



Syrian Arab Republic  
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

# NATIONAL MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## of The SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



June 2003

**NATIONAL MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT (MDGR)**

**Of**

**The SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**June 2003**

## *Foreword*

The United Nations Millennium Declaration acquires special significance on more than one level. If we look at its coordinates we find that the conference which produced the Declaration was held at the "summit" level, its venue the United Nations headquarters, and the time the dawn of the new millennium.

As to its themes, it tackled vital issues, including respect for the values and principles upheld by the United Nations: peace, security and disarmament, development, poverty eradication, protecting the environment, human rights, democracy, good governance, protecting vulnerable groups, and enhancing the United Nations role in international affairs. These issues do not only have global and national significance; their impact also touches families and individuals.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration is multifaceted. It brings together the themes of almost all documents and targets of many specialized international conferences held in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At the level of development, in its comprehensive sense, the United Nations Millennium Declaration focuses on five major themes: poverty eradication through reducing differences in living standards, education, health, the role of women, and protecting the environment. Looking at economic and social development plans in Syria since the early 1970s, and considering the development pattern achieved in Syria, show that these five themes have occupied a prominent position in Syria's strategic priorities, as will be shown in the chapters of this report. Moreover, the process of modernization and development embarked upon by the country, under the leadership of the President, and the reform programme it involves, gives an advanced position for these themes among strategic priority targets. This falls within a comprehensive framework of balanced development which aims at achieving an advanced level of sustainable human development.

The fact that Syria was one the first countries to produce this report, in cooperation with United Nations organizations, is an additional expression of Syria's interest in the themes of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the fact that they are in line with Syria's development priorities, and monitoring the progress made in achieving these priorities.

In conclusion, I would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all United Nations Organizations and the staff of national governmental and non-governmental organizations who took part, on the organizational or the technical levels, in producing this first report on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Damascus, 2003

*Dr. Toufik Ismail*  
*Head, State Planning Commission*



## ***Foreword***

In September 2000, 50 Heads of States and Representatives of over 180 Countries came together at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York and signed the Millennium Declaration, thereby strongly reaffirming the commitment of their nations and the international community to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The Millennium Declaration integrates the numerous commitments and targets resulting from the global conferences of the 90's into a more limited and manageable set of quantified targets and serves as an instrument for measuring progress.

Over the past four decades, the Syrian leadership has emphasized the need to provide and ensure the well being of the people as the guiding principle of many government policies. This has resulted in significant progress towards the MDGs, particularly in the areas of health, education, empowerment of women, and environment. Nevertheless, there remains considerable work to be done to achieve all MDGs, particularly in terms of bridging the gap between the urban and rural areas.

This report, which is the first of its kind in Syria, is the product of collaboration between the UNDP and other members of the UN System in the Country on the one hand and the government and civil society organisations on the other. It focuses on the progress made in the country towards MDGs, the challenges that still lie ahead, and the resources that are required to address those challenges. It is an advocacy tool for promoting, sensitising, and making our goals known. Further, it seeks to highlight the basic development opportunities and strengthen national capacities for monitoring, follow-up, and awareness raising.

The UNDP would like to emphasize its commitment to complement the government's efforts in aligning the MDGs with its national policies and strategies and assist in fulfilling reporting obligations.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our national counterparts and to the UN system colleagues whose joint work made it possible to issue the first National MDG report for Syria.

***Taoufik Ben Amara***  
***UNDP Resident Representative***  
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Under the leadership of UNDP, the UN working group consisted of members from the following organizations:

- United Nation's Children's Fund
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization
- Food and Agricultural Organization
- United Nation's Population's Fund

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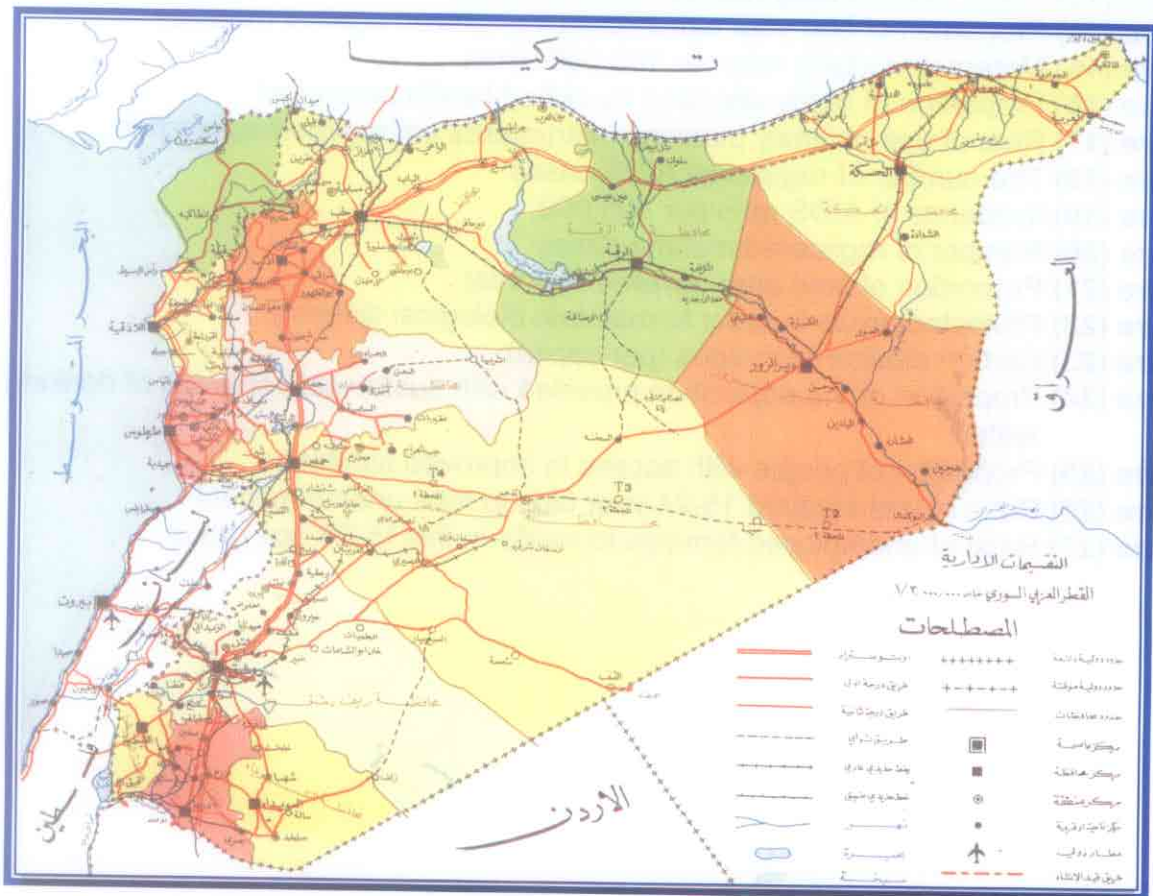
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## General Introduction

Syria is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean. It is bordered in the north by Turkey, 548 km; in the east by Iraq, 695 km; in the south by Palestine, 47 km, and Jordan, 653 km; in the west by Lebanon, 953 km, the Mediterranean, 381 km. The country's area is 185,180 sq km. The climate is that of the Mediterranean basin, characterized by rainy winters and dry summers separated by two short transitional seasons, spring and autumn. Geographically, it is divided into four main regions:

- The coastal region: includes the coastal plains between the western mountains and the Mediterranean. It is characterized by heavy rain in winter and medium temperature and high humidity in the summer.
- The mountainous region: includes mountains and highlands facing the Mediterranean coast, extending from north to south. It is characterized by heavy rains in winter and moderate temperatures in the summer.



- The central region: includes the plains of Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Al Hasaka and Deraa. It is located to the east of the mountainous region, and is characterized by a rainy winter and a hot and dry summer.
- The steppe region: includes the desert plains in the south east of the country near the Jordanian and Iraqi borders. It is characterized by little rain in winter and a hot and dry summer.

Administratively, Syria is divided into 14 governorates, which include 60 administrative regions. These regions are divided into 112 districts, which include 6,259 villages and 7,033 farms.

## Executive Summary

The eight main goals stressed by the Millennium Summit Declaration have been major priorities in economic and social development in Syria. These are clearly seen in the revision of achievements in the period of 1990-2000, as detailed in the Millennium Development Goals Report. The most significant achievements are:

- In the area of poverty reduction, successive five year plans have aimed at improving the population's income and prosperity. These occurred despite the rise in population growth, which has been accompanied by increases in income and services provided free of charge or at token charges, in addition to government subsidies of basic materials, and continuous efforts to reduce unemployment by enabling the unemployed to generate income to help improve their living standards.
- In the area of education, Syria has tried to implement an educational strategy, particularly for primary education. The focus is to provide education in urban and rural areas to males and females alike. These efforts were reflected in the rise of the net enrollment rate in elementary education from 95.4% in 1990 to 98.7% in 2000. In order to reduce the drop outs rate, the Compulsory Education Law was passed extending basic education from six to nine years. This required additional efforts and resources; especially since school books are free of charge in the basic education stage.
- In the area of women empowerment, focus and attention have been to empower women in social and economic aspects of life, particularly in education. The fruits of this can be seen in the ratio of females to males at different educational stages. In elementary education, 6-11 years, the percentage rose to 99.6% in 2000. In upper secondary education, it rose from 77% in 1990 to 96% in 2000. Women's participation in diverse economic sectors and in the executive and legislative authorities has also increased.
- Syria has paid special attention to the health sector. This is shown clearly in the drop in infant mortality and morbidity rates as a result of comprehensive vaccinations. As a result, some diseases have been completely eradicated. This is also evident in the drop in maternal mortality rates, the escalation in the use of family planning instruments among married women, and in the greater number of births attended by skilled health personnel.
- Concerning the environment, the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs was created in 1991, the first of its kind in the Arab world. It is proof of the country's concern and awareness of the necessity of integrating environmental issues in future development plans. The result was larger forested areas, evident progress in protected areas, and attempts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Providing clean drinking water and improved sanitation were also significant aspects of the economic and social five year plan. The proportion of people who have access to clean drinking water increased from 65.6% in 1990 to 71.8% in 2000.
- In the area of providing sustainable productive jobs for the unemployed, successive five year plans have stressed finding appropriate jobs for new comers into the labour market. In order to reduce unemployment, the Agency for Combating Unemployment was created. This agency aims at finding sustainable job opportunities for the unemployed and trying to lessen the unemployment rate, especially among the young, by helping them set up their own businesses.

## Introduction

Syria made considerable accomplishments, during the period of 1990-2000, in the infrastructure, health, education, improving the population's living standards, and empowering women in various aspects of life. The social dimension was a focal point of the successive five year economic and social plans, which stressed the necessity for improving education, health services, and rural development. The country has also made significant progress in upgrading people's lives and achieving sustainable human development. Syria's Millennium Development Goals Report consists of nine chapters:

### Chapter One (introductory)

This deals with principles of the Millennium Summit Declaration adopted by states signatories of the declaration, and the eight main goals adopted by most countries of the world. It also provides the background of writing the National Millennium Development Goals Report and sets its principles.

### Chapter Two

Discusses the first millennium goal: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. It examines development in the period between 1990 and 2000, trying to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day, and reduce the percentage of hungry people between 1990 and 2015. This chapter also discusses the most important challenges facing Syria in its attempts to achieve this goal and the requirements of domestic and external resources in order to achieve it.

### Chapter Three

Tackles the second millennium goal of achieving universal primary education. It reviews the leading developments of enabling children (boys and girls) to finish their primary education between 1990 and 2000. This is the most important challenge facing Syria during this period. It could hinder the achievement of universal primary education in the future, and the basic requirement of domestic and external resources in order to enable more children to complete primary education by 2015.

### Chapter Four

Deals with the third millennium's goal of achieving equality between men and women and enhancing the role of women. The chapter reviews the most significant developments and women's achievements between 1990 and 2000, the ratio of females to males at different educational stages, and women's participation in non-agricultural economic sectors and in national parliaments. This chapter also pinpoints the primary challenges that

hinder women's empowerment in various aspects of life, and the fundamental requirements of domestic and external resources for the achievement of this goal.

### Chapter Five

Elaborates on the fourth millennium's goal of reducing child mortality rates by reviewing significant achievements realized in Syria between 1990 and 2000. It also features the principal challenges preventing the achievement of this goal, and local and international measures vital to reducing the under five mortality rate by two-thirds by the year 2015.

### Chapter Six

Examines the fifth millennium's goal of improving mothers' health and the achievements realized in this area between 1990 and 2002. It reviews the primary challenges preventing a reduction of maternal mortality rate by three-quarters by the year 2015, and the essential requirements of domestic and external resources for the achievement of this goal.

### Chapter Seven

Reviews achievements in the area of eradicating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, the main challenges facing Syria in eradicating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and requirements of domestic and external resources for the achievement of this goal.

### Chapter Eight

Stresses the importance of a sustainable environment and reviews the most significant achievements realized in Syria in the area of integrating principles of sustainable environment in terms of policies and programmes, and trying to put an end to exhausting environmental resources. In addition, the most important challenges facing Syria in trying to achieve this goal and the requirements of domestic and external resources for that purpose, will be discussed.

### Chapter Nine

Reviews Syria's accomplishments in terms of providing sustainable job opportunities for the young and supplying the entire population with medicine and the benefits of modern technology, particularly in the field of information technology and communications. This chapter also reviews the main challenges hindering the provision of sustainable work to the young and modern technology to the largest possible sector of the population, in addition to the requirements of domestic and external resources for the achievement of these objectives.

## CHAPTER ONE (INTRODUCTION)

### I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are among the major components of the UN Declaration of the Third Millennium. The importance of this declaration becomes evident when its basic features, in terms of the level of participation and the time and place of the meeting which produced this declaration, are reviewed. This conference was held at the heads of states level at the UN headquarters in New York in September 2000. This date was described by the conferees as the dawn of the new millennium. The outcome of the conference was a declaration under the title, "The United Nations Millennium Declaration," which was adopted by the UN General Assembly.

It would be best to start by reviewing the basic themes addressed by this declaration. It highlights holistic issues and, at the same time, deals with partial and qualitative issues. In addition, the declaration discusses issues, such as, peace, justice, globalization, health care, and mother and child health care. This is an expression of the comprehensive nature of the declaration and of the issues that preoccupy the thinking of its participants.

2. The Declaration highlights these issues in eight main pillars:

- 2.1. Values and principles. The declaration stresses the participants' determination to establish just and durable peace all over the world, in accordance with the goals and principles of the UN Charter. It also stresses the participants' support of sovereign equality of all states and respect for their territorial integrity and political independence. In addition, it aims at finding peaceful solutions to disputes in accordance with the principles of justice and international law including the right of peoples under foreign occupation to self determination, and non-interference in the internal affairs of states. The participants stress their belief that the primary challenge facing the world is making globalization a positive force in the service of the peoples of the world.
- 2.2. Peace, security and disarmament.
- 2.3. Development and poverty eradication.
- 2.4. Human rights, democracy, and good governance.
- 2.5. Environmental protection.
- 2.6. Protection of sensitive groups.
- 2.7. Meeting Africa's special needs.
- 2.8. Empowering the United Nations to make it a more effective instrument for the achievement of the goals stated in the categories above.

3. In its conclusion, the declaration states two recommendations:

The first recommendation is directed at the General Assembly to regularly monitor the progress towards the achievement of the goals stated in the declaration's eight pillars.

The second recommendation is directed at the UN Secretary General to regularly provide reports to the General Assembly. These reports will, additionally, be examined by the General Assembly, and will be the starting point in diagnosing, and identifying future development activities.

Eight major goals were extracted from the eight themes. They are related to development; and focus specifically on social and human aspects of the development process. These can be divided into five groups to facilitate understanding of the contents of these goals:

- The first theme is related to poverty eradication by reducing disparities in living standards;
- The second theme deals with educational attainment;
- The third theme is related to health;
- The fourth theme focuses on women's empowerment;
- The fifth theme deals with environmental protection and ways and means of ensuring the sustainability of natural resources.

4. UNDP made constructive proposals for preparing national reports to follow up on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Syria was one of the first countries that cooperated with UNDP in preparing this national report which shows, in the coming chapters, Syria's achievements in major aspects identified by the declaration.

5. The broad lines of major goals of the Millennium Declaration on Development in Syria's development strategies and patterns are listed below:

- Development in Syria takes place in a democratic system which protects freedom, equality, justice, and human rights. The system was built in the early 1970s on political and economic pluralism; and consequently provides the appropriate environment in the long run for continuous improvement in economic and social aspects of the development process.
- Careful study of economic and social development plans and experience in Syria will illustrate the foremost themes of the Millennium Declaration that prominently feature its development strategies within a framework of a balanced development

- feature its development strategies within a framework of a balanced development strategy on all levels. These include, balance between economic and social aspects of development, sectoral balance within economic and social aspects, a geographical balance between administrative regions, urban, and rural areas. This is in addition to equality between men and women through empowering women and developing and mobilizing their potentials. Balanced development does not necessarily mean equal growth rates in different sectors or components. It means that disparity, when it exists, does not lead to crises that hinder the development process. Balance does not exclude the possibility for the existence of leading development sectors – according to the stage of development in the country – that have a higher growth rate than other sectors. Rapid growth in leading sectors encourages growth in other sectors and produces dynamic relationships with them, where growth in the first group motivates growth in the second group, which in turn motivates and strengthens growth in the first group.

1.1. In education, Syrian's development experience is characterized by the provision of free and democratic education at all educational stages, from basic to university education. In this way, the country provides education to the entire population, the wealthy and those of limited income. In order to optimize the benefits of this opportunity, development plans and patterns in Syria were launched in the 1970s by building schools in urban and rural areas alike and provide these schools with human and material resources which enable them to carry out their tasks. They also stress compulsory basic education for both males and females, which enhances from early childhood the principle of equal opportunity and equality between men and women in terms of rights and duties, and the fact that both are instruments and goals of development at the same time. Last year compulsory education was extended to include the first nine grades in basic education, with no discrimination between males and females. One of the "public" commodities that complements education is the provision of electricity in rural areas, which creates suitable conditions for the individual to acquire a successful education.

In university education, the four universities in Syria are distributed geographically in a manner that makes university education available in all administrative areas. This is

also complemented by university accommodation, at token charges, for students who do not reside locally. Books are also available at all educational stages free of charge. It should be noted that the percentage of females at all educational stages is close to 50% of the total number of those enrolled. In terms of quality and the relationship between the necessities for development and education, the applied methodology is that of revision, assessment, development of curricula, and specializations at the level of pre-university and university education. This facilitates progress for meeting the requirements of development and the labour market. Illiteracy is steadily dropping as a result of the joint efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Women's Union. However, providing education on the scale outlined above is a burden on the country's budget; this fact has been pointed out by international organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. While being a burden, spending is justified in what is achieved in terms of development, taking into account not only the material side, but the human side of development as well.

All of the above constitute a sound bases for building an advanced level of knowledge and educational attainment in Syria.

1.2. Health, one of the basic elements of the Millennium Declaration on development, occupies an important position in development planning and patterns in Syria. It has the same characteristics of the knowledge or educational attainment element. Health care (preventive and curative) occupies a prominent position in state thinking. Health awareness is one of the key factors in upgrading health conditions. Economic and social development plans stress the importance of the various components of health issues, strengthening the achievements and making more progress in the following areas, specifically:

- Improving health services provided to the population in terms of volume, quality and accessibility;
- Providing health services in all governorates, urban and rural areas, and making them accessible to the entire population;
- Applying the basic health care system and making it the responsibility of the state;
- Deepening and expanding the role of the state in the health sector and strengthening its leading role as

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- being instrumental in health development; and supporting the complementary role of the private sector;
- Providing appropriate preventive and curative health services to more vulnerable groups of the population, like children under school age, school aged children, mothers and workers;
- Fighting infectious diseases, including pollution-related diseases, and trying to reduce morbidity and mortality rates;
- Manufacturing basic medicines locally and trying to achieve medicinal security;

It should be noted that health services are provided by state hospitals and infirmaries at token charges, aided by private-sector hospitals, infirmaries, and clinics, in addition to non-governmental organizations like the Women's Union and the Workers Union. The fact that economic and social development plans continuously stressed these issues, helped raise health standards. Improvement in knowledge and educational attainment also made it easier to benefit from health services.

5.3. The importance awarded by development strategies and policies in Syria to strengthen links between economic growth and human development, through government policies and government spending, shows commitment to eradicating poverty and providing job opportunities and access to assets of sensitive groups in the development process. The development experience in Syria has the following features:

- Increasing the possibilities for economic opportunities through the ownership of land, access to credit, and basic material structure. Since the 1960s, the process of agricultural reform enabled rural workers to own land and join cooperative societies that were able to obtain the necessary credit, and offer its members services that exceed their individual capabilities, whether in the marketing of products, or providing agricultural requirements like fertilizers and machinery. Additionally, geographically balanced development patterns in the infrastructure (transport and communications network, electricity, health and education) and other development projects solidify the links between economic growth and human development.
- Concentrating on the development of the agricultural sector, which also means the development of rural areas by providing irrigation networks and adopting equitable policies towards this sector in terms of pricing its inputs and products. This

enhances equality in the growth process and contributes to human development.

- Developing the capacities of human capital by applying the nature and specializations of education to the requirements of economic and social development through supporting training, which also enhances the links between economic growth and human development.
- Promoting and activating civil movements which support the work of government institutions and mass non-governmental organizations like the Workers Union, Women's Union, and the Youth Union. Besides raising awareness of the components and aspects of sustainable development, it provides diversified services in the areas of health and education.
- Continuous development of the management and policies of the national economy to parallel regional and international developments, and taking into account the impact of economic policy on the human factor in the process of human development as an aspect of good governance.
- Awarding the health and educational sectors special considerations through geographical spread and quality development of the institutions that are provided free of charge or at token charges.
- Choosing labour intensive production technology when given the choice between capital intensive and labour intensive patterns. In this case the economic pattern generates employment, i.e. income opportunities; since jobs are the most important sources of income. This in turn strengthens the bond between economic growth and human development.

5.4. In the area of women's empowerment, national legislation promotes equality between men and women. Development strategies and patterns in Syria give women the opportunity to participate alongside men, on an equal footing, in economic and social development. Women have made significant achievements in the fields of education, participation in productive, outside the home, activities and in occupying leading positions in the legislative, executive, and legal authorities.

5.5. In terms of environmental protection, a Ministry specialized in environmental affairs was created in 1991. Its tasks were identified in light of the requirements of environmental protection and balance on the one hand, and the requirements of international agreements on the other. Since the beginning of the new millennium, Syria has embarked on a process of comprehensive modernization and

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development based on the achievements realized since the early 1970s. In this framework, an integrated economic and administrative reform programme has been prepared. The programme aims at creating a balance between the economic and social aspects and stresses the principles of social justice and equal opportunities. This solidifies Syria's progress towards eradicating poverty and supporting sensitive groups. It also improves education, health care, equality between men and women, and women's participation in the process of development. In addition, it protects the environment, combats unemployment by providing access to credit and facilitates conditions for financing sustainable productive activities. The following chapters of this report will show, in detail, the level of achievement in various areas of the Declaration of Millennium Development Goals.

Despite the significant achievements in reaching these goals, development strategies and policies in Syria continue to aim at making more progress through improving the performance of material and human production factors, achieve a balanced and sustainable economic and human development, and at continuing, deepening and diversifying cooperation with United Nations organizations and specialized agencies.

4. The data and statistical indicators detailed in the following chapters will show that Syria, having taken significant constructive steps between 1990 and 2002, makes the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 more likely.
5. In conclusion, the UNDP initiative of proposing the drafting of national reports as follow ups to the Millennium Declaration Development Goals is highly appreciated. There are great hopes of achieving these goals on the national level and for all peoples of the world. There are also hopes of realizing the Millennium Declaration Development Goals in establishing just and durable peace all over the world in accordance with the goals and principles of the United Nations, in supporting sovereign equality of all countries, and respect for their territorial integrity and political independence.

## II. Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Summit Declaration adopted by signatory countries focused on eight major goals, each of which includes detailed targets, which in turn include a number of indicators. These goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:
  - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day;
  - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education:
  - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women:
  - Eliminate gender disparity in elementary and upper secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015.
4. Reduce child mortality:
  - Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under five mortality rate
5. Improve maternal health
  - Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases:
  - Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS
  - Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of malaria and other major diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability:
  - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into the country's policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources;
  - Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water;
  - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.
8. Develop a global partnership for development:
  - Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system;
  - Address the special needs of the least developed countries;
  - Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term;
  - In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for the young;
  - In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential medicines in developing countries;

- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.
- The millennium goals include most of the goals and targets identified in international conferences and summit meetings during the 1990s. There are also other goals and targets like the environmental goals specified by the environment and development conference, in addition to the goals of reproductive health which were set out in the Cairo conference on population and development.

### **III. The background of preparing the National Report on the Millennium Development Goals in Syria, and its principles**

- On July 7, 2002, the project document of "The Millennium Development Goals Report" was signed; and a provision was made for the project to be implemented with the cooperation of the government of Syria and UNDP Damascus.

The project aims at preparing and publishing the Millennium Development Goals Report, in light of the goals and indicators it set forth and adopted with the signatories of the Millennium Summit Declaration. The project also aims at establishing a system to follow up and monitor the progress of achieving these goals.

This report is an instrument of raising

awareness and building national capacities in the follow up and implementation of Millennium Development Goals, and for measuring Syria's achievements in realizing Millennium Development Goals.

- This report is a national report. Concerned parties set executive measures for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, taking into account the conditions of Syria, and the achievement of the goals through development strategies.
- A wide base of official data and indicators provided by specialized multi-purpose surveys published between 1990 and 2000 were used. However, the time limit of writing and publishing the report has not allowed for additional surveys and studies, which could have provided unavailable statistical data and indicators, to be considered.
- The results of conducted surveys are characterized by a high degree of credibility and accuracy; since they were conducted according to modern scientific methods. Nevertheless, there continues to be a need for information from further quality studies and surveys in order to provide sufficient data on specific topics. They are necessary to measure progress in a number of Millennium Development Goals, such as poverty and the environment.



## CHAPTER TWO

### Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.**

#### Status of progress to date:

All five year economic and social development plans in Syria have aimed at boosting people's prosperity and their income. This was reflected in the increase of per capita income in the past decades, despite population growth, especially in rural areas. This increase had an impact on the economic, social, educational, and health conditions of the population. Mortality rates dropped, particularly among children. Infant mortality rates dropped from 34.6 per thousand (31.9 in urban areas and 37.2 in rural areas) in 1993 to about 18.1 per thousand (16.9 in urban areas and 19.2 in rural areas) in 2001. The under five age group had a mortality rate drop from 41.1 per thousand (39.4 in urban areas and 44 in rural areas) in 1993 to 20.2 per thousand (17.9 in urban areas and 22.2 in rural areas) in 2002. Consequently, life expectancy at birth rose from 63 years in the early 1990s to 70 in 2001.

The rate of per capita consumption of meat, fish, and eggs rose slightly from 19% to 20% of the total food spending between 1986 and 1997, despite the rise in the prices of these items throughout the same period.

Food consumption increased as a result of economic and social development of the population, changes in life style, and consumption habits. Family expenditure on food rose from 50% of income in 1986 to about 60% in 1997. Nevertheless, this increase was not reflected in spending on families' durable and luxury goods, which also increased considerably. The number of families which own private cars rose from 8% to 10% between 1993 and 2001. This rate is 50% higher in urban areas than in rural areas.

The percentage of families that own TV sets rose between 1993 and 2001 from 92.2% to 95.4% in urban areas and from 79.6% to 91.5% in rural areas. Similarly, percentages of families that own electrical or automatic washing machines rose to 90% in urban areas and to 75% in rural areas in 2001; and those that own air conditioners rose to

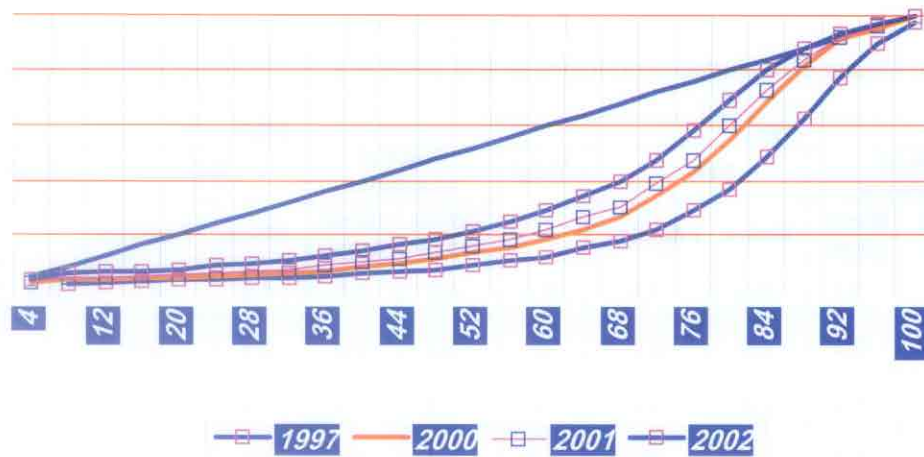
14% in urban areas and to 6% in rural areas. Likewise, the rate of families that own personal computers rose to 8% in urban areas and 2% in rural areas, and 90% of families own a private house (87.1% in urban areas and 94.5% in rural areas in 2001).

Monthly salaries increased, particularly in recent years, in the public and private sectors. Taking into account that 63% of the total workforce work on wage basis, salary increases were reflected in the lives of over 60% of the families. Wage increases have concentrated in the past few decades on low income groups with the aim of achieving equality in income distribution, and reducing disparities between minimum and maximum wages. The family income and expenditure survey of 1997 reflected that the proportion of those whose annual income is above the minimum wage of 12 thousand Syrian pounds a year was over 78%. Average monthly income for the same year was about five thousand Syrian pounds. This average rose in 2001, as a result of salary increases, to 6,200 Syrian pounds. The rate of individuals whose annual income is over 12 thousand Syrian pounds rose in 2001 to about 85% of the population. However, prices were inflated by 4% during the period of 1997-2001.

Free services provided by the state should also be considered when discussing population income averages. Education in Syria is free to the entire population, at all stages, in urban and rural areas alike. Health services and health insurance are free in most public sector institutions. The government also subsidizes basic materials like bread, sugar and rice, in addition to some other basic necessities like heating fuel and gas.

These policies adopted by the Syrian government had a major role in improving income distribution. This is reflected clearly in the Lawrence curve, shown below, which illustrates a narrowing in the gap of income distribution during the period 1997-2002.

Figure (1) Lawrence curve on income distribution



### Challenges

- The analysis of poverty in Syria does not include all indicators because, so far, there are no comprehensive studies and specialized surveys which focus on all aspects of poverty in Syria. Such surveys require technical and financial support.
- Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the support it receives from some countries have a negative impact on Syria's efforts aimed at poverty eradication, especially among those forcibly expelled from their land which was occupied by Israel after the 1967 aggression.
- The rise in population growth rates, the increase in the number of new comers to the labour market, and the inability of the economy to provide them with job opportunities, in addition to the impact of international economic changes on the Syrian economy in recent years, led to a rise in unemployment from 6.8% in 1995 to 9.5% of the total workforce in 2000. Unemployment is higher among females than males, and in rural areas than in urban ones. The higher number of unemployed work force raises the actual dependency rate and reduces the per capita income. Under the development and modernization policy adopted by Syria and manifested by

setting up agricultural projects, best use of water resources, encouraging the private sector, the set up of the Agency for Combating Unemployment, all of which aim in the first place to reduce unemployment by providing job opportunities, and improve living standards in the most disadvantaged areas by executing projects that help improve income and provide necessary services. Despite the budget allocated to programmes combating unemployment, which totals about a billion dollars over a period of five years, the strategy needs technical and financial support from international organizations to help reduce unemployment and provide acceptable incomes to all sections of the population, including males and females.

- Strong social support in Syria, provided by charities, plays a role in the reduction of poverty. The challenge, however, is to activate, organize, and provide technical and financial support to this activity.
- Continuing to work on improving the living standards of limited income families, and distributing national income in a manner that achieves social equality.
- Continuing efforts in the area of development of the rural areas and the badia, and expanding the network of infrastructure facilities and services therein.

**Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger**

Indicators

Table (1) The effects of malnutrition on thinness and shortness of children under five years of age

Indicator (Target)	1993					2000					2015
	Place of residence		Sex		Total	Place of residence		Sex		Total	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Males	Females		Urban areas	Rural areas	Males	Females		
Extreme thinness	2	2.1	2.6	1.5	2.1	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.4
Medium thinness	6.7	5.4	5.9	6.2	6	3.2	2.8	3.4	2.5	3	1.5
Extreme underweight	2.7	3.3	2.8	3.2	3	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	0.9
Medium underweight	8.8	9.5	10.1	8.1	9.1	4.3	5.8	5.5	4.8	5.2	2.6
Extreme shortness	11.4	12.5	12.9	11.0	12	6.4	9.6	8.8	7.9	8.2	4.1
Medium shortness	14.6	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.9	8.8	12.1	10.5	10.8	10.6	5.3

Figure (2) Extreme and medium thinness among children under five years of age

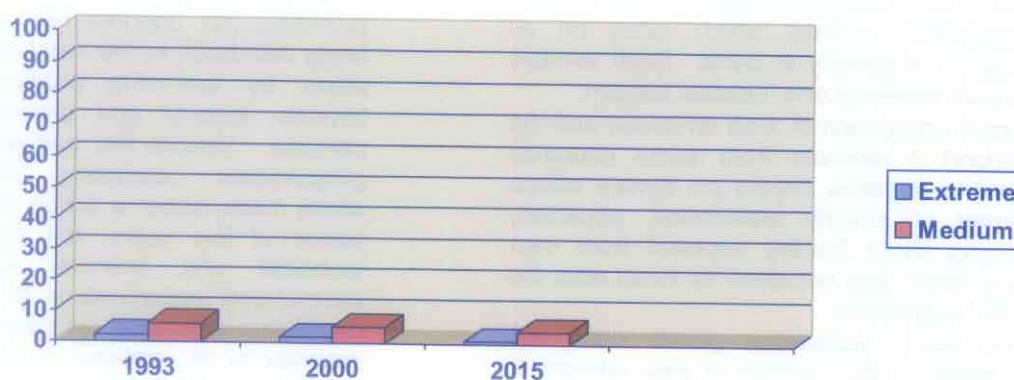


Figure (3) Extreme and medium underweight children under five years of age

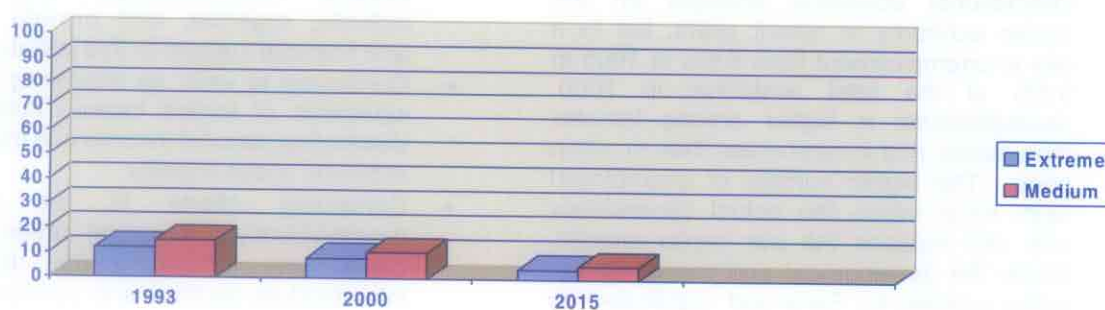
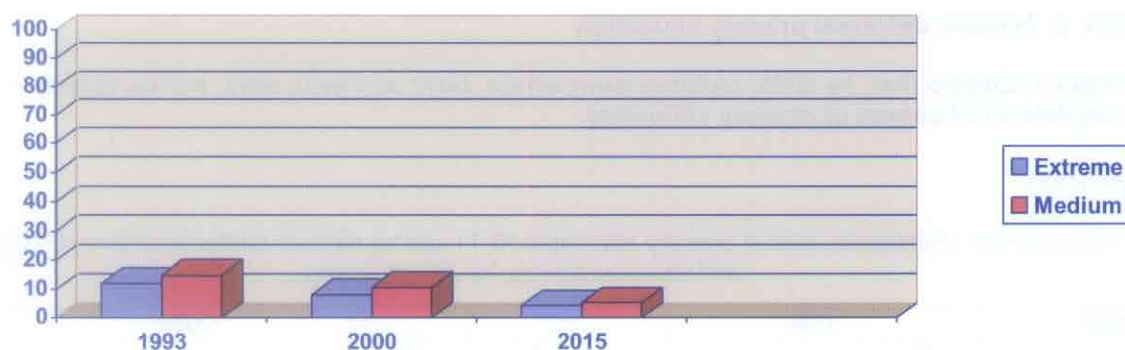


Figure (4) Extreme and medium shortness among children under five years of age



### Status of progress to date

Children's nutritional condition can be measured by collecting data concerning their weight and height and by using data to obtain standard indicators to gain insight into their physical growth and to describe their nutritional condition.

Each survey's timing affects the measures as a result of the changes in the ways parents dress their children. Parents tend to protect their children against cold by dressing them heavily; and in most cases it is difficult to persuade parents, especially mothers, that children should be weighed without clothes.

By comparing the results of the 1993 and 2000 child health surveys, a number of differences become apparent. By applying the standard deviation measure in the reference society recommended by WHO, which is less than 3% for extreme thinness, 2% for medium thinness, it was shown that thinness among children dropped between 1993 and 2000 from 8.1% to 3.8%. Extreme thinness dropped from 2.1% to 0.8% in the same period. The rate rises, however, among children aged 10 to 12 months, which is the weaning stage.

Thinness rate is higher in urban areas than rural (4.1 and 3.6 respectively) in 2000. It is also higher among males than females (4.6% and 3.6% respectively) in the same year.

### Challenges

Increasing awareness-raising campaigns on the use of balanced and sanitary food, reducing thinness rates and malnutrition among children.

- Continuing efforts to eradicate diseases which lead to underweight children, like diarrhea and respiratory infections.
- Increasing parents' health awareness by advising them of the necessity of visiting medical centres at the first sign of their children's illness, and of the necessity of vaccinating all children against diseases.
- Building more properly equipped children's parks away from noise and environmental pollution in order to improve their health.
- Continuing awareness campaigns, which target mothers, focusing on the importance and benefits of breast feeding for the health of mother and child.

### Requirements of domestic and external resources

- Providing food for children at token prices.
- Raising awareness of nutritional health and organizing and diversifying meals;
- Providing technical and financial support for conducting a specialized survey on poverty, to measure its extent and concentration areas, in order to set up the relevant programmes for its eradication.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 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**

#### Indicators

Table (2) Net registration ratio in primary education (6-11 years), ratio of students who reach grade six, and literacy rate the 15-24 age group.

Indicator	1990					2000					2015
	Place of residence		Sex		Total	Place of residence		Sex		Total	(Target)
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Males	Females		Urban areas	Rural areas	Males	Females		
Net registration rate in basic education	95.8	95	95.6	95.2	95.4	99.1	98.3	98.9	98.5	98.7	100
Proportion of students who reach grade six	-	-	-	-	84	-	-	-	-	83.1	100
Literacy rate among the 15-24 age group	-	-	90.1	86.6	88	-	-	97.1	92.5	94.8	100

Figure (5) Net registration rate in primary education

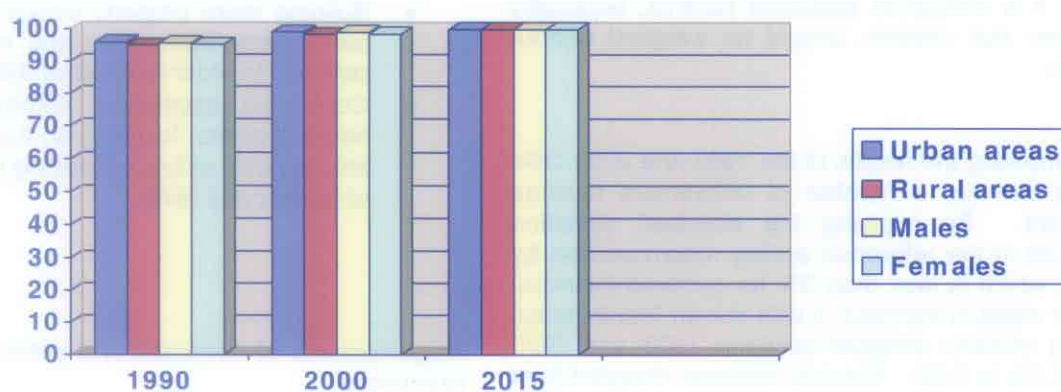


Figure (6) Proportions of students who start with grade one and reach grade six

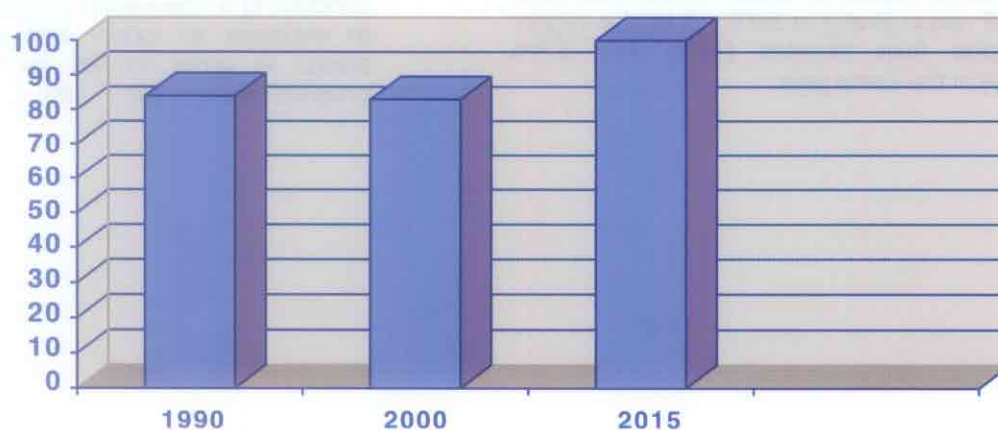
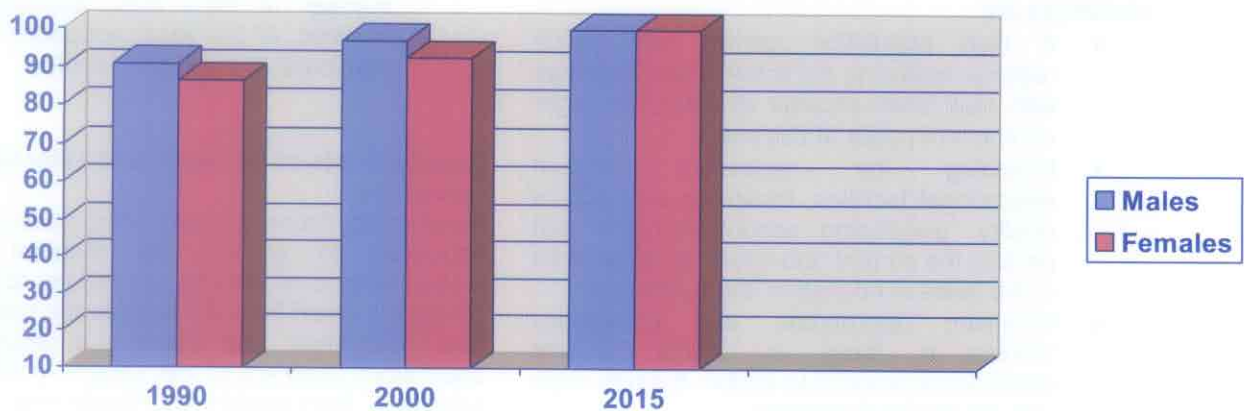


Figure (7) Literacy rates among the 15-24 age group



#### Status of progress to date

Investment in human resource development has become a leading investment factor in building a modern economy. The role of education is also becoming more important in the life and progress of nations in their attempt to realize a brighter and more prosperous future.

Stemming from its belief the importance of human resource development, Syria has paid special attention to educational strategy, particularly basic education. It is working hard to expand education at this stage to cover the entire population. Compulsory elementary education law # 35 was passed in 1981. It stresses that education is free; and it had the greatest impact on spreading education in urban and rural areas among males and females alike. Consequently it helped narrow the gap and achieve equality between these sections of the population.

The crude enrolment rate in elementary education rose from about 101% in 1990 to 103 in 2000 as a direct result of the implementation of the compulsory education law. Net enrolment rate in elementary education (6-11 years) rose from 95.4% in 1990 to

98.7% in 2000. It was higher in urban areas (99.1%) than in rural areas (98.3%) in 2000. The ratio differences between males and females is negligible. Among males it was 98.9%, and 98.5% among females. This rise was accompanied by a rise in the number of schools and teaching staff. The number of schools in 2000 was 17,331; and the number of teaching staff was 210,041.

More attention was given to the education of people in the neediest regions and of the steppe. The number of stationary schools in the steppe in 2000 was 344; and the number of mobile schools was 64, including 43 in the form of vans and 21 in the form of tents.

Nevertheless, pupils still drop out at this stage. This is shown by the rate of students who start at grade one and reach grade six. It was 84% in 1990 and

dropped to 83.1% in 2000. The state tries its best to reduce the drop out rate through raising the population's awareness and increasing the age of compulsory education to cover lower and upper secondary education. The compulsory education law at the basic education stage (nine school years) was passed under # 32 in 2002, in addition to laws and regulations preventing child employment under the age of 15, and employment in physically demanding jobs under the age of 16.

Literacy rates among the 15-24 age group rose from 88% in 1990 to 94.8% in 2000. This reflects the state's efforts at improving the education of the population, and the role of literacy courses conducted by government and non-governmental organizations, which aim at eradicating illiteracy. It also shows people's awareness of the importance of education.

An examination of the condition of basic education in Syria during that period shows the following:

- Large scale quantitative development as a result of the implementation of compulsory education at this stage;
- An increase in the rate of female enrolment in different parts of the country;
- Giving greater attention to the quality of education by improving the contents of the educational process, trying to improve teaching methodology, modernizing curricula, creating separate schools for distinguished students, implementing the head teacher system, and the psychological and social guidance system.

#### Challenges

Despite the achievements realized in the areas of education and elimination of illiteracy, there are still challenges facing Syria in its attempts to completely eradicate illiteracy and reduce the number of drop outs in basic education, to achieve full education at

this stage by 2015. The most important of these challenges are:

- A high population growth rate which requires replacing old schools and buildings with new ones capable of taking in larger numbers of pupils at this stage;
- Providing the necessary modern educational facilities, improving educational quality, developing school curricula that parallel the current and future developments in the fields of education and technology;
- Providing appropriate and continuous training to those in charge of the educational process to enable them to cope with recent developments;
- Continuing the education of the children of nomadic Bedouins;
- Paying more attention to the education of children in the neediest areas;
- Enhancing measures and raising awareness about the importance of education for the individual, the family and

the entire society, in order to reduce the number of drop outs, especially among females, at the basic education stage, and eradicate illiteracy at its source.

#### **Requirements of domestic and external resources**

Passing the decree on expanding basic compulsory education to grade nine requires additional resources and increasing allocations to education. Books are given free of charge to the nine grades of basic education; and there is a requirement for specialized teachers in the second phase of basic education, from grade five to grade nine, to cover all Syrian schools. A need also exists for more buildings to separate children from the first and the second phase of basic education. This is in order to achieve an enrolment rate of 100% by 2015 at the basic education stage among males and females, and in urban and rural areas.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 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.**

Table (3) The most important gender indicators

Indicator	1990	2000	2015 (goal)
<b>A- Ratio of Girls to boys in primary, upper secondary and tertiary education</b>			
Basic education stage: 6 -11 years	99.5%	99.6%	100%
Basic education stage: 12 -14 years	70%	85%	100%
General upper secondary stage: 15 -17	77%	96%	100%
Vocational upper secondary stage: 15 -17	72%	103%	100%
University stage: 18 -23	58%	81%	100%
<b>B. Ratio of literate females to males among the 15 -24 year olds</b>	86%	88%	100%
<b>C. Share of women in wage employment in the non - agricultural sectors</b>			
Material production sectors	6%	6%	-
Production services sector	7%	11%	-
Community and social services	27%	43%	-
<b>D. Percentage of seats held by women in national parliament and the executive authority</b>			
1. Proportion of women in the Peoples Assembly	8.5%	10.4%	-
1 Percentage of women in the executive authority (Ministers)	3%	6%	-

Figure (8) Ratio of girls to boys in pre university education

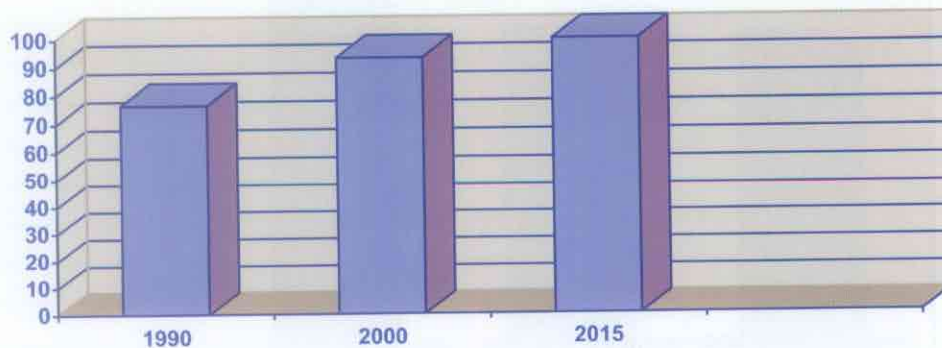




Figure (9) Women's participation in non-agricultural sectors

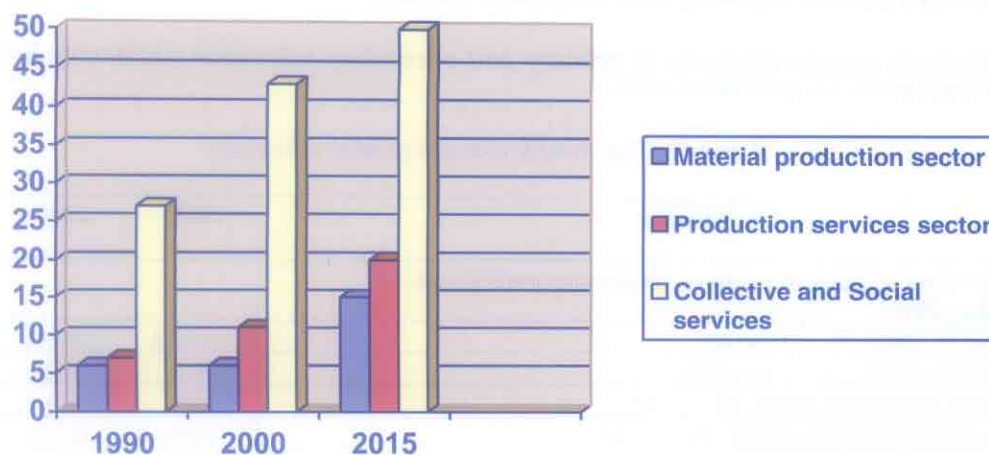


Figure (10) Proportion of seats held by women in the People's Assembly

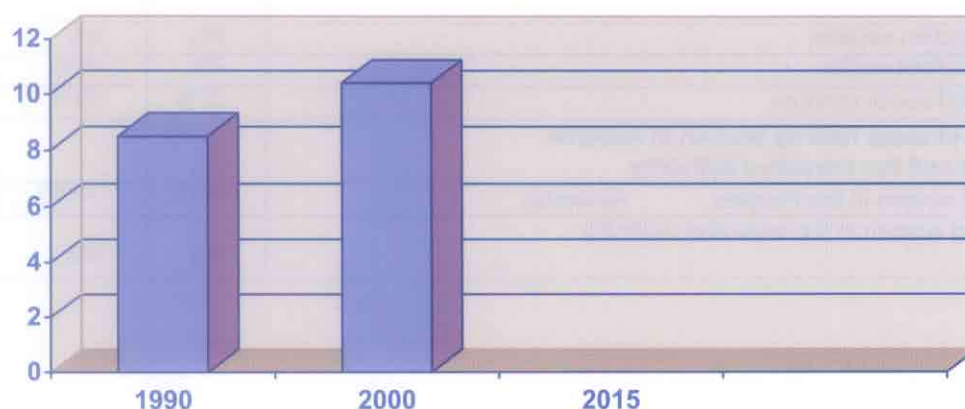
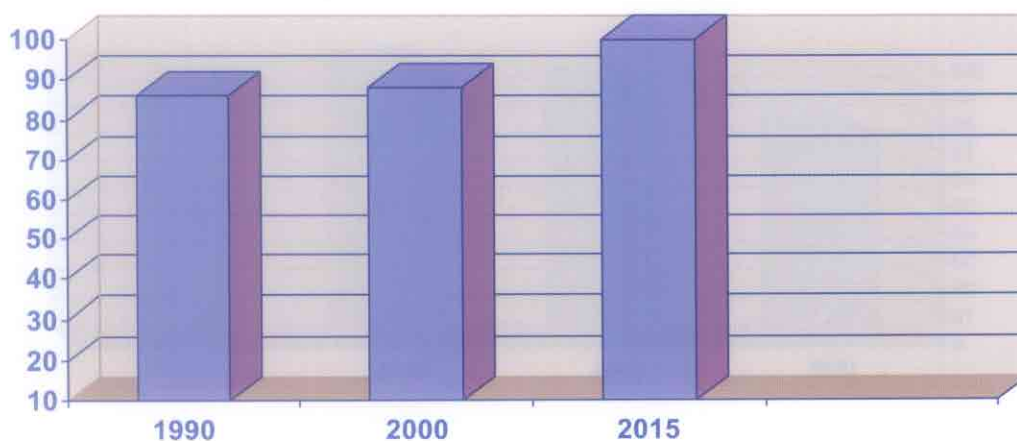


Figure (11) Percentage of literate females to males of 15-24 year olds



#### Status of progress to date

Women, in modern Syria, enjoy focused care and attention in many ways. They receive support in the process of their liberation and their effort at improving their position and participation in the decision making process and in social, political and

economic life. Since women are half the population, they have a significant contribution to social and economic development which aims at achieving a decent living standard for them and for their families, and providing them with the requirements of education, work and a safe life.

This is clearly illustrated in the following ratios:

1. The percentage of girls to boys at different educational stages: from the above chart we can see the increase of this percentage at different educational stages, particularly in vocational upper secondary education. In 1990, the percentage was 72% at the technical upper secondary stage. In 2000, it went above 100%. This shows that a large number of girls have enrolled in this stage. At the university level, the percentage was 58% in 1990, and rose to above 81% in 2000, i.e. with an increase of 23% during this period.

Comparing the percentage of boys to girls' education in urban and rural areas at different educational stages, we can see that at the basic education stage (6-11) the percentage of girls to boys in urban areas was 99.7% in urban areas and 99.4% in rural areas in 2000. At the lower, upper secondary stage, the percentage was 98% in urban areas and 73% in rural areas. This shows that there is a problem of female drop outs in rural areas at this stage. This is either because of the parents' desire that their daughter learn housework or because of certain traditions and customs which restrict girls' education.

At the upper secondary stage, the percentage of boys to girls in urban areas was 100%, which reflects the parents' desire for their daughters to receive more education. In rural areas, however, it was 90%. Here the number of males plunges in comparison with the number of females, because boys tend to leave school and try to earn a living to help their families improve their living standards.

2. The rate of literate females to males in the 15-24 age group: In 1990, it was 86%, while in 2000 it rose to 88%. This shows that the number of female literates has increased and that women have started to seek education and knowledge.
3. Women's participation in non-agricultural sectors: From the above table we can see the tremendous increase in women's participation in different agricultural sectors, particularly community and social services. The percentage of women to men was 27% in 1990 and rose to 43% in 2000 with a difference of 16%. This demonstrates a rise in women's participation and their greater role in the process of development, especially in the services sector.
4. The percentage of seats occupied by women in the People's Assembly: One of

the most prominent features of equality and women's empowerment in Syria is that they occupy high positions in the legislative, executive, and legal authorities. The proportion of seats occupied by women in the People's Assembly rose from 8.5% in 1990 to 10.4% in 2000. The proportion of women in the executive authority (ministers) rose from 3% in 1990 to 6.3% in 2000.

5. There is a greater number of women working in the diplomatic corps, as executive directors, and heads of departments. The percentage of female members of university teaching staff rose from 12% in 1990 to 19% in 2000.

President Bashar al-Asad passed decree # 330 of September 25, 2002, which ratifies Syria's joining of the UN General Assembly convention on eradicating all forms of discrimination against women.

### Challenges

Despite the vast achievements realized for women in Syria in various aspects and in all economic, social, and political activities, there are challenges which continue to prevent women from taking their appropriate role in different aspects of life. The most important of these challenges are:

1. Providing the appropriate conditions for the education of women at different educational stages, particularly in the neediest areas;
2. Increasing women's contribution in different activities, particularly economic activities, providing job opportunities for women in the public and private sectors, and encouraging women to set up their own businesses, particularly in rural areas, where unemployment among women is high. Additionally, providing family loans would enable them to improve their living standards and those of their families;
3. Continuing to empower women and enhance their role in social and political sectors allowing them to take their proper role in the legislative, executive, legal authorities, and remove all obstacles that obstruct this process.

### Requirements of domestic and external resources

Eliminating gender disparity in all educational stages and involving women in all economic, social and political activities requires additional resources for educating and training a large number of women, particularly in remote and disadvantaged areas, where most women's education does not exceed the primary, lower, or upper secondary stage. This certainly does not qualify them to take an active part in building society and improving their families' living standards..

*National Millennium Development Goals Report- S.A.R*

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

**Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under five mortality rate.**

#### Indicators

Table (4) Development of the most important child-related health indicators

Indicator	Classification	1993	1999	2001	2015 (Target)
Under five mortality rate/1000 children	Males	43.9	29	22.9	16
	Females	39.4	29	17.3	12
	Urban areas	39.4	28	17.9	12
	Rural areas	44	34	22.2	15
	Total	41.7	29	20.2	13
Infant mortality rate/1000 infants	Males	37.5	24	20.6	14
	Females	31.5	24	15.5	11
	Urban areas	31.9	23	16.9	12
	Rural areas	37.2	28	19.2	13
	Total	34.6	24	18.1	12
Proportion of one year old children immunized against measles (%)	Males	82.3	-	89.9	99
	Females	84.9	-	90.7	99
	Urban areas	81.7	-	92.7	99
	Rural areas	86	-	87.8	99
	Total	83.5	85.3	90.3	99

Figure (12) Under five mortality rate /1000/ children

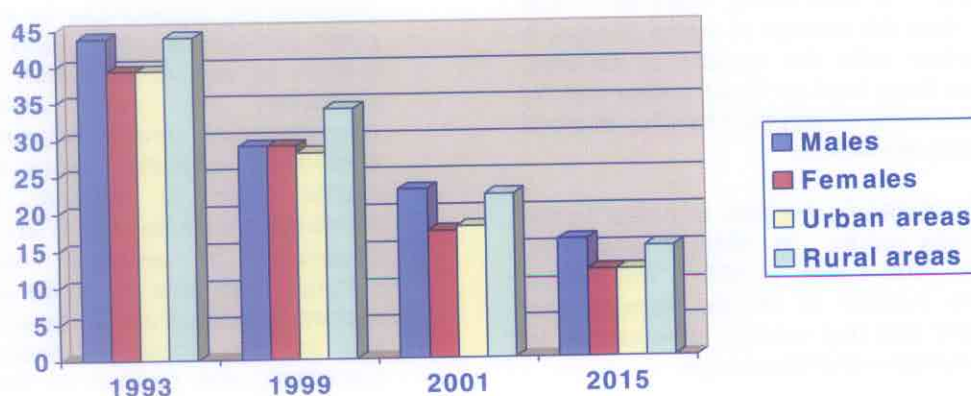


Figure (13) Infant mortality rate /1000/ infants

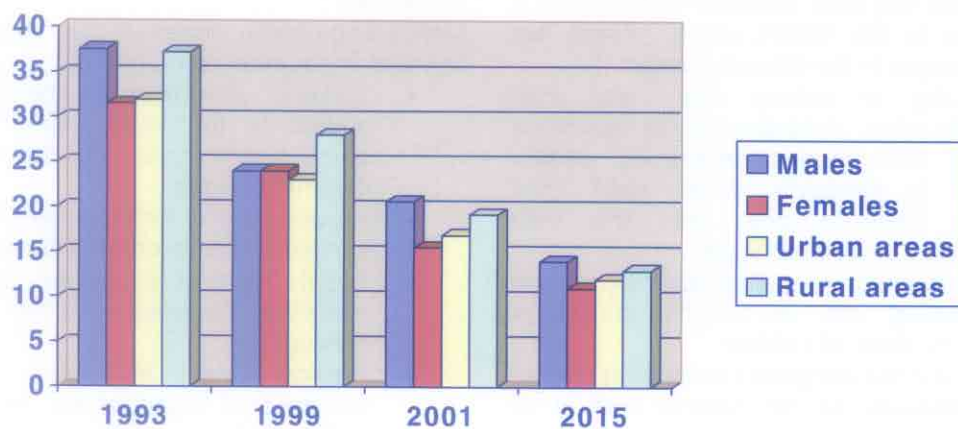
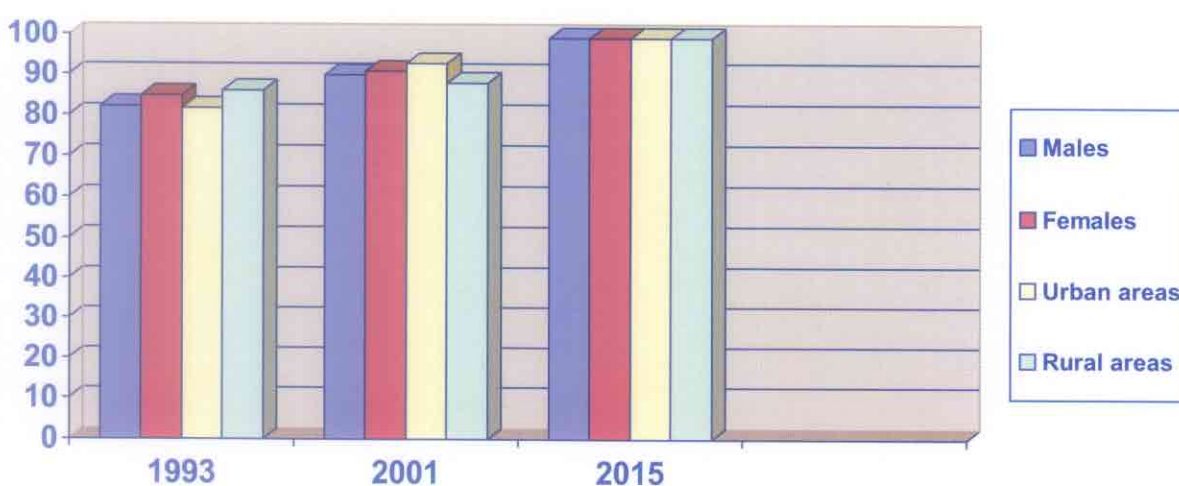


Figure (14) Proportion of one year old children immunized against measles



#### Status of progress to date

Syria awards special attention to children's issues and does its best to provide appropriate care for children. This is evident in national plans and higher state policies, such as the set up of the higher committee on childhood by a prime ministerial decision. It includes all relevant ministries and mass organizations. The task of the committee is to tackle all issues related to children and improving their status (social, health, educational, legal, cultural, and media). Exerted efforts by all sides succeeded in bringing about an improvement of indicators related to child health. This is manifested in the following:

- A clear drop in infant mortality rate to 18.1 per thousand;
- A drop in under five mortality rate to 20.2 per thousand;
- A reduction in incidence of vaccine preventable disease. The last registered case of polio was in 1995. Efforts are underway now to eradicate infant tetanus. Cases have declined with the significant

improvement in the implemented information system. Efforts continue to eradicate measles. Vaccination coverage meets the limits set forth by concerned international organizations;

- A reduction in childhood illnesses, especially after a national plan was established with integrated monitoring of children's illnesses, IMCI, which aims to reduce cases of illness and death from all known childhood diseases, with special emphasis on the performance of health workers;
- There is active and continuous coordination with all concerned parties, especially the School Health Department which takes care of children's health and nutrition. There are also programmes for treating child accidents and injuries, disabled children and children with special needs, taking into account gender issues in all child related programmes

**Challenges**

Maintaining what has been achieved so far poses a great challenge to the health sector. There are particular challenges in the following areas:

- Continuing to reduce infant and child mortality rates. Achieving further reductions in this rate means decreasing deaths related to childbirth which result from causes hard to deal with, like birth deformities and birth bruises;
- Preserving and expanding vaccinations, and coordinating with all national concerned parties to cover all children;
- Publishing the integrated monitoring plan of child illnesses on the national level in all service outlets;
- Active coordination with the private sector, which can play an important role in child health care.

**Requirements of domestic and external resources**

Maintaining these achievements requires further financial and human resources to:

- Increase allocations of the government's budget to the health sector, particularly basic health care, on the central and peripheral levels;
- Provide health staff workers and insuring fair distribution in urban and rural areas;
- Supply medical equipment, vaccines and medicines necessary for the provision of services;
- Provide the technical support of international organizations, like experts in child related illnesses.....

## CHAPTER SIX

### Goal 5: Improve maternal health

**Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.**

Indicators:

Table (5) Improvement in maternal mortality rates, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, and the rate of using family planning instruments

	1990			1993			1999			2001	2015 (Target)
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total		
Maternal mortality rate/100,000 births	-	-	143	-	-	107	-	-	71	65.4	32
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	-	-	-	91.7	62.3	76.8	93.4	81.2	86.5	-	100
Rate of use of family planning methods among married women %	-	-	-	49.2	27.4	39.9	52.9	38.1	45.8	46.6	60

Figure (15) Maternal mortality rate/100,000 births

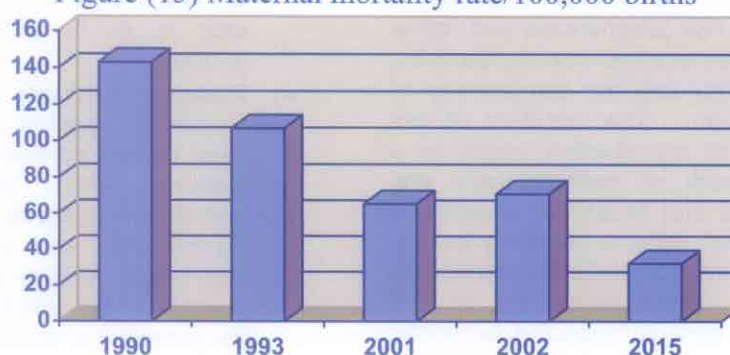


Figure (16) Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel

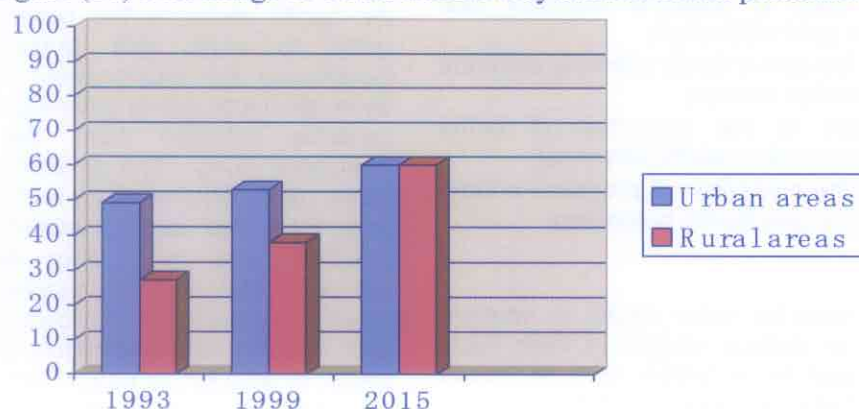
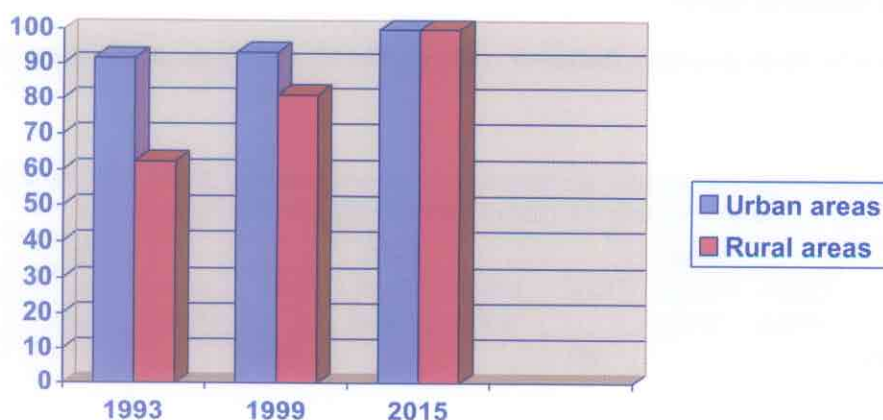


Figure (17) Rate of use of family planning methods among married women



### Status of progress to date

Mothers are the most sensitive members of society because in different stages of their lives, they are exposed to many risks, especially during pregnancy and childbirth. One of the most important health sector priorities in the past and present stages of development was the provision of health care during pregnancy and childbirth in order to insure that mother and fetus complete the pregnancy safely. This is done through periodical checks, which insure early detection of high risk pregnancies and follow up, in addition to the provisions of delivery services, insuring their accessibility and the competence of personnel providing them. The adoption of this concept is necessary for reproductive health as a comprehensive framework of mothers' care and family planning services that stress the importance of child distancing, which reflects positively on the health of mother and child. Reproductive health has become one of the basic objectives of the population policy which aims at balancing economic and social development and population growth. Health indicators have recently reflected development in many areas related to mothers' health, as shown below:

- A clear drop in maternal mortality rate during the past millennium;
- A rise in the use of family planning methods among married women;
- A increase in the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel;
- A rise in the proportion of pregnant women who receive care during pregnancy.

### Challenges

There is still a need for more efforts to improve women's health at various stages of their lives. Exerted efforts lead to a further drop in health indicators. The challenges appear as follows:

- Providing comprehensive delivery services that cover all rural areas. This requires administrative and logistic support, because of the nature of these services, in order to reduce the proportion of births attended by unskilled personnel;
- Increasing the use of family planning methods among married women, especially in rural areas, and highlighting the role of men in family planning programmes in general;
- Reducing morbidity rates among mothers, women in general, and providing a data base on the present condition of women's illnesses, with emphasis on sexually transmitted diseases;
- Coordinating with all other organizations and health related parties, particularly the private sector, which plays a crucial role in the provision of health services to mothers.

### Requirements of domestic and external resources

There is an urgent need to increase allocations to the health sector in the government's budget, in order to cope with pressing developments. Concerning the improvement of mothers' health, Syria still needs family planning methods, which are currently received from the United Nations Population Fund. The government is trying to buy these instruments using its own budget. There is a need for further support related to pregnancy and childbirth care and other reproductive health services. This could be accomplished through the provision of sufficient numbers of health personnel and insuring fair distribution in urban and rural areas, in addition to equipment and the necessary medicines. There is also a need for technical support provided by international organizations in the form of reproductive health expertise.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

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

**Target 7: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of malaria and other major diseases**

Indicators

Table (6) The number of AIDS cases and spread rates of various years

Indicator	1995	2000	2001	2015 (target)
Number of registered cases	19	12	14	0
Incidence per 100,000	0.1	0.07	0.08	0
Morbidity among targeted groups	0.01%	0.005%	0.005%	-

Figure (18) The number of registered AIDS cases

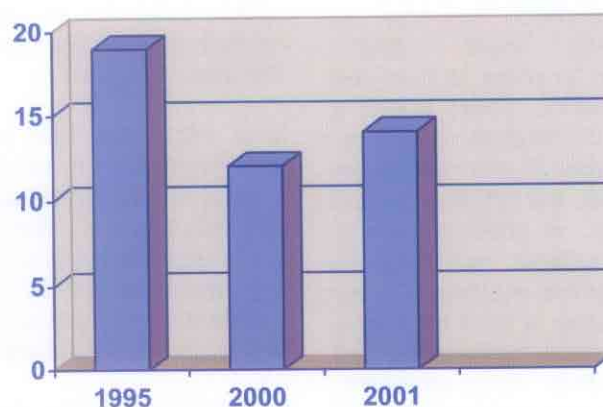
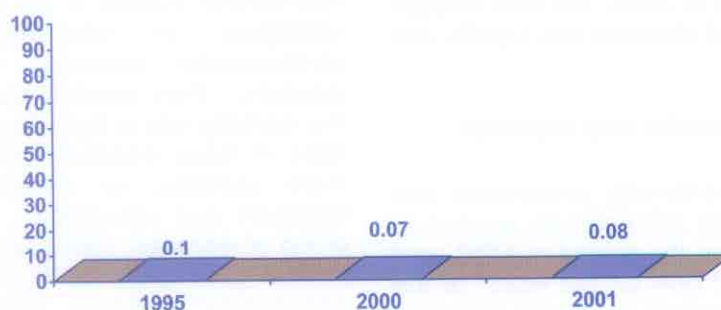


Figure (19) Incidence per 100,000 people



Age group ratios	Registered cases	Estimated cases	Estimated spread
The entire population	137	702	0.0041%
Children under one year	4	21	0.0054%
Children under 15 years	10	51	0.0008%
15-24 years age group	34	174	0.0047%
24-49 years age group	83	426	0.0027%
Over 50 years	10	51	0.0031%

N.B. Rates for children orphaned by AIDS are not available



### **Status of progress to date**

A quick review of the number of registered cases in Syria shows that until recently AIDS did not pose a health problem in Syria; and that the spread rate for every 100,000 of the population is stable and less than the estimated spread rate in Syria (0.0041%). This conclusion is also supported by the number of registered cases for the 15-24 age group (34 cases). This age group is the most significant world-wide: if incidence rate among this group is high, it means the country has an AIDS problem and that the problem will worsen in the future. But an examination of the registered cases according to age group shows that the number of registered cases in Syria is higher among the 24-49 age group.

### **Challenges**

There is no doubt that not all cases are discovered or registered. That is why it is important to increase health awareness of the population and step up cooperation with concerned health parties, particularly the private sector, in order to curb the spread of new cases in the future. There is also a group of other sexually transmitted diseases, particularly syphilis and hepatitis B and others, for which there is no available data, but certainly pose a danger among certain groups. In addition there is the rapid spread of the Internet and modern communications and their negative impact on young people in particular. This poses a third challenge which aggravates the danger of these diseases, and AIDS in particular. Another socio-economic challenge is that the marrying age among men and women in Syria is rising. Consequently, sexual intercourse pre marriage or homosexual relations might increase, which will inflate the danger, not only through the spread of AIDS, but also through other sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis and hepatitis B.

### **Requirements of domestic and external resources**

Based on the above, continuing government and non-government (local or international) support is necessary in order to curb the spread of AIDS, and to prevent its impact not only on the health of the population, but on the country's social and economic status. Efforts made in Syria, through cooperation among different sectors to increase early detection of the disease and for providing medical and health care, are only one major step in fighting the disease

and trying to eradicate it. There should be other support mechanisms, like raising awareness among high risk groups (prostitutes and homosexuals), monitoring blood samples, taking the appropriate measures to insure the safety of surgical operations and the use of instruments which might transmit the disease, in all public and private sectors.

It must be stressed that Syria's ability to limit the spread of AIDS depends mainly on capacity building of different sectors (health, youth) to enable health officials to penetrate high risk groups and fight the disease at the core. A study into the behaviour of such groups should be undertaken in order to find the best ways of dealing with such diseases and limiting their spread.

But eradicating AIDS seems to be linked to world technological development, the discovery of a vaccine against disease, finding medicines which might treat it, or at least delay its clinical development, and consequently the death of infected individuals.

It is important also to support the set up an observatory and to conduct the necessary research studies to identify the spread of other diseases like Hepatitis B and C. Both diseases show an increase in the morbidity rate in some Syrian regions, which are characterized by low economic and social standards, particular social customs, or low levels of education and health awareness.

In conclusion, only the availability of local and international support could put a stop to the danger and/or spread of these diseases. What makes it more crucial to mobilize and increase local and international support is the incidence rate of non-contagious or infectious diseases, mainly cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and other diseases. They currently cause more than 40% of the mortality rate in Syria, in addition to high spread rates of these diseases, which place a burden of more spending on medical care in terms of treatment and prevention. It is certain that this group of diseases, called 'diseases of the age', will pose a great challenge to the health sector in the near and remote future. Reducing their spread and allocating the necessary domestic and external resources will be a priority, especially in the making of policies and during the implementation of these policies.

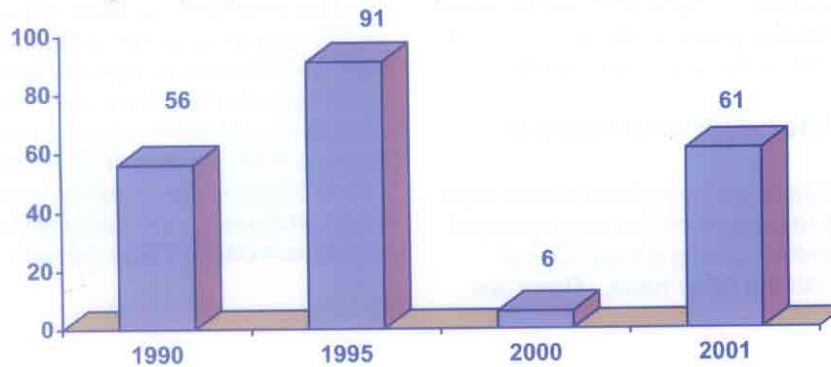
**Target 8. Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.**

Indicators

Table (8) Number of malaria cases, and malarial mortality rates

Indicator (target)	1990	1995	2000	2001	2015
Number of registered cases	56	91	6	61	0
Number of deaths	5	5	5	5	0

Figure (20) Number of registered malaria cases



**Status of progress to date**

Since the early 1980s, malarial morbidity rates have steadily dropped. Infected areas also decreased and were finally restricted to small areas (Malkieh, Ras Al Ein, in Al Hasaka governorate, and Jarablus in Aleppo governorate). The number of registered cases in the past ten years was extremely limited, which shows that malaria is not a significant health problem in Syria, although the danger of its return is still present. There are two reasons for this fear: the first is the condition in neighbouring countries, Turkey and Iraq, and the second, the possibility of climatic changes in the affected areas. Possible changes in water policies between Turkey and Syria compound to this effect.

Presently, it is apparent that the problem is under complete control. It is certainly possible for health policy makers to eradicate this disease in the present circumstances benefiting from the support of international organizations which call for eradicating malaria and from increasing cooperation with neighbouring countries, since the type of malaria found in this region can easily be treated.

**Challenges**

Recently, there has been a rise in the incidence of diseases similar to malaria, particularly leishmaniasis, in all regions of Syria. The most important factor for this spread (more than 23,000

registered cases in 2001) is the change in the ecological situation, which allows the spread of such diseases (open sewage, open rubbish sites close to residential areas, poultry raising sites and the use of poultry manure for agricultural purposes).

Although this disease does not cause disability or death, it is economically costly. The cost of eradicating transmitting (host) insects, the high cost of treatment, the elevated price of pesticides, in addition to finding solutions for the disfigurement of affected individuals (faces and limbs).

Leishmaniasis is one of the most significant public health problems facing governmental departments in Syria. There is a great need for sector cooperation (Ministry of Local Administration, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture). Without further expansion of this cooperation, and without the necessary support of international organizations, it seems unlikely that the disease will be restrained at present, at least in the absence of an effective treatment and the dangers of pesticides used to fight the host insect.

It is important, in this context, to mention another group of diseases affecting individuals, the health system, and the social and economic situation. Tuberculosis tops this group. The intensive efforts made to eradicate this disease, or at least control it since the early 1990s, slowed the progress of the

since the early 1990s, slowed the progress of the disease but did not eradicate it. An important factor for this failure is that the disease spreads among the lower social and economic groups, which makes its treatment dependent upon improving the economic condition of all of the families. There are other technical problems like the absence of an effective vaccine, the fact that there are resistant strains of the organism, and the fact that patients do not take medication until the disease is fully cured. The number of annual registered cases, since the improvement of the observatory system, is about 5,000 cases a year, without any noticeable reductions in this number. The rate per a hundred thousand rises in some governorates in comparison with the general average in Syria (31 per hundred thousand). In Al Hasaka governorate it is 60, in Al Raqqa 66, in Deir Ezzour 52, and in Aleppo 39.

### **Requirements of domestic and external resources**

The programme combating tuberculosis suffers from the lack of available resources on the one hand and the lack of technical skills among the personnel working in this field, on the other hand. There are

also significant problems with the cooperation of the private sector in reporting cases (detection rate is very low, 27%). Cases treated in this sector are not followed up until they are completely cured. The government programme tries to increase the rate of detection and complete treatment by following these cases up with health workers. There are favourable success rates in this area (successful treatment rate was 79% in 2000). But there are still many challenges faced in terms of controlling the disease, especially the pathogenic variety which threatens public health (sputum tuberculosis, 150 registered cases annually). Some of these challenges rely upon implementing public policies that control the private health sector. The skills of the personnel must be improved, so does the management of the programme on a governorate level. Resources must be allocated to fight the disease, with particular focus upon the low living and economic standards which help spread the disease in the first place, reasons such as, lack of health awareness, low calorie intake in this situation and malnutrition, which weaken the immune system and makes people vulnerable to the disease

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability

**Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into the country's policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources**

Indicators

Table (9) Most significant environmental indicators

Indicator	1990	1995	2000	2015 (target)
25. Proportion of land covered by forest	2.38% (1992)	-	3.02% (2002)	-
26. Land protected to maintain biological diversity	-	0.22%	0.36%	-
27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency)	-	-	-	-
28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)	2.3	2.3	3.5	-

Figure (21) Proportion of land area covered by forest

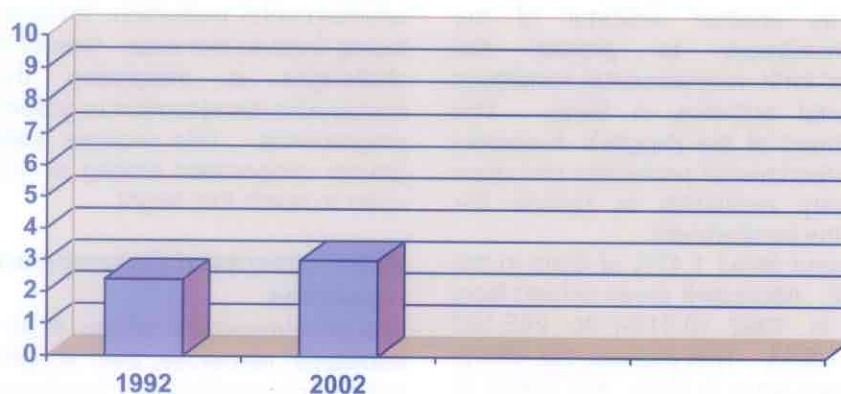


Figure (21) Proportion of land area covered by forest

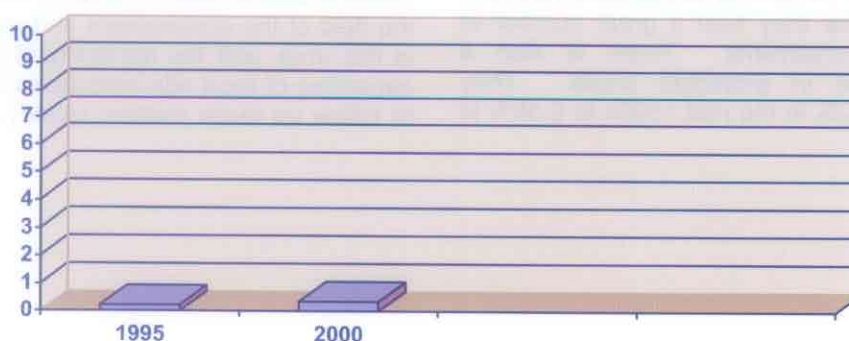
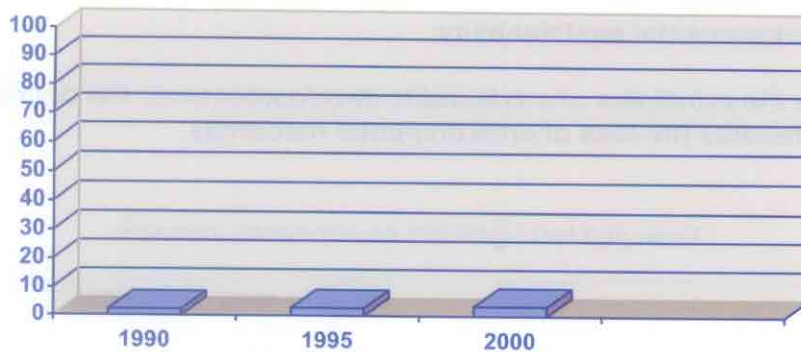


Figure (23) Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)



### Status of progress to date

Legislative Decree # 11 of 1991 according to which the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (the first ministry which focuses upon the environment in the Arab world) is a clear indication of the state's awareness of the importance of integrating the environmental dimension in development plans. Law # 50 of 2002 concerning environmental protection came as another indicator of the government's commitment to protect the environment and set forth environmental conditions for all developmental activities in Syria. The government's statement at the People's Assembly concentrated on environmental protection and upon taking the necessary measures to reduce the negative impact on the environment.

Natural forests covered about 1.47% of Syria in the period of 1992-2002. Afforested areas spread from 144,000 hectares in 1992 (0.91%) to 245,160 hectares in 2002 (1.5%). This reflects the efforts made to enlarge green areas in Syria, and forests in particular. Preserving natural forests is not an easy task. It requires great efforts in protection against forest fire and against logging and misuse. Forests have a great role in protecting biological diversity in the country, because they host a great number of small and large organisms. There is also a noticeable increase in protected areas. They increased from 0.22% in the mid 1990s to 0.36% in 2002.

There was also a rise in carbon dioxide emissions during the period 1990-2002, because of population and economic growth in all sectors during this period, particularly in the transport sector.

### Challenges

Despite efforts made by Syria in the field of environmental protection, there are still challenges facing Syria in this area. One of the most important challenges is integrating the principles of sustainable development in government policies and programmes. This requires additional efforts and greater cooperation among all concerned parties in order to reach this target.

### Requirements of domestic and external resources

The implementation of law # 50 of 2002 requires additional resources that should be allocated to building observation and monitoring stations; so that these stations could give instant accurate measurements to decision makers in order for them to make appropriate decisions at critical times. There is also a need to develop human resources in the field of the environment and rare specializations in this area, and the necessity of strengthening the capacities of local administrations and municipalities to follow up these matters closely.

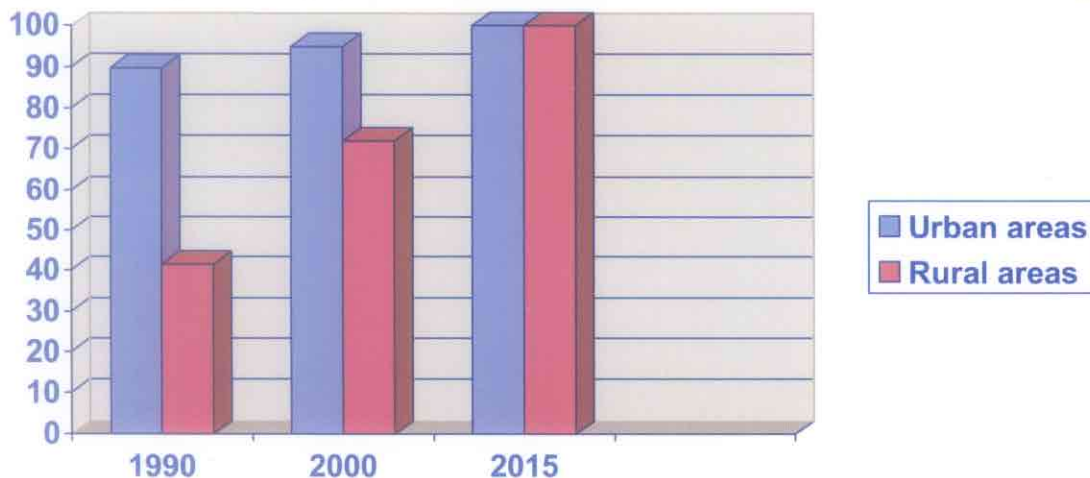
**Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.**

Indicators

Table (10) Development of the proportion of the population provided with safe drinking water (%)

Indicator	1990			2000			2015 (target)
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	
Proportion of the population provided with sustainable sources of fresh water	89.7	41.5	65.6	94.9	71.9	84.2	100

Figure (24) Percentage of the population provided with sustainable sources of drinking water



**Status of progress to date**

Syria gives special attention to health issues, most importantly making drinking water accessible to the entire population by providing clean and potable water sources, making water available through healthy water networks, and monitoring and sterilizing drinking water with chlorine as a precaution against infections.

This is evident in the percentage of people provided with sustainable fresh water sources. In 1990 it was 65.6%, and rose in 2000 to 84%. The number ranged between 79.9% in rural areas and 94.9% in urban areas. This shows the extent of government efforts in making fresh water available to the entire population.

In order to preserve this national invaluable wealth, the state conducts media campaigns to raise people’s awareness of the necessity of preserving water by not wasting it.

**Challenges**

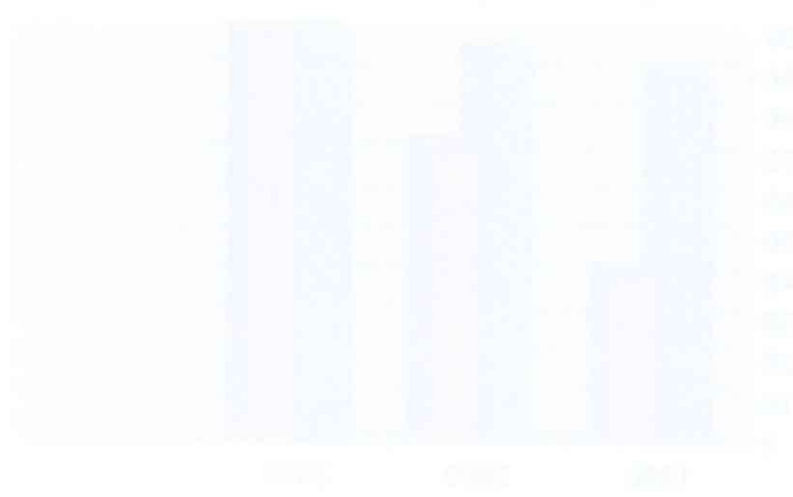
- The draughts from which most Syrian regions have been suffering for many years necessitate for the state to look for new sources of drinking water and make it available to the entire population and in all regions. Possible sources are transporting water from large rivers like the Euphrates and desalinating sea water.
- Another challenge is the high population growth rate, which also leads to increases in demand for more drinking water. There is also the problem of small scattered groups of people who live far from each other.
- Natural and technical factors are an obstacle which might prevent building a healthy public water network.
- Studying the condition of the country and its future needs in
- light of development and population growth.
- Reducing waste of clean drinking water and finding appropriate alternatives for the utilization of fresh drinking water for industrial use.

**Requirements of domestic and external resources**

Under draught conditions in Syria, providing the population with clean drinking water, particularly in rural areas requires large financial resources for building new projects to carry surplus water to the regions in which drinking water is needed. The

state also must look for new sources of drinking water.

Old water leaking networks should be replaced and new networks be built. All this requires sizeable additional financial sources.



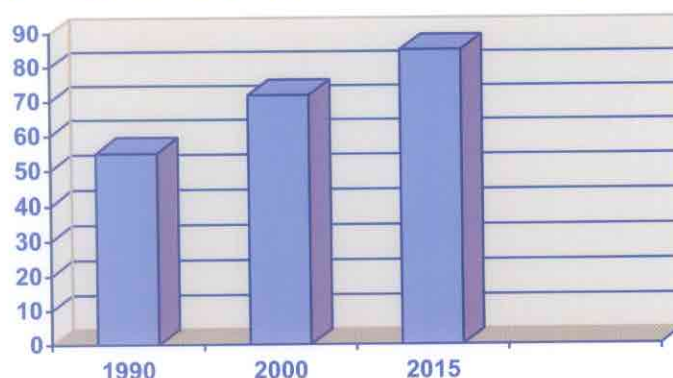
**Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.**

## Indicators

Table 11. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation and proportion of people with access to safe housing (%)

Indicator	1990			2000			2015 (target)
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	
Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation	75.5	34.5	55	96.5	44.1	71.8	85
Proportion of people with access to safe housing	-	-	-	-	-	-	96.1

Figure (25) Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation



### Status of progress to date

With the increase in the population, it is important to meet the growing needs for services, particularly basic services, and to improve living standards in urban and more specifically in rural areas, in order to encourage rural residents to continue to live in their areas, by providing basic

services and public facilities to the entire population.

Successive development plans have stressed the importance of health issues. This is shown in various indicators, including

- Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation. It rose from 55% in 1990 to 71.8% in 2000 (44.1% in rural areas and 96.5% in urban areas). This improvement came through large-scale sanitation projects carried out in different parts of the country.
- Percentage of people with access to safe housing rose to 96.1% in 2000. This significant development in housing was achieved by the private sector and the government. The government contributed by building workers' housing, popular apartment buildings, and apartment buildings for university teachers. The

government is now considering a number of laws and legislation which might speed up the implementation of organizational plans and reduce arbitrary buildings. Law # 26 of 2000 which amends Law # 60 of 1997, concerned with residential expansion, was passed to provide appropriate housing in all Syrian governorates and regions.

### Challenges

High population growth poses an important challenge, since it magnifies the need for providing basic services, including:

- Expansion of sanitation networks, particularly in rural areas, and also provision of safe and healthy housing to the increasing numbers of the population.
- Recycling sewage water for agricultural and industrial use.
- Mass arbitrary housing as a result of the concentration of economic activity in large cities, absence of effective control on the part of relevant authorities, and lack of qualified and trained personnel to control this problem.

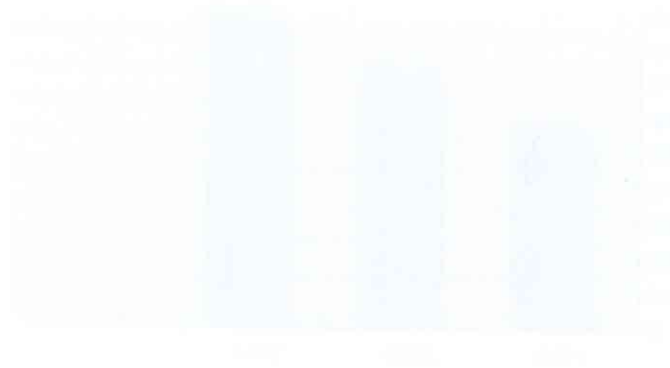


- The necessity of expanding and modernizing organizational plans in order to accommodate population growth.

**Requirements of domestic and external resources**

Providing safe housing and improved sanitation to the growing number of people requires more local and international efforts in order to meet the

financial and material aspects of this challenge. It also requires building large scale well studied and organized residential projects, and helping more young people to find suitable housing. This is in addition to building sewage networks and making them accessible to the entire population, providing training to workers and finding appropriate solutions for sewage treatment.



## CHAPTER NINE

### Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

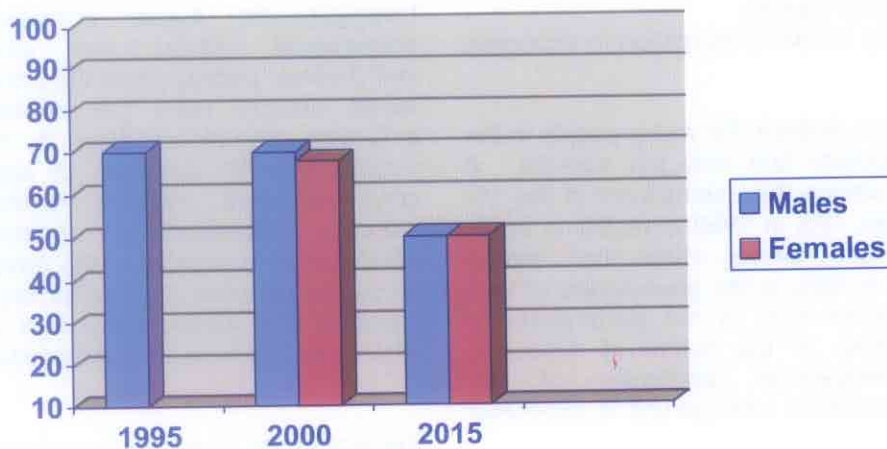
**Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.**

Indicators

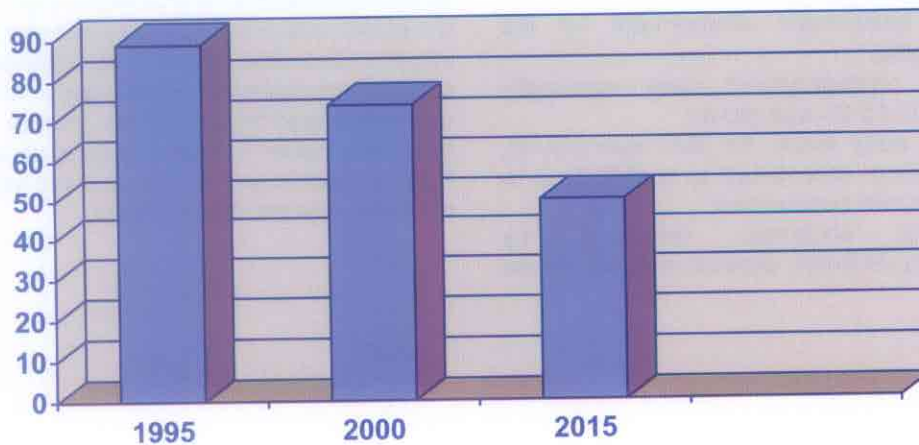
Table (12) Indicators of youth unemployment (%)

Indicator	1995	2000			2015 E-60EF
		Males	Females	Total	
Ratio of 15-24 unemployment to the total unemployed	70	69.8	67.7	68.9	50
Ratio of unemployed females to males in the 15-24 age group	89	73.9			50

Figure (26) Ratio of 15-24 unemployment to the total unemployed



(27) Ratio of unemployed females to males in the 15-24 age group



#### Status of progress to date

Successive development plans in Syria aimed at finding job opportunities for the increasing number of annual new comers to the labour market as a result of the high population growth rate on the one

hand, and high economic activity rate, particularly among women, on the other. The increasing number of new comers to the labour market which exceeds demand for the workforce as a result of the inability of the national economy in its present

condition to create sufficient job opportunities for these growing numbers, created an imbalance between supply and demand for the workforce in the labour market. This also caused a rise in unemployment, with its clearly detrimental impact at the economic and social levels, and its harmful consequences on the individual, the family, society, and consequently on human development. This impact differs from rural to urban areas and from one governorate to another.

Aware of the negative impact of unemployment, the Syrian government started to work on the elimination of this problem. This was stressed in successive five-year plans, particularly the last plan which included:

- Creating a balance between supply and demand for the workforce in the labour market;
- Providing appropriate jobs for new comers to the labour market;
- Increasing female participation in economic activity.

Unemployment is a problem for young people in the first place, particularly first time job seekers. It dropped slightly among the unemployed of the 15-24 age group from 70% in 1990 to 68.9% in 2000. The rate was higher among males than among females. It rose to 80% in the governorate of Idlib and dipped to about 61% in the governorate of Damascus, because of the nature of economic activity, the educational attainment of the population, and women's participation in economic activity.

The Agency for Combating Unemployment was also created with the aims of:

- Creating sustainable employment for the unemployed;
- Reducing unemployment rates, especially among the 15-24 age group;
- Providing easy loans for the unemployed, individually or collectively, to enable them to start their own businesses;
- Addressing economic recession by increasing domestic product and per capita income.

The government has also activated the role of employment offices throughout the country in order to find job opportunities for the unemployed in the public and private sectors, and reduce unemployment among the youth, since they constitute the largest proportion of the unemployed work force as shown in the table above.

### **Challenges**

The increasing numbers of new comers to the labour market exceed the annual demand for the workforce because of the economy's inability to create sufficient job opportunities for this many workers. This created an imbalance between supply and demand for the workforce in the labour market and a rise in unemployment rates. The requirement for the mobilization of all efforts for the creation of job opportunities included: expanding activities of the Agency for Combating Unemployment, further activating the role of employment offices, and looking for new investments, particularly in the private sector, which would provide more job opportunities through activating Investment Law # 10. This also necessitates the provision of legal and financial conditions and modern economic initiatives, reducing bureaucratic complications, and accelerating investment in the private sector, either by setting up small projects for the unemployed, or financing the infrastructure and service projects which generate new job opportunities.

### **Requirements of domestic and external resources**

Creating job opportunities for the increasing number of the unemployed necessitates large investments in the public and private sectors in order to provide job opportunities and financial assistance, which help curb unemployment, particularly in rural and underprivileged regions of the country. Employment rates are higher in these regions as a result of the high population growth rate and the small number of available new job opportunities.

**Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries**

Indicator 46: Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (unavailable)

**Status of progress to date**

Health and medical services have developed significantly in the past ten years. The national medical industry has made quick and significant progress and has reached a stage where it could produce active, safe medicines and available to all.

- Until the early 1990s, there were 340 drugs and 25 factories.
- By the end of 1993, there were 1,115 drugs and 40 factories.
- By the end of 1995, the number of licensed drugs rose to 1,636, and the number of factories to 47.
- By 2000, the number of licensed drugs jumped to 2,886, and the number of factories to 52.
- The number of licensed drugs at the time of preparation of this report was 3,430. This number covers most medical groups (about 90%)
- National drug factories obtained licenses from international companies to manufacture their drugs.
- There are 349 drugs manufactured under international licenses, and 12 factories which hold such licenses.
- 40 national drug factories export their products to 33 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America.
- For over a year, Syria has been manufacturing herbal medicines. So far, there are 4 factories manufacturing such herbs and 26 licensed varieties.
- 

- All national factories follow GMP instructions. Most of the factories have obtained ISO certificates and will obtain the environmental management certificate, ISO 1400 by 2004.

**Challenges**

Despite the development of drug factories to a high degree of scientific and technical sophistication, there are a number of challenges facing the national drug industry, most importantly, the GAT agreement which Syria will join in the coming few years. Hence owners of drug factories need to reassess their position with a comprehensive scientific and economic view of the future, and should focus on the following issues:

- Developing work at drug factories;
- Developing factories to produce high-tech drugs;
- Manufacturing raw materials (active and subsidiary);
- Promoting herbal medicine, especially from natural sources available in Syria;
- Conducting chemical and botanical medical research;
- Continuing support of this industry which has a significant impact on the national economy and the health of the population.

**Ability to keep up progress**

In order to achieve progress, factories should maintain the quality standards achieved by the national drug industry, send personnel to international companies to acquire the most advanced technical expertise in the area

**Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.**

Indicators

Table (13) Telephone lines and personal computers per 1000 people

Indicator	1990	2000	2015 (target)
Telephone lines per 1000 people	43.8	103.1	200
Personal computers per 1000 people	-	16.3	30

### Status of progress to date

Taking advantage of the scientific and technological progress happening in the world requires a number of factors, including:

1. **Telephones:** The state is trying to provide telephones to everyone by building and expanding networks in order to meet the increasing demand for this service. In 1990 there were 43.8 lines per 1000 people, while in 2000, the figure rose to 103.1, with an increase of 59.3 per thousand.
2. **Computers:** Computers have acquired an active position in all areas of work; and they are playing an increasingly basic and active role in communicating information, knowledge and expertise through the internet, which connects people to the outside world and provides access to recent advances in different sciences.

Based on this premise, the National Information Centre was created. It aims at spreading knowledge and information through the internet, conducting free training courses on all levels, so that everyone can benefit from computer services. Government ministries and institutions have

been provided with computers and staff was trained on the use of this technology.

### Challenges

The state has realized important achievements in the area of communications and information in order to make the benefits of technology available to all sectors of the population; but there are still great challenges, most importantly:

- Providing communication services to the largest possible number of people;
- Keeping abreast with scientific and technological advances by providing internet services and making technology available to all.

### Requirements of domestic and external resources

Disseminating information technology and making means of communications available to all requires additional financial resources and an increase in the money allocated for communications, as this requires building new telephone networks and expanding existing ones. It also necessitates building a large Internet network and making it available to most of the population.

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## Appendix (1)

A summary of leading indicators included in the Millennium Development Goals Report in Syria

Indicator	1990	1993	1995	1999	2000	2001	1015 (Target)
Proportion of extremely thin children	-	2.1	-	-	0.8	-	0.4
Proportion of average thin children	-	6	-	-	3	-	1.5
Proportion of children with extreme underweight problems	-	3	-	-	1.7	-	0.9
Proportion of children with medium underweight problems	-	9.1	-	-	5.2	-	2.6
Proportion of children with extreme shortness	-	12	-	-	5.2	-	2.6
Proportion of children with medium shortness	-	14	-	-	10.6	-	5.3
Net enrolment ratio in primary education	95.4	-	-	-	98.7	-	100
Proportion of pupils who reach grade six	84	-	-	-	83.1	-	100
Literacy rate among the population (15-24) years	88	-	-	-	94.8	-	100
Percentage of girls to boys in primary education	99.5	-	-	-	99.6	-	100
Percentage of girls to boys in lower upper secondary education	70	-	-	-	85	-	100
Ratio of girls to boys in general upper secondary education	77	-	-	-	85	-	100
Ratio of girls to boys in vocational upper secondary education	72	-	-	-	96	-	100
Ratio of girls to boys in university education	58	-	-	-	81	-	100
Ratio of literate women to men (15-24) years	86	-	-	-	88	-	100
Proportion of women's participation in material production sector	6	-	-	-	6	-	15
Proportion of women in community and social services	7	-	-	-	11	-	20
Proportion of women in production services sector	27	-	-	-	43	-	50
Proportion of women in the People's Assembly	8.5	-	-	-	10.4	-	-
Proportion of women ministers to the totals number of ministers	3	-	-	-	6	-	-
Under five mortality rate	-	41.7	-	29	-	20.2	13
Infant mortality rate	-	24.6	-	24	-	18.1	12
Proportion of children immunized against measles	-	83.5	-	85.3	-	90.3	99
Mothers' mortality rate per 100 thousand births	143	107	-	71	-	65.4	32
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	-	76.8	-	86.5	-	-	100
Family planning instruments use rate	-	39.9	-	45.8	-	46.6	60
Number of registered AIDS cases	-	-	19	-	12	14	-
Number of AIDS cases per 100 thousand	-	0.1	-	-	0.07	0.08	-
Number of registered malaria cases	56	-	91	-	6	61	-
Number of malaria caused deaths	5	-	5	-	5	5	-
Proportion of land area covered by forest	-	2.38	-	-	-	3.02	-
Proportion of land area protected to maintain biological diversity	-	-	0.22	-	0.36	-	-
Carbon dioxide emissions (ton, a year, per capita)	2.3	-	2.8	-	3.5	-	-
Proportion of the population with access to clean drinking water	65.6	-	-	-	84.2	-	92
Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation	55	-	-	-	71.8	-	85
Proportion of the population with access to safe housing	-	-	-	-	96.1	-	-
Proportion of the unemployed (15-24 years) to the total number unemployed workers	-	-	70	-	68.9	-	50
Proportion of unemployed females to males (15-24 years)	-	-	89	-	73.9	-	50
Telephone lines per a 1000 people	43.8	-	-	-	103.1	-	200
Computers per 1000 people	-	-	-	-	16.3	-	30

## Appendix (2)

### Progress achieved in reaching Millennium Development Goals

Goal/Target	Possibility of achieving goal				Condition of supporting environment		
	Possible	Likely	Unlikely	No data	Strong	medium	Weak, but could improve
<b>Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger</b>							
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day;				√	√		
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.				√		√	
<b>Achieve Universal Primary education</b>							
Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education;	√				√		
<b>Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b>							
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and upper secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015.	√				√		
<b>Reduce Child Mortality</b>							
Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	√				√		
<b>Improve Maternal Health</b>							
Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.	√				√		
<b>Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases</b>							
Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS	√				√		
Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of malaria and other major diseases.		√			√		
<b>Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b>							
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources;	√					√	
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water;							
By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.		√				√	
<b>Develop a Global Partnership for Development</b>							
Provide decent and productive work for youth		√			√		
cooperation with pharmaceutical companies to provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries		√			√		
Provide technical expertise, especially in information and communications							



### Appendix (3)

#### Ability to prepare and monitor progress in Millennium Development Goals

Goal	Quality and regularity of survey information			Quality of survey data			Statistical analysis			Statistics in drawn policy			Report preparation and published information		
	strong	medium	weak	strong	medium	weak	strong	medium	weak	strong	medium	weak	strong	medium	weak
Poverty and hunger		√			√			√				√	√		
Primary and general education	√			√			√				√		√		
Gender equality	√				√			√			√		√		
Infant mortality	√			√			√			√			√		
Mothers health	√			√				√			√		√		
Water and sanitation	√				√			√			√			√	
AIDS	√			√				√			√			√	
Environmental sustainability		√			√			√			√			√	
Other indicators and quality goals	√				√			√		√				√	