

24. For this information, see [www.kuwait-fund.org](http://www.kuwait-fund.org). In addition to ODA, through KFAED, Kuwait prides itself on the fact that a number of its charity organizations are involved in mobilizing funds to help people in the developing countries. Thus, for example, a recent official memo reports that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society mobilized, since 2002, about US\$5.4 million for the Palestinian people. Similarly, and for the same cause, it is reported that up to December 31, 2002 the Popular Committee for Donations was able to mobilize US\$31.3 million.

**Table (6): The Status of Achievement of the MDGs in Kuwait: A Summary**

MDG	Total Number of Indicators	Number of Indicators Used	Number of Indicators Achieved	Number of Indicators that Can be Achieved	Number of Indicators Representing a Challenge	Status of Achievement
I. Eradication of Poverty and Hunger	5	3	3	-	-	Achieved
II. Achieving Universal Primary Education	3	3	1	1	1	Can be Achieved
III. Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women	4	4	1	2	1	Represents a Challenge
IV. Reducing Child Mortality	3	3	-	2	1	Can be Achieved
V. Improving Maternal Health	2	2	1	1	-	Achieved
VI. Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases	7	4	4	-	-	Can be Achieved
VII. Ensure Environmental Sustainability	8	8	5	1	2	Represents a Challenge
VIII. Developing a Global Partnership for Development	-	1	1	-	-	Achieved

51. In the above table the goals representing a challenge to The State of Kuwait are identified as those relating to "gender equality and the empowerment of women" and to "ensuring environmental sustainability".

52. The goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women is feasible to achieve by 2015 judging by the education and literacy indicators and by the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sectors. The remaining challenge has to do with the indicator on the political empowerment of women. Following the historic decision of granting women their political rights, and depending on the dynamics of the democratic practices in the country, it remains to be seen whether this "political deficit" could be corrected before 2015. Thus while



there exists no guarantees that the share of women in the National Assembly will increase from its current level, at least the road has been paved for such an event to occur.

53. Recall from section (II) analysis that almost all indicators achieved under the goal of environmental sustainability are related to the geographical location of the country as well as its rather affluent stage of its development. Further, two of the indicators that represent a challenge are global in nature, and are biased against the oil-producing structure of the economy. The challenge, however, remains with respect to the overall target requiring the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and the reversal of the loss of environmental resources. As noted in the analysis the institutional structure to achieving the goal has been put in place in 1995 in the form of the Environment Public Authority (EPA). The extent to which EPA will be able to achieve the desired goal will depend largely on cooperation with various line ministries and functioning industries in the private sector. However, given the nature of the economic activity in the country and its reliance on the oil industry it is a present and real challenge whether EPA will be able to influence the currently high levels of both the energy use indicator and the carbon dioxide emissions are quite high.

Indicator	1993	2004	Source
1. Proportion of population living below US\$1 per person per day (%)	0	0	Household Income and Expenditure Survey 1999/2000; Ministry of Planning.
2. Poverty-gap ratio (%)	0	0	Household Income and Expenditure Survey 1999/2000; Ministry of Planning.
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (%)	7.99	8.5	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys 1986/87 and 1999/2000; Ministry of Planning.
4. Prevalence of underweight (under-5 children)	Na	Na	Not available.
5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy (%)	Na	Na	Not available.
6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education (%)	87.4	89.1	Ministry of Education.
7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (%)	94.8	97.5	Ministry of Education.
8. Literacy rate of 15-24 years of age (%)	98.4	99.9	Ministry of Planning.
9. Ratio of girls to boys (%):			
(a) primary	99.7	102.5	Ministry of Education.
(b) secondary	109.9	124.1	
(c) tertiary	216.1	145.2	
10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 years of age (%)	97.6	99.2	Ministry of Planning.
11. Share of women in wage employment in non-agricultural sector (%)	31	39.3	Ministry of Planning.
12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	0	0	Common knowledge.
13. Under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	12.9	9.9	Ministry of Health.
14. Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	11.2	8.2	Ministry of Health.
15. Proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles (%)	95.4	97.4	Ministry of Health.
16. Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births)	7.6**	3.5	Ministry of Health
17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	100	100	Ministry of Health.
18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women (%)	0	0	UNAIDS: <a href="http://www.unaids.org">www.unaids.org</a> .
19. Condom use rate of contraceptive prevalence rate (%)	Na	Na	UNAIDS: <a href="http://www.unaids.org">www.unaids.org</a> .
20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS	0	0	UNAIDS: <a href="http://www.unaids.org">www.unaids.org</a> .
21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria (%)	0	0	<a href="http://www.who.org">www.who.org</a> .



22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures (%)	0	0	Ministry of Health.
23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis (TB; %)	0	0	Ministry of Health.
24. Proportion of TB cases detected and cured under DOTS (%)	0	0	Ministry of Health.
25. Proportion of land area covered by forests (%)	0	0	UNEP: <a href="http://geodata.grid.unep.ch">http://geodata.grid.unep.ch</a> .
26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity (%)	Na	Na	UNEP: <a href="http://geodata.grid.unep.ch">http://geodata.grid.unep.ch</a> .
27. GDP per unit of energy use (kg per \$ of GDP in PPP)	0.36	0.46	UNEP: <a href="http://geodata.grid.unep.ch">http://geodata.grid.unep.ch</a> .
28. Per capita carbon dioxide emissions (tons per capita)	16.4	21.3	UNEP: <a href="http://geodata.grid.unep.ch">http://geodata.grid.unep.ch</a> .
29. Proportion of population using solid fuels (%)	0	0	Common knowledge.
30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source (%)	100	100	Ministry of Planning.
31. Proportion of urban population with sustainable access to improved sanitation (%)	100	100	Ministry of Planning.
32. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure (%)	100	100	Ministry of Planning.
33. Aid/GNP ratio (%)	1.4	0.2	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development et al (2004), Consolidated Arab Economic Report; Kuwait.

Notes: Na: means not available; \* means base year 1994; \*\* means base year 1995.