

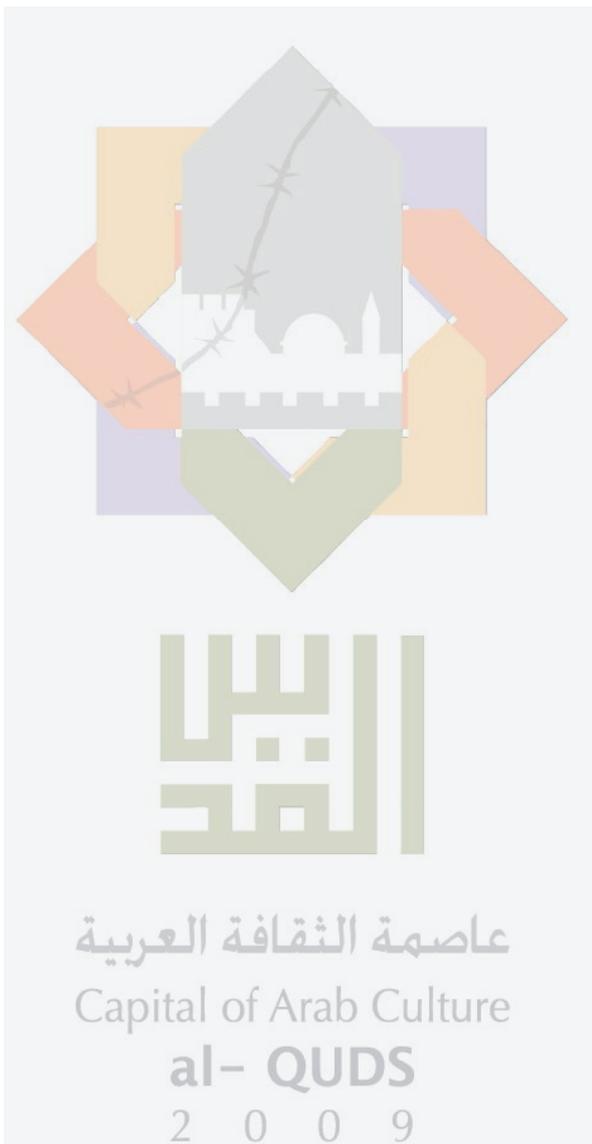


**Palestinian National Authority  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

# **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

**(Statistical Report)**

**January, 2009**



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## **Disclaimer**

**“The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations or UNDP.”**

## Preface

This statistical report is considered as a contribution from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to the national efforts for monitoring the progress so far achieved in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Palestinian Territory. The preparation of this statistical report reflects the commitment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) towards the Millennium Declaration of September 2000. After the declaration, the MDGs were one of the main determinants when preparing the developmental plans for Palestine. This report differs from the previous ones in that it presents the amended version of the MDGs which was adopted by the United Nations in January 2008.

The available data indicates that political environment is highly correlated with development. The data reveals that if the political situation is stable then Palestine will be one of the most successful countries in achieving the MGDs in 2015. But as a result of the severely deteriorated political situation that the Palestinian Territory witnessed since September 2000 (Al-Aqsa Intifada), and the strong Israeli reaction against the Palestinians, the developmental plans faced many obstacles, which are clearly reflected on the achievements gained since 1994.

The data indicates that the trends in most of the MDGs indicators were in line with the planned goals or even better than the normal required trends. But after 2000, the picture was inverted, and the trends became either slow or reversed.

In addition to the deterioration in the political situation, the Israeli forces took aggressive measures against the Palestinian people, land, and infrastructure. Thousands of dunums of agricultural land were demolished, thousands of houses destroyed, hundreds of schools were attacked or closed for long periods, many ambulances were fired on, closures imposed on cities and towns, and military checkpoints prevented people from moving to their work or for health care. Thousands of people were killed or arrested, tens of women and their babies died at the checkpoints on their way to hospital for delivery, the environment was harmed from the Israeli measures. Many Palestinians became disabled due to injuries from Israeli forces. The poverty rates jumped dramatically because many Palestinians lost their jobs.

We hope that this report will present a picture about the status of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs by presenting the available data as a time series since 1995, to help the Palestinian government in planning toward achieving the goals by 2015.

January, 2009

Luay Shabaneh, PhD  
President of PCBS



## Introduction

The PNA committed itself to achieve the MDGs by 2015. One of the ways to monitor the progress made towards the MDGs is the national report. The first report was issued in 2002, prepared in cooperation between the PNA and the UNDP; the second one was prepared in 2005 in cooperation between the National Steering Committee of the MDGs and a number of UN organizations. This report differs from the previous one in that it presents the amended version of the MDGs which was adopted by the United Nations in January 2008, after the Statistical Committee of ESCWA in its eighth session held in Beirut in October 2008 recommended that member countries prepare national reports using the new version of the MDGs.

The new version of the MDGs showing the amendments on the indicators and goals can be found on the following link: [http://css.escwa.org.lb/sd/14OCT08/1\\_4A.pdf](http://css.escwa.org.lb/sd/14OCT08/1_4A.pdf). The main changes are: the number of goals increased to 21 from 18, and the number of indicators increased to 60 instead of 48. This amendment was done after the recommendation of the UN Secretary General to review the MDGs, their goals, and the indicators to ensure that they better reflect the Millennium Declaration.

Under the unstable political situation in Palestine, it is difficult to plan in the long or even medium term, since the situation changes unpredictably. During the last eight years, the Palestinian Territory witnessed differing situations, some could be considered as relatively stable periods, while other periods were extremely volatile. During the period from September 2000 until the beginning of 2004, the Israeli measures against the Palestinians were very aggressive, which resulted in developmental deterioration. In 2004 and 2005 the situation became better, and it was reflected positively on development. Then, after the legislative elections in January 2006, the situation reverted back to crisis due to the international boycott of the Palestinian government, and developmental aid to the PNA was stopped. In 2007 an internal division occurred between West Bank and Gaza Strip, which added more pressure on development and planning in Palestine.

On the other hand, the planning and reform system adopted by the PNA in the last years was a very positive factor which helped in improving the development process in Palestine. The mid-term plans 2005-2007, and 2008-2011 depended totally on an adopted planning policy. The determinants of this policy intersects with the MDGs. This policy assisted in increasing the impact of humanitarian aid provided by the donor community which, at the end, contributed in the long-term developmental programs like poverty reduction, management enhancement, and aid coordination.

This report assists the PNA in the orientation of planning towards a national developmental vision, customization and adoption of the MDGs, and improving national planning as a comprehensive monitoring system guides the planning process.

The report presents the progress achieved so far towards in the MDGs in Palestine using the available statistics at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics as a time series. In addition, it attempts to identify the strengths and challenges facing the achievement of the MDGs, and to propose recommendations for achieving the goals by 2015. The annex at the end of the report summarizes the status of each goal in term of data availability and quality, and investigates the possibility of achieving the goals according to the current trends.

Finally, it is worth taking into consideration that, in the current political situation, it is extremely difficult to determine if it is possible to achieve the goals and to commit ourselves to this promise by 2015, since no one knows what direction the economic, social, and political situation will take in the near future. Experience has shown that conditions can change very quickly.

# Goal 01



Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger



*Note: Because the oldest data available concerning most of the indicators refer to 1995 or later, we considered the base year for each indicator as the oldest data available and not 1990 as required by the MDGs.*

## Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The PNA realized that poverty is one of the main factors that affect sustainable development in Palestine. Therefore, poverty alleviation policies are always one of the main determinants in developmental planning strategies. For example, the 2005-2007 mid-term plan is based on four main developmental programs which intersect directly with the MDGs: social security; investment in human capital; investment in quality management; and creation of the best environment for investment in the private sector.

**Table 1.1: Indicators under Goal 1, 1996-2007**

Indicator	Year										
	1996	1997	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1.1 Proportion of population below national poverty line*	23.6	22.5	20.3	..	27.9	..	..	25.6	29.5	30.8	34.5
1.2 Poverty gap ratio	6.2	6	5.5	..	7.6	..	..	6.6	8	8.5	9.8
1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	..	..	7.3	..	6.8	..	..	7.2	5.4	7.2	6.8
1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed	..	..	..	..	11.3	-9.8	0.0	0.8	0.2	-0.1	0.0
1.5 Employment-to-population ratio	31.0	32.3	35.4	36.5	28.9	26.2	30	29.6	31.2	31.6	32.9
1.6 Proportion of employed people living below national poverty line	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35.1	38.4
1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment	34.5	32.7	38.9	29.3	33.2	37.1	39.2	37.7	36.2	36.1	36.2
1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age	3.6	..	..	2.5	..	..	..	4.9	..	2.9	..
1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

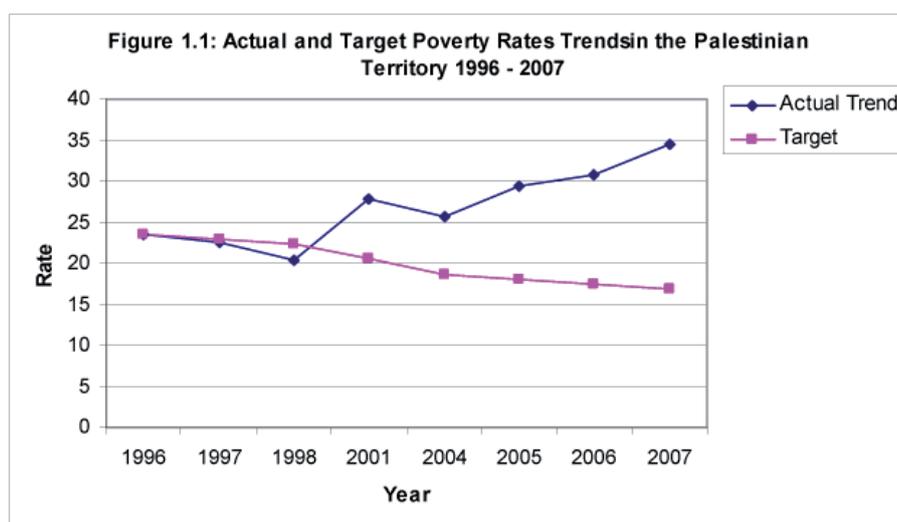
.. : Means data is not available

\*: The national poverty line is used instead of \$1 per day. The national poverty line is updated regularly.

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

*The poverty trend is not stable in Palestine; it oscillates between increasing and decreasing depending on the political situation. It is not expected to achieve this goal by 2015.*

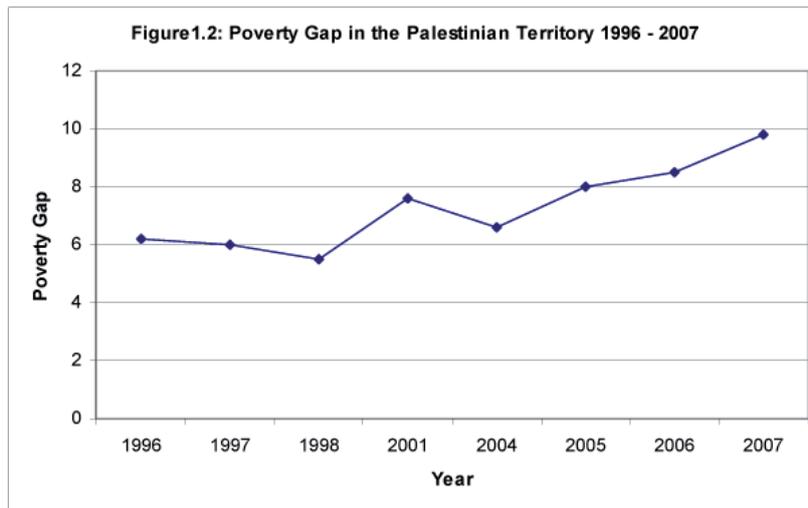
Data in Table (1) indicates that poverty in Palestine witnessed two stages: a) A better stage during the period 2000 and before; b) A deteriorated period after 2000. In the first stage the poverty rate was declining fast, faster than the targeted rate, while in the second stage, the rate began increasing very fast, and became the opposite of the required trend. The data reveals that poverty is most common in the rural areas in comparison to the urban areas and refugee camps. Another important note from the data is that poverty rates are correlated with the gender of the head of household; whereas poverty rates were lower among households headed by males before 2000, the situation became the opposite after 2000 when poverty became lower among households headed by women.



#### Poverty Gap:

*Since 2000, hunger increased among the poor. The share of the poor of national consumption is too low.*

In addition to the increase in poverty rates since 2000, the poverty gap also increased, and it increased steeply after 2000. (see Figure 1.2). The continuation of this trend adds more pressure to the poverty phenomenon in Palestine, and requires the government to allocate more effort toward bridging this gap, in addition to the effort required for combating poverty. The note on poverty also applies to the poverty gap, i.e., the poverty gap is wider for households headed by men than for those headed by women, especially after 2000.

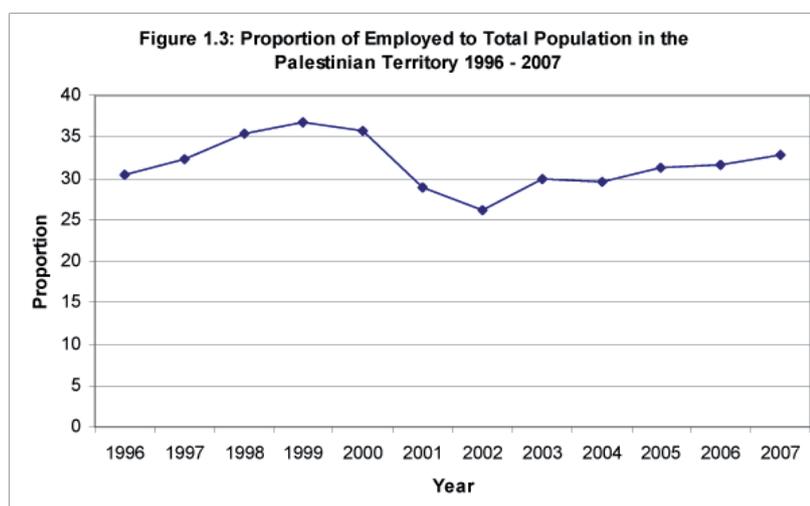


The consumption share of the lower quintile gives a clear picture about the justice of the distribution of consumption in the community. If this share is close to 20% it indicates that there is fair distribution, while if it is lower than 20% it means that there is no justice in the consumption distribution. Table (1) and Figure (1.3) shows that the share was low and stable during the period 1998-2007. Again, the data reveals that the situation is better among households headed by women in comparison to households headed by men.

*Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.*

Employment to population ratio is lower in Gaza Strip, among women, and in Refugee Camps.  
This goal is not expected to be achieved by 2015

ata in Table (1) reveals that the employment to population ratio followed a stable trend during the period 1996-2007. The ratio was higher in the West Bank than in Gaza Strip, and higher among men in comparison to women, and higher in rural and urban areas than in refugee camps. Also, the ratio declined after 2000 in contrast to the period before 2000. From Figure (1.4) it is clear that the ratio is correlated to political situation: before 2000 it was increasing, while during the difficult period of 2000-2002 it decreased. After 2002 it started to increase on line with the relative improvement in the political situation.

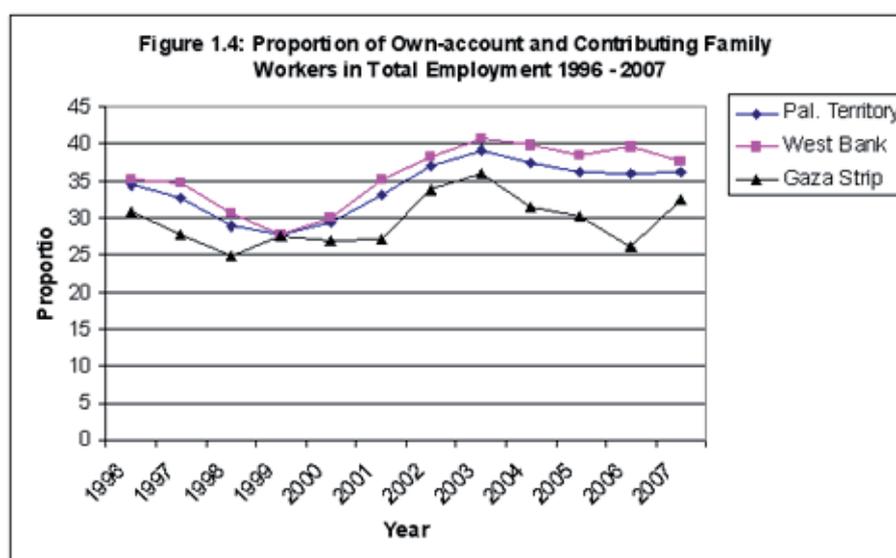


*Providing a working opportunity does not mean an escape from the poverty cycle. More than 35% of workers are poor.*

Available data indicates that more than 35% of the employed persons were poor in 2006 and 2007. This emphasizes the need for a wage policy that guarantees wages that moves employees over the poverty line.

*Employed females contribute more than employed males to the household expenditure.*

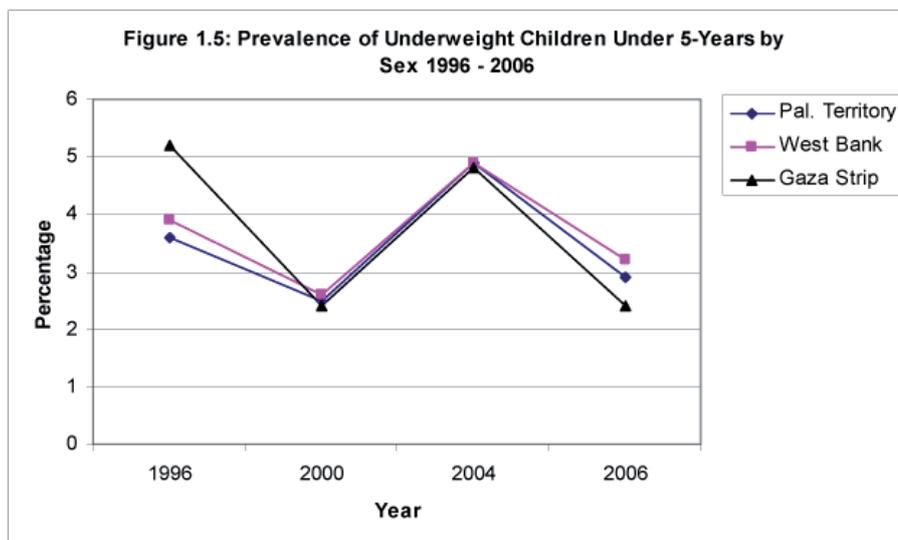
Wage employed persons who contribute to household expenditure are higher in the West Bank than in Gaza Strip, and wage employed women contribute more than men in the household expenditure. Also, wage employed persons in rural areas contribute more than those in urban areas and refugee camps. The contribution in household expenditure of employed persons in refugee camps is significantly lower than rural and urban areas. (see Figure (1.5)).



*Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.*

*Females are more subject to hunger than males in the Palestinian Population. This goal can be achieved with few additional efforts.*

Under weight prevalence among children can be used as a good indicator for measuring poverty. This indicator can be used as an alternative to the amount of calories that a child consumes due to difficulties in obtaining data about calorie consumption. Data in Table (1) indicate that the percentage of underweight among children in the Palestinian Territory is very low, less than 5.0% during the period 1995 - 2006, with differences between males and females in favor of males. Also, the rate in rural areas is higher in comparison to urban areas and refugee camps. The gender and place of residence should be taken into consideration when planning to solve this problem.



### Challenges:

There are many challenges facing the achievement of this goal, such as the uncertainty of the peace process, the continuous increase of poor, the continued closure, food insecurity among a wide segment of the Palestinians, prevalence of nutrition diseases among under-five children, moving developmental aid to relief, high population growth rates, limited labor market, the demographic structure of the Palestinian population --- half of the population is less than 15 years old, food security in terms of quantity and quality for the poor groups, absence of a comprehensive welfare system, wide segment of unskilled labor force, and land confiscation by the Israelis deprives a wide segment of Palestinians of their income sources.

### Strengths:

In spite of the challenges facing the combat of poverty in Palestine, there are a lot of opportunities which can help in decreasing poverty rates. Among these strengths: the absorption by the public sector of a large number of employees, continuous donor funding of the PNA budget and the NGOs which employ a large number of employees, ability of the Palestinians to cope with the changes, the planning policies of the PNA that take into consideration combating poverty, commitment of the international organizations to provide food for the needy, continuation of UNRWA in providing its services to the refugees, and the coordination among the UN agencies in the Palestinian Territory increases the efficiency of their support.

### Recommendations:

The following recommendations can help in combating poverty in the Palestinian Territory:

- Adoption of population policies by the government
- Developing a national strategy for fighting poverty, taking into account increasing the coverage of humanitarian assistance, and building the social security network.
- Developing plans to solve the unemployment problem
- Providing suitable infrastructure for education, health, transportation, energy, etc, and skilled cadre.
- Developing strategies for food security under exceptional situations.



# Goal 02



**Achieve Universal Primary Education**



## Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.

Available data indicate that almost all children of primary education age are enrolled in schools. If the trend continues in this manner, then the goal will be achieved before 2015.

Since 1994, significant accomplishments, horizontally and vertically, were achieved in education: hundreds of new schools were constructed in all localities, thousands of teachers were recruited, and a modern Palestinian curriculum was prepared for all grades in general education, with a main part of it related to information technology. These accomplishments resulted in increasing the enrollment rates, especially among females.

Table 2.1: Education Indicators, 1995 - 2007

Indicator	Year*								
	1995	1997	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
2.1 Net enrolment ratio in basic education	87.5	87.9	91.7	92	91.3	89	87.5	83.9	..
2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary school	..	..	98.3	97.2	99.3	99.4	99.4	99.4	99.4
2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men	96.7	97	98.7	98.7	98.9	99.2	99.1	99.1	..
<b>Additional Indicators</b>									
Gross enrollment rates in Basic Education	..	..	96.8		96	95.2	..	..	..
Drop out Rates in Basic Education									
Males	..	2.13	1.75	0.94	0.85	0.8	0.85	..	..
Females	..	1.57	1.12	0.63	0.64	0.54	0.58	..	..
Growth of Number of Schools	1,474	1,611	1,853	2,006	2,109	2,192	2,277	2,430	..

..: Means data is not available

\* For indicators 2.1, 2.2 and additional indicators, the year refers to end of the scholastic year, i.e., 1995 means the scholastic year 1994/1995.

*Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.*

### Net enrollment in Basic Education:

The net enrollment rates witnessed a significant rise since 1994 as shown in Table (2.1), but we should take into account that the decrease in the rate in the most recent years may be because of the population estimates which depend on the 1997 census which is relatively old, in addition to an increase in drop out rates during Al-Aqsa Intifada since many pupils left schools due to the Israeli measures. However, when inspecting the enrollment rates from the household surveys, it is found that these rates are too high (Table 2.3). This finding supports the assumption about population estimates. On the other hand, the data reveals that Palestine reached full gender equity in terms of enrollment in basic education.

In spite of these achievements, a question arises about the quality of education provided in Palestine. The international exams for evaluation of the learning skills of pupils at basic stage indicate that Palestine ranks among the lowest in comparison to other countries (see Table 2.2)

**Table 2.2: Comparison between educational achievement in Arabic Language and Mathematics in 1999/2000 and 2004/2005 studies (Grade 4 – Basic education)**

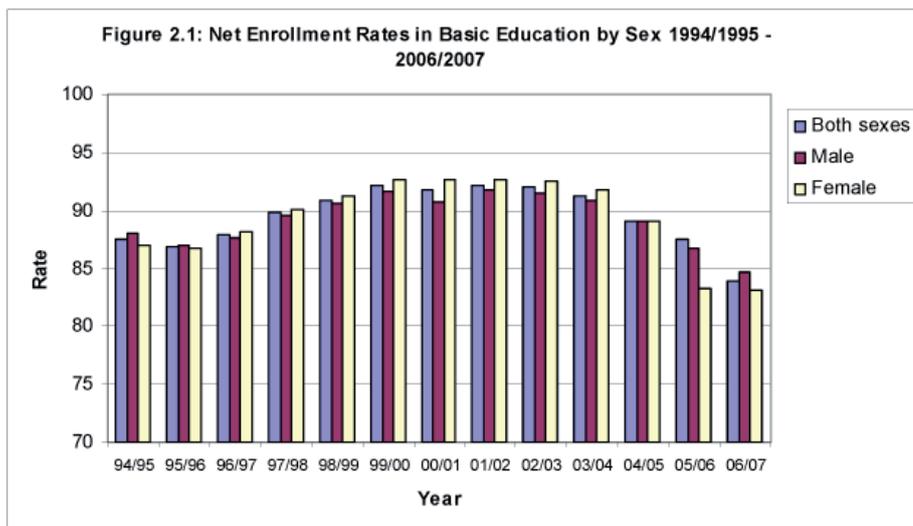
Indicator\Study	Education for All 1999/2000	National Assessment 2004/2005	Education for All 1999/2000	National Assessment 2004/2005
	Mathematics		Arabic Language	
Average achievement	38.5	26	53.9	53.7
Pass Rate	29%	11%	56.8%	58.6%

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Mid-Term Assessment of Education for All in Palestine 2007. Ramallah - Palestine.

**Table 2.3: Age Specific Enrollment Rates from the Impact of Israeli Measures Survey on Living Conditions of Palestinian Households (October 2005)**

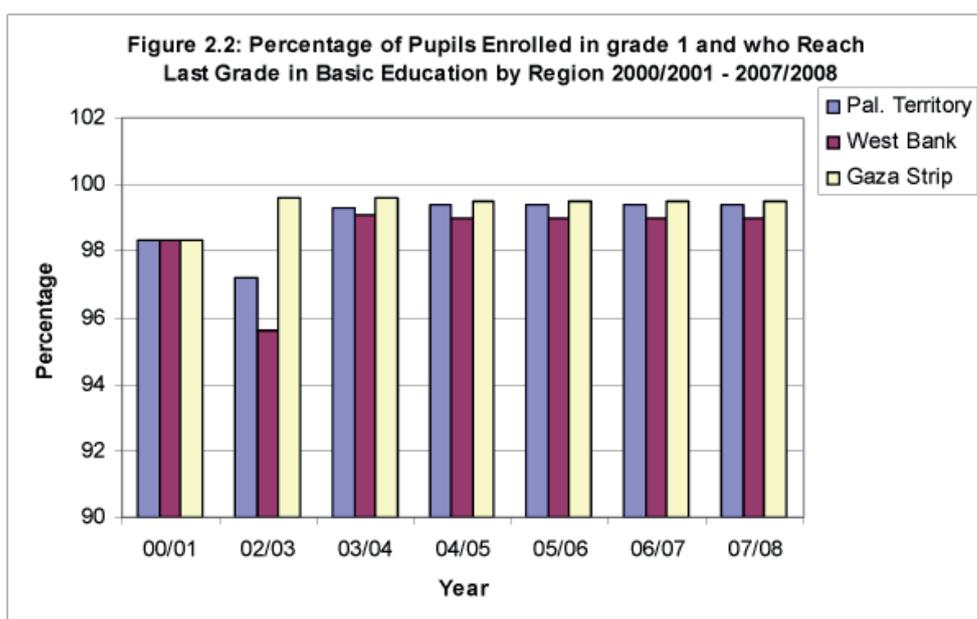
Age in Years	Males	Females	Both Sexes
6	95.5	96.1	95.8
7	98.8	99.3	99.1
8	98.8	99.8	99.1
9	100	99.2	99.6
10	98.9	100	99.4
11	98.4	100	99.1
12	98.9	99.3	99.1
13	98.2	98.7	98.5
14	94.8	95.3	95.1
15	92.6	95.9	94.2
<b>Basic Stage (6 – 15 years)</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>97.9</b>
16	81.5	88.2	84.5
17	74.5	82.6	78.4
<b>Secondary Stage (16 – 17)</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>81.5</b>
<b>Grand total (6 – 17)</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>89.7</b>

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Impact of Israeli Measure Survey on the Living Conditions of Palestinian Households (October 2005). Ramallah - Palestine.



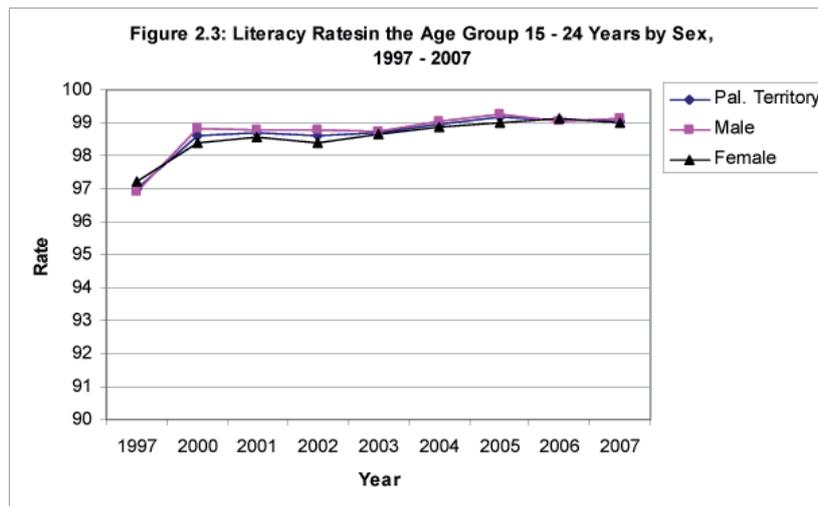
**Percentage of Pupils enrolled in Grade 1 Who Reach the Last Grade in Basic Education:**

Data in Table (2.1) reveals that since the scholastic year 2000/2001 the rates of continuation in the Basic Educational stage is high (almost 100%). These rates are similar in West Bank and Gaza Strip. Therefore, this goal is already achieved in Palestine.



**Literacy Rates among Individuals 15 – 24 Years Old:**

The literacy rates in the age group 15 - 24 years is close to 100%; the rate is high in both West Bank and Gaza Strip and among males and females. Therefore, this goal is achieved.



### Repetition and Drop out Rates in Basic Education Stage:

Repetition and drop-out rates are low in basic education; the drop out rate dropped by 50% during the period 2001 - 2006. It dropped from 1.75% for males in 2001 to 0.85% in 2006, and among females it dropped from 1.12% in 2001 to 0.58% in 2006.

### Challenges:

There are many challenges facing the educational system and polices, including the maintenance of continuous high enrollment of all children of educational age, especially those with special needs, providing education for remote areas, continuation of international support to education, promotion of the coordination mechanisms among the providers of education (government, private sector, UNRWA), activation of Child Law and all related laws, including children's needs in the strategic and developmental plans, upgrading the qualifications of teachers, and developing the treatment programs for children to make them ready for facing the daily challenges.

### Strengths:

The main strengths in the education area are the government commitment to the Education for All project, participation of Palestine in the International Program for assessing educational achievement, availability of large number of national holders of university degrees which can be recruited in the education sector, the commitment of donors' community to support the education sector, availability of national curricula, and availability of clear plans and strategies for education.

### Recommendations:

- Continuation in providing free basic education
- Reviewing and developing the Palestinian Curricula specially for the basic stage
- Work on keeping the high enrollment rates including children with special needs
- Continuation in construction of new schools to meet the natural increase in children
- Keeping equal enrollment opportunities in education for both sexes
- Improving the quality of education, especially in the basic stage
- Increase interest in vocational education and training
- Increase cooperation between the education providers
- Conducting specialized studies about illiteracy to help in putting plans for fighting this phenomenon

# Goal 03



Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



## Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

In spite of the achievements in the area of gender equity at the national level, the Israeli measures still violate Palestinians human rights: assassinations, the annexation wall, arrests, closures, and other measures. Women occupy high level decision making positions (ministers and legislative council members), the Ministry of Women's Affairs was established, and gender units were created in all ministries to enable monitoring gender equity. However, full equity is not yet reached.

Table 3.1 : Goal 3 Indicators, 1995 - 2008

Indicators	Year*								
	1995	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2007	2008
<b>3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in education</b>									
Basic	94.7	95.3	96.7	97.8	98.1	97.7	98.2	98.2	98.3
Secondary	83.5	86.4	94.2	103.9	109	106.7	110	112.5	113.3
Higher Education	86.9	77.6	80.1	87	91.9	98	111	116.2	117.0
<b>3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector</b>	14.5	15.6	12.3	13.6	17.2	18.0	17.2	17.1	..
<b>3.3 Percentage of seats occupied by females in the Legislative Council</b>		5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	12.9	12.9	12.9

..: Means data not available

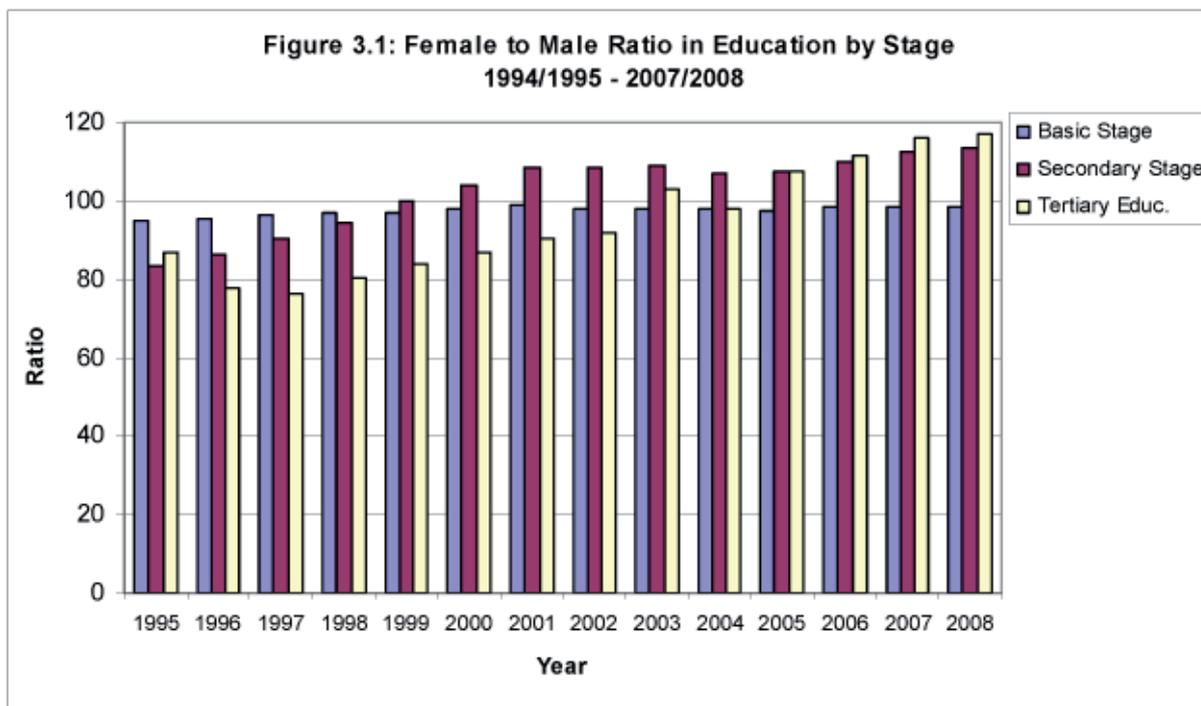
\* For education indicators, the year means the end of the scholastic year; for example, 1995 means 1994/1995.

*Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.*

### Gender Equity in Education:

Gender equity in education is achieved in Palestine, but one should deal cautiously with the figures because they might hide some information, especially for higher education.

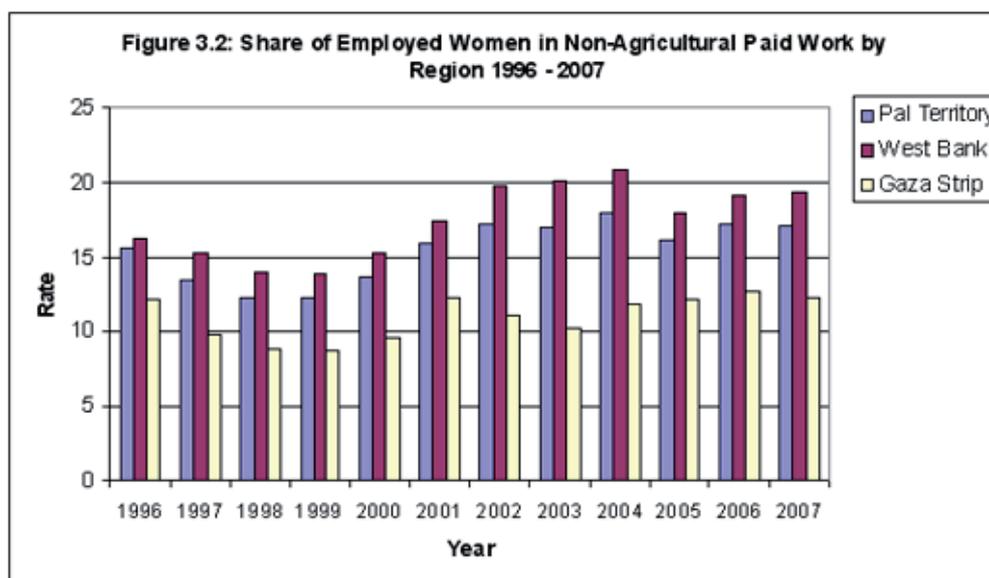
Female to male ratio in education is used as an indicator for measuring inequality between men and women in education. This ratio is high especially in secondary and tertiary education as shown in Table (3.1). The data indicates that there is a problem in male enrollment, which might reflect the high drop out rates among males because they leave school for work to help their families cope with the serious deterioration of the economic situation in Palestine. For higher education, because the figures might not reflect the real status, since there is more opportunity for males than females to enroll in universities abroad. In general, we can say that gender equity in education is achieved.

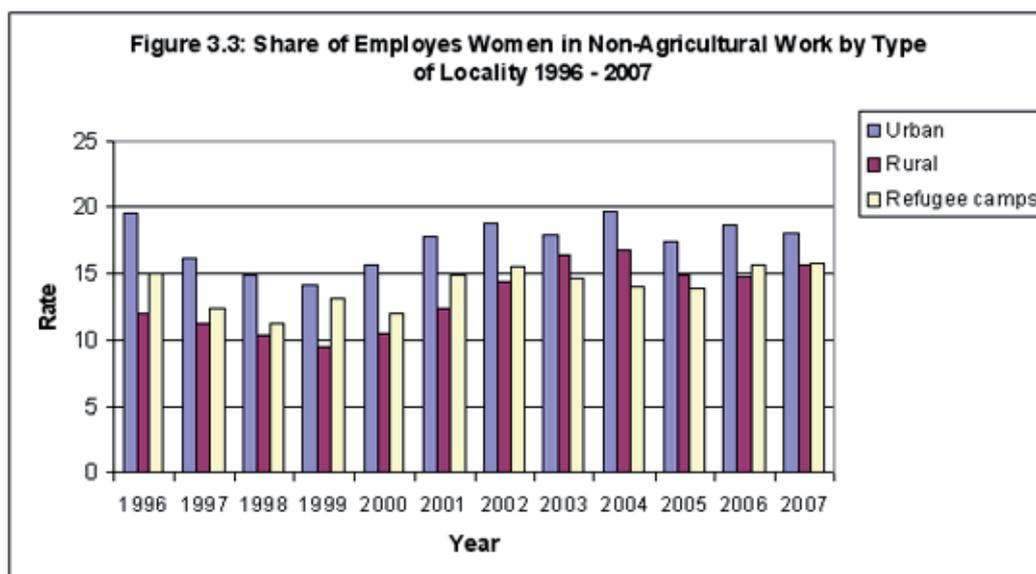


**Share of Women in Non-Agriculture Paid Work:**

*Almost all women working in non-agriculture are paid workers.*

The percentage of women share in non-agriculture paid work ranged between 12.3% and 18.0% during the period 1995-2007, the lowest share was in 1998 (12.3%) and the highest was in 2004 (18.0%); as seen from Table (3.1) above this percentage is close to 100%. This ratio is higher in the West Bank than in Gaza Strip, and it is slightly lower in rural areas in comparison with urban areas and refugee camps (see figures 3.2 and 3.3). In spite of these abstract figures, it is important to compare wage rates between women and men, since women's work is, in general, normally restricted to special occupations with lower wages.





### Women's Political Participation:

**Women's participation in decision making and legislative positions is still low.**

Women's participation in decision making and legislative positions is too low in comparison to men. In the 1996 legislative council elections women succeeded to win only 5.7% of the seats in the council, while this percentage increased to 12.9% in the 2006 elections. There are many constraints against women's participation in positions of leadership, such as social and cultural customs, and the educational background of women.

### Challenges:

There are many challenges facing the achievement of gender equity, including the unstable political situation, need for implementation of laws and legislations that organize women's rights, increasing the opportunity for women to enroll in all fields of education to open opportunities for them to compete for high ranked positions in the government, the assurance of a gender sensitive governmental budget, removing the classical view towards women, providing special training for potential women candidates for occupying decision making positions especially in local government councils, and providing accurate data that reflect the real inequality between men and women.

### Strengths:

There are many opportunities that can be seized to empower women in public life, among these the government adoption of women's rights through laws and legislation, the availability of the Women's Affairs Ministry, availability of many active organizations in the area of woman rights, the availability of financial support to projects which contribute in enhancing equality between women and men, the increase in public awareness towards women's rights, the national education curriculum which encourages equality between both sexes, and the spread of higher education institutions in almost all governorates which opens the door for women to enroll in higher education.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Conducting in-depth studies about gender inequality to understand the real reasons that prevent full gender equity.
2. Reviewing the current laws and legislations to remove any articles preventing gender equity.
3. Institutionalization of gender issues through mainstreaming them in planning
4. Ensure regular Palestinian participation in regional and international projects which support gender equity
5. Increase governmental support to job generation projects for both sexes

# Goal 04



Reduce Child Mortality



## Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

The current trend of child mortality rates indicates that the goal of reducing child mortality rates by two-third by 2015 will not be achieved.

The requirements for reducing child mortality rates like funding, poverty reduction, and providing medicine and vaccines, depend highly on the political situation, in addition to other factors which can be controlled by the government and people, like effective planning, increasing the awareness about reproductive health, vaccination campaigns, natural breast feeding, and others. Therefore, it will be difficult under the current situation in the Palestinian Territory to predict that this goal will be achieved by 2015.

Table 4.1: Indicators of Goal 4

Indicator	Period			
	1990-1994	1995 - 1999	1999 – 2003	2005-2006
4.1 Under-five mortality rates	33.2	28.7	28.3	28.2
4.2 Child mortality rate	27.3	25.5	24.2	25.3

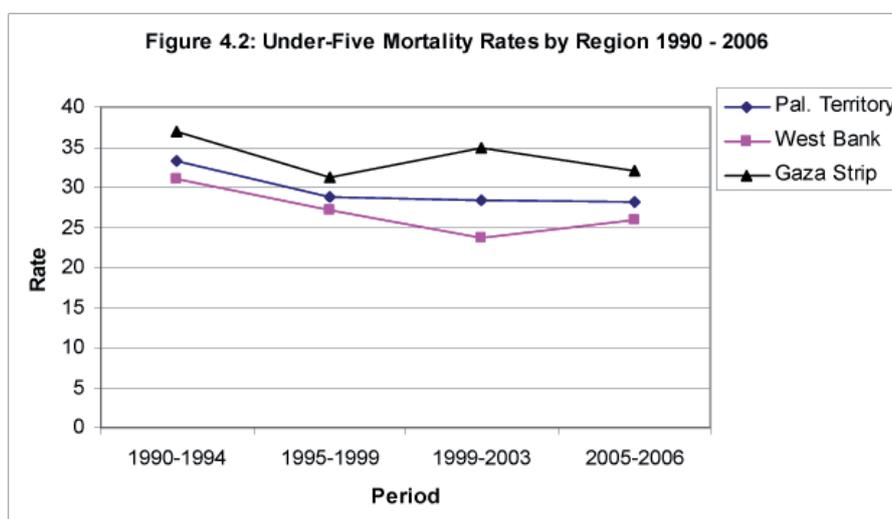
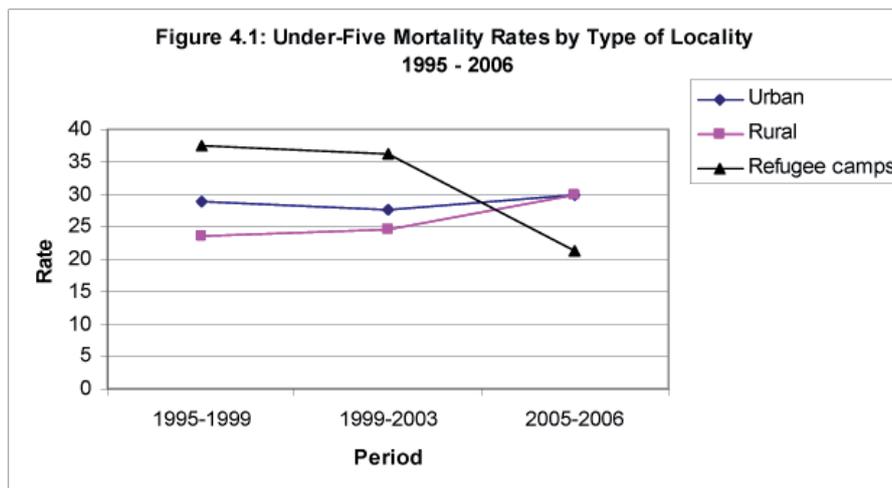
Indicator\Year	1996	2000	2004	2006
4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles	49	92.7	95.2	96.8

*Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.*

### Under-five mortality rates:

Since 2003, refugee camps witnessed the fastest decrease in under-five mortality rate in comparison with urban and rural areas. If the overall trend continues at the same rate the goal will not be achieved by 2015.

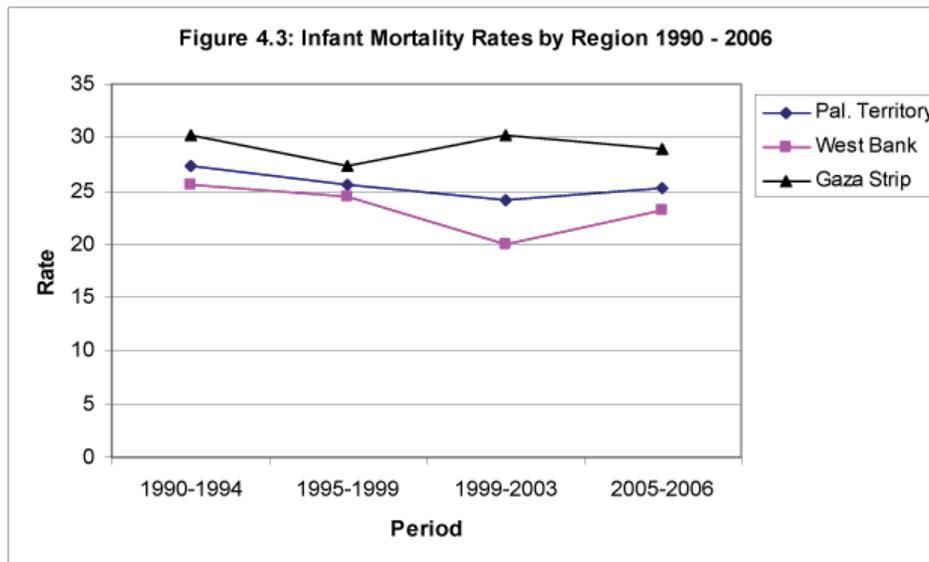
The available data indicate that the under-five mortality rate is lower than many Arab countries, and ranked as the fourth fastest country among the Arab countries in reducing this rate from 1990 to 2003, after Egypt, Oman, and Libya (ESCWA: MDGs in the Arab Region, 2003). The rate decreased from 33.2 cases per 1000 child during 1990-1994 to 28.2 cases during the period 2005-2006. The rate in Gaza Strip is higher in comparison to the West Bank; during the period 2005-2006 the rate was lower in refugee camps in comparison to urban and rural areas, while it was higher during the previous period.



### Infant Mortality Rate:

Infant mortality rate is higher in Gaza Strip than in West Bank.

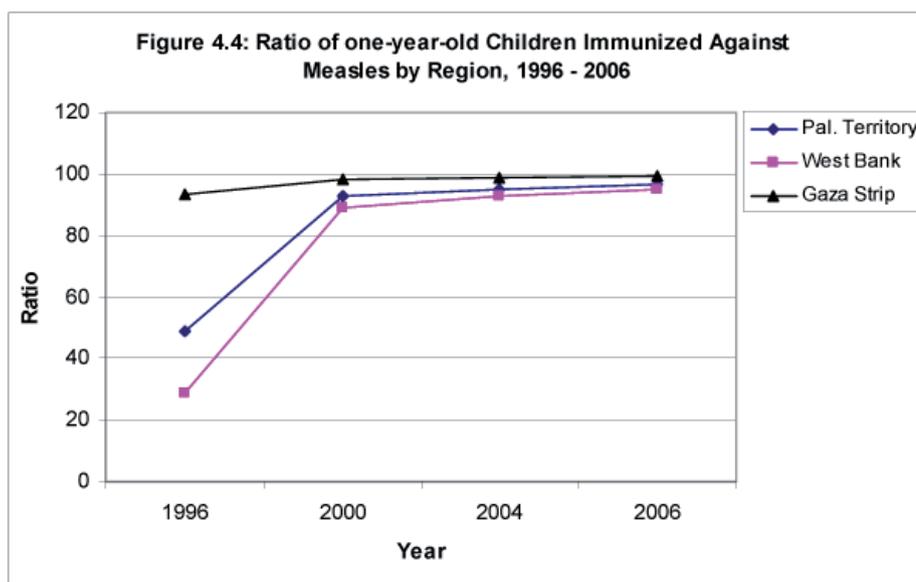
Infant mortality rate decreased from 27.3 cases per 1000 infants during the period 1990 - 1994 to 25.3 cases during 2005 - 2006, with some differences between West Bank and Gaza Strip; it is higher in Gaza Strip, and higher among males than among females. According to the current rate of decline, it is not expected to achieve the goal of reducing the rate by two-thirds by 2015.



### One-year-old Children Immunized against Measles:

Immunizing all one-year-old children against measles is an achievable goal by 2015

The available data reveals that almost all one-year-old children are immunized against measles. Data in Table (4.1) show that the percentage of immunized children increased from 49.0% in 1996 to 96.8% in 2006. The percentage is high in both West Bank and Gaza Strip, and for all types of localities (urban\rural\refugee camps). If the immunization rates continue in this trend, it will be possible to achieve the goal by 2015.



### Challenges:

There are several challenges facing the achievement of this goal, among these the assurance of sufficient budgets for the health sector, increasing awareness at the household level about child nutrition and best health practices, coverage of health services, including pregnancy services, in all localities, and improving the coordination mechanisms among health providers (public sector, UNRWA, NGOs, and private sector).

### Strengths:

The main strengths in the health sector are the continuous donor support for the health sector, the accumulative gained experience by health teams in working under exceptional conditions, and coverage of all children less than three-years old through free government health insurance.

### Recommendations:

1. Inclusion of mother and child health polices in the governmental plans
2. Strengthening the partnerships among all health services providers
3. Spreading health care centers in all localities
4. Increasing the awareness campaigns about child health
5. Providing accurate and up-to-date statistics about mortality and its causes

# Goal 05



Improve Maternal Health



## Goal 5: Improve maternal health

*Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.*

### Maternal mortality:

The available statistics about maternal mortality is very limited due to several reasons, for example, inaccurate data reported by the health centers, the need for costly surveys required for measuring this indicator, and the lack of national expertise to estimate the maternal mortality rate. The PCBS estimated this ratio as 70-80 cases per 100,000 deliveries from the Demographic Survey 1995.

### Births attended by skilled health personnel:

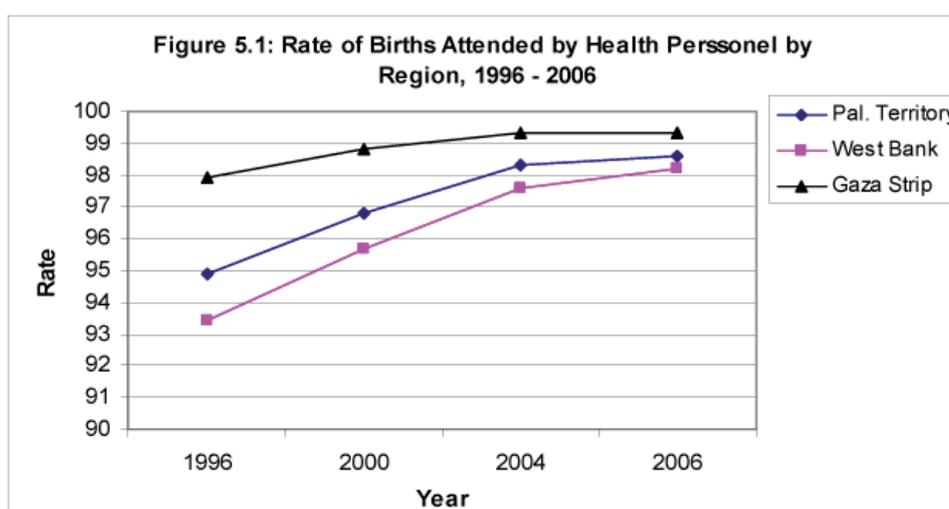
Almost all births in the Palestinian Territory are attended by health personnel.

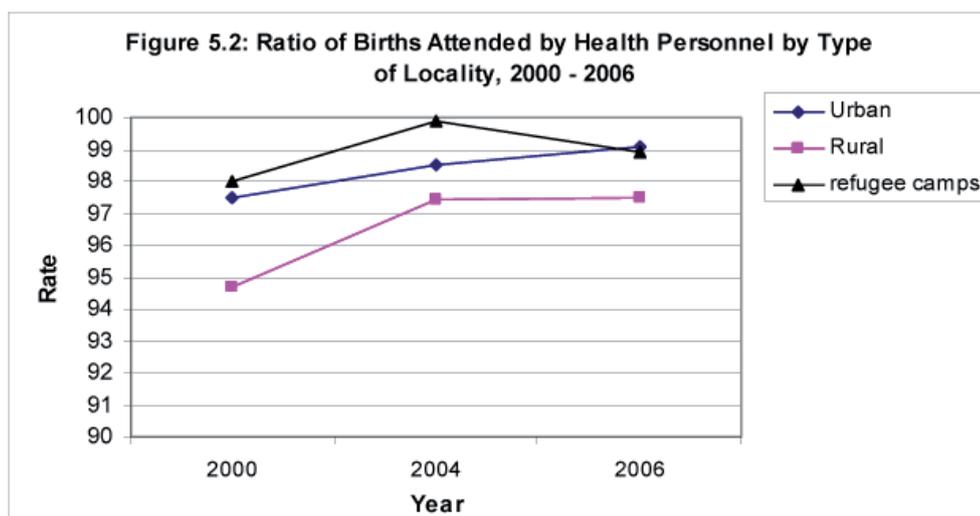
From Table (5.1), we notice that almost all births are attended by health personnel; during the period 1996 - 2006 the ratio increased from 94.9% to 98.6%. Therefore, it can be said that this goal is already achieved, and the need is to maintain this achievement.

**Table 5.1: Rate of Births Attended by Health Personnel by Region and Locality Type, 1996 - 2006**

Year	Region			Locality Type		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Urban	Rural	Refugee Camps
1996	94.9	93.4	97.9	..	..	..
2000	96.8	95.7	98.8	97.5	94.7	98
2004	98.3	97.6	99.3	98.5	97.4	99.9
2006	98.6	98.2	99.3	99.1	97.5	98.9

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*Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.*

### Contraceptive prevalence:

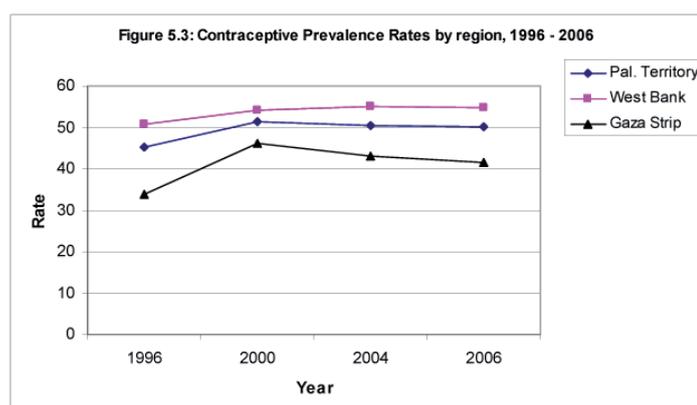
During the last ten years, a slight increase occurred in the contraceptive prevalence rate. The rate increased from 45.2% in 1996 to 50.2% in 2006, with significant differences between the West Bank and Gaza Strip; the rate is higher in the West Bank. As shown in Table (5.2) the rate has been almost stable since 2000 at around 50%. From the PCBS surveys, there are different reasons for not using contraceptive tools including ideological, social, desire for more children, fear of side effects, and the lack of trust in these tools.

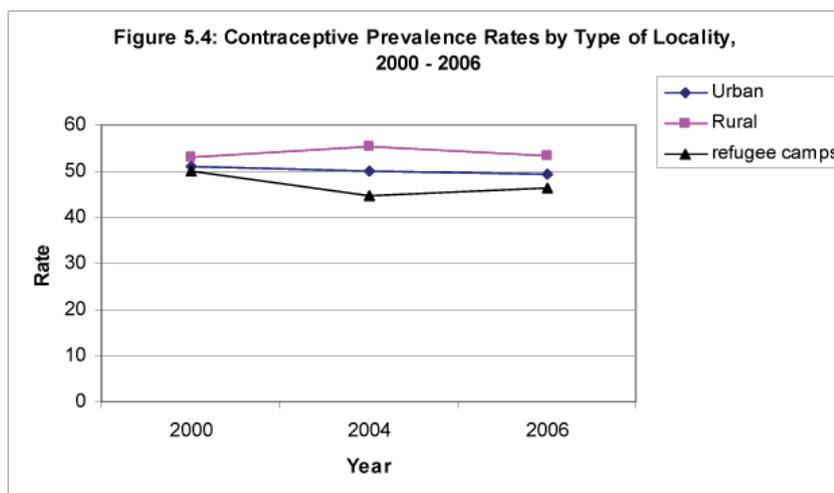
The data reveals that this goal will not be achieved by 2015.

**Table 5.2: Contraceptive Prevalence Rates by Region and Locality Type, 1996 – 2006**

Year	Region			Locality Type		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Urban	Rural	Refugee Camps
1996	45.2	50.7	33.9	..	..	..
2000	51.4	54.3	46.1	51.1	52.9	50.1
2004	50.6	55	43	50	55.3	44.6
2006	50.2	54.9	41.7	49.3	53.4	46.4

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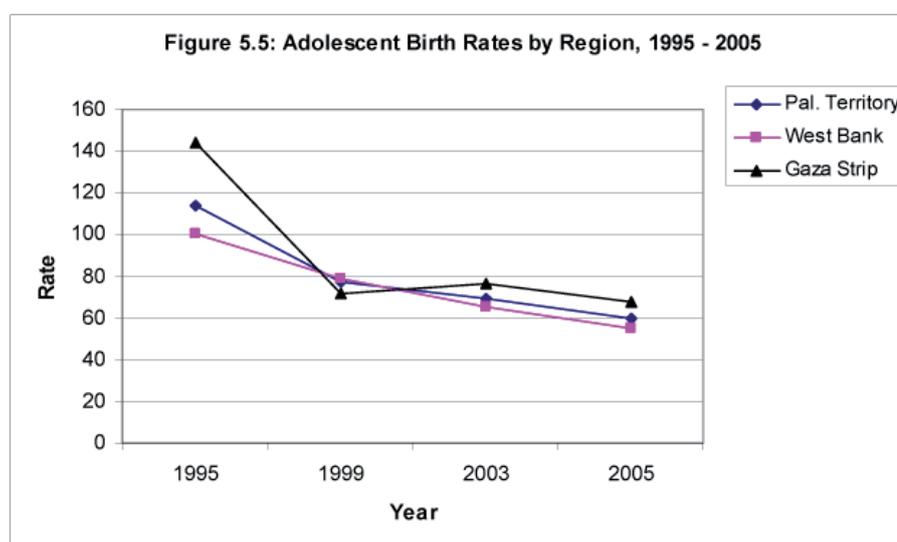
**Adolescent birth rate:**

During the last ten years a significant decrease incurred in the adolescent birth rate.

The adolescent birth rates witnessed a significant decrease during the period 1995-2005 as shown in Table (5.3). The rate decreased by about 48% during this period, with clear differences between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the rate of decrease was higher. It decreased from 114 births per 1000 adolescents to less than 60 in the West Bank, and from 144 to 67.4 births in Gaza Strip.

**Table 5.3: Adolescent Birth Rates by Region, 1995 – 2005**

Year	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip
1995	114.0	100.0	144.0
1999	77.0	79.0	72.0
2003	69.4	65.2	76.4
2005	59.8	55.2	67.4



**Antenatal care coverage:**

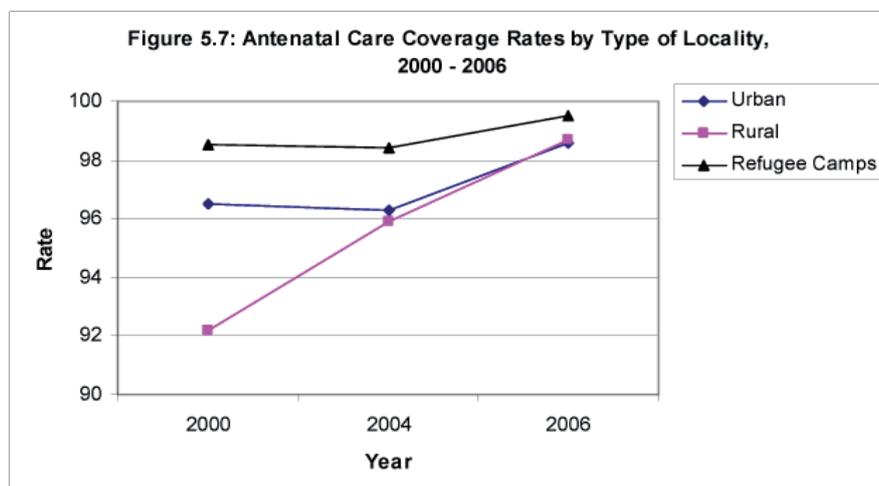
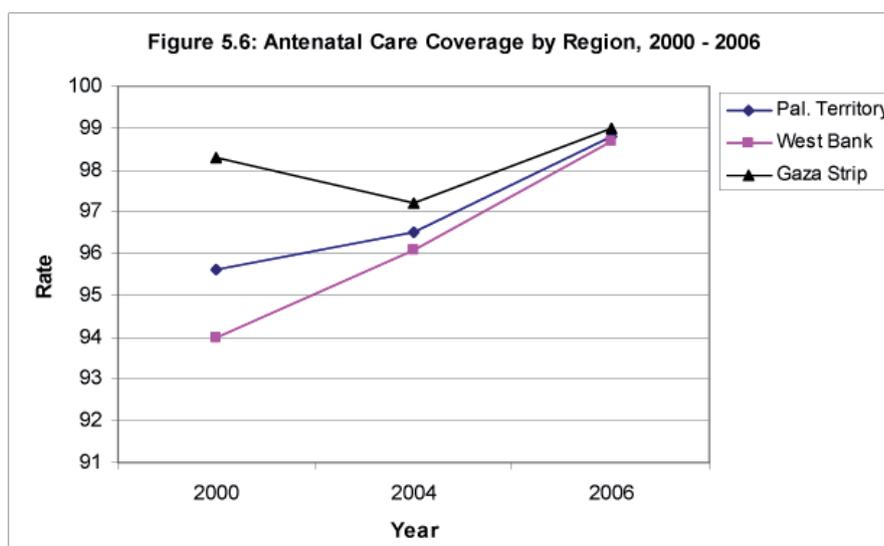
Almost all pregnant women receive antenatal care.

As shown in Table (5.4), it is clear that all pregnant women in the Palestinian Territory receive antenatal care at least one time during their pregnancy. The rate increased from 95.6% in 2000 to 99% in 2006. The rate is high in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in all locality types (urban/rural/refugee camps). Therefore, we can say that this goal is achieved.

**Table 5.4: Antenatal Care Rate by Region and Locality Type, 1996 -2006**

Year	Region			Locality Type		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Urban	Rural	Refugee camps
2000	95.6	94.0	98.3	96.5	92.2	98.5
2004	96.5	96.1	97.2	96.3	95.9	98.4
2006	98.8	98.7	99	98.6	98.7	99.5

... : Means data not available



### **Unmet need for family planning:**

There is not enough data available for this indicator; the only available data, for 2006, indicate that 12.4% of females cannot access family planning facilities, with slight differences between urban areas, rural areas, and refugee camps.

### **Challenges:**

The main challenges for achieving this goal are: insuring full access for women and children to health services, effective coordination among health services providers, availability of budgets for the health system and increasing the coverage of health insurance, enhancing the capacities of health workers, improving the registration system in the health centers to provide accurate data for statistical purposes, providing health services to localities affected by the Expansion and Annexation Wall, and developing a good planning system for the health sector.

### **Strengths:**

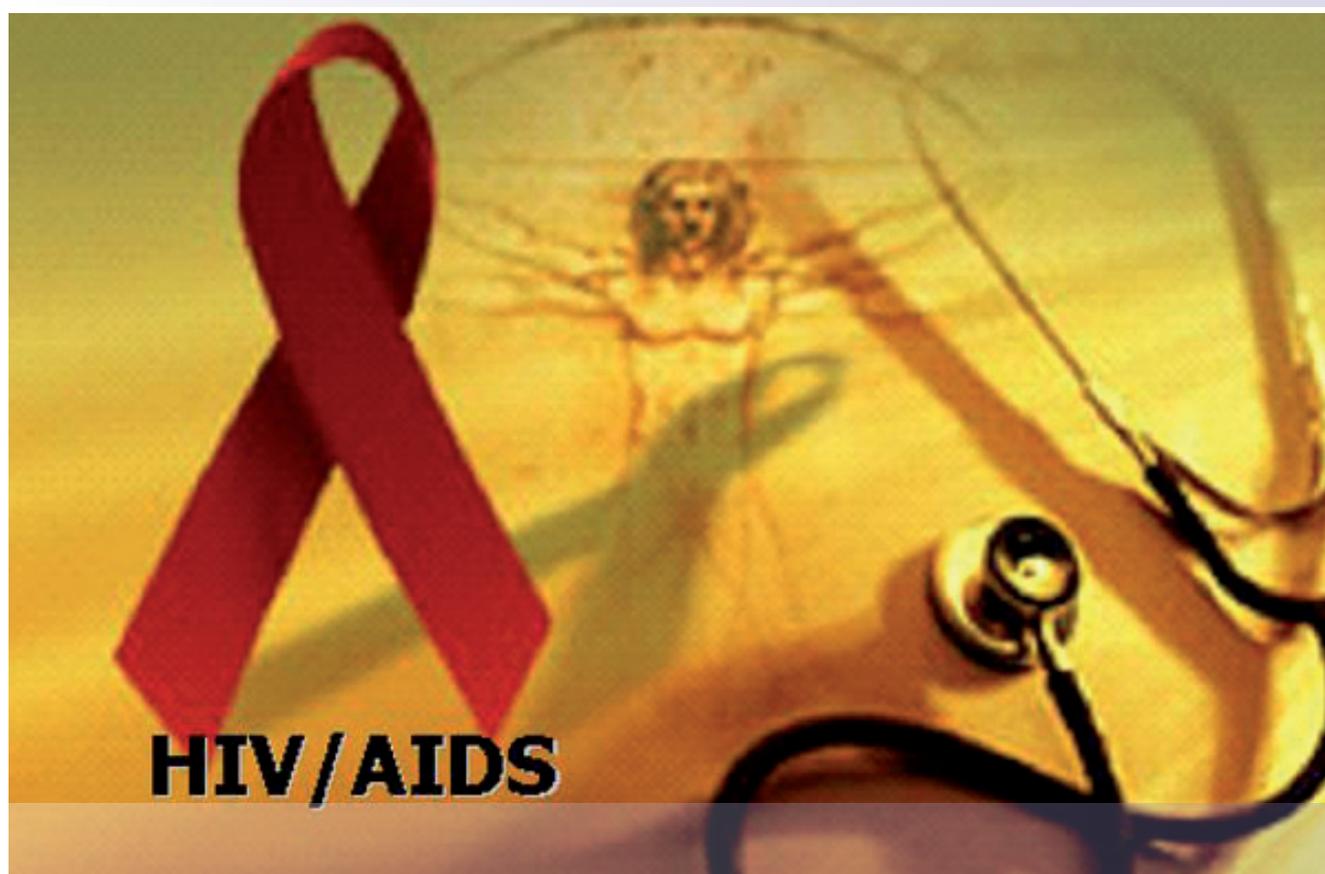
The main strengths are the increase in population awareness about reproductive health, considering the health sector as one main sector in the medium-term plans of the PNA including reproductive health, continuous support by donors for the health sector, and the availability of several health providers (government, NGOs, UNRWA, private sector)

### **Recommendations:**

1. Continuation in conducting specialized health surveys by PCBS to provide time series data
2. Increase the health sector budget in the government annual budgets
3. Increase the awareness campaigns about reproductive health especially among adolescents and youth
4. Train workers at health centers on reporting accurate data, since this data is important as complementary to the data provided by PCBS
5. Conduct specialized studies about reproductive health from the available data
6. Increase the capacity building activities for health workers
7. Prepare a comprehensive health strategic plan for Palestine



# Goal 06



Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases



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

The available data about HIV/AIDS indicate that there are few reported cases in Palestine. The first reported AIDS case was in 1986. According to the Epidemic Monitoring Report of 2003 published by the Ministry of Health, there were 40 reported cases and 14 HIV cases; among the 40 AIDS cases there were 36 males and 4 females. The main causes of infection were sexual intercourse (54.5%), blood transfusions (18.2%), and the remaining were due to other reasons.

The challenge is to keep the rates low or eliminate this disease completely from Palestine, which requires exceptional efforts from all parties working in this field. Much effort has been spent on increasing the awareness about the methods of transmission of this disease. Testing blood prior to transfusion has been implemented since 1989, and for HIV since 1994; many workshops were organized about the disease and basic information about the disease is included in the Palestinian school curriculum. But the rapid change in customs and the continuous movement and contacts with other societies increase the probability of infection.

### Fighting infectious diseases (Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis, Measles, Hepatitis, Malaria):

The Ministry of Health aims to reduce to the minimum the level of spread of diseases, and it has succeeded in the elimination of all infectious diseases in the Palestinian Territory. In spite of the strict closures since 2000, the immunization programs and the early disclosure of diseases in all localities succeeded in combating infectious diseases. For a long time, there has been no reported cases of poliomyelitis or cholera or rabies or malaria in the Palestinian Territory.



# Goal 07



Ensure Environmental Sustainability



## Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

The environment in the Palestine faces real risks due to the extraordinary exhaustion of natural resources, and the absence of Palestinian control of their land and natural resources. The draft Palestinian constitution of 2005 confirmed the right to live in healthy and clean environment as a basic human right. But under the several challenges facing the environment it is impossible to ensure this right, and as a result it will be impossible to achieve the environment sustainability goal by 2015.

### Proportion of land area covered by forest:

During the last two decades severe deterioration occurred in land covered by forests in Palestine.

The exceptional conditions the Palestinian Territory passed through since the Israeli occupation in 1967 have been reflected negatively on all means of Palestinians life, in addition to other factors like water scarcity, limited land, climate change, desertification, and Israeli measures resulting in decrease of green areas. The percentage of area covered by forest decreased from 4.5% in 1998 to 1.5% in 2007, and the reserved land for biodiversity was less than 1% in 2007.

### CO2 emissions, total, per capita:

Most of the consumed energy in the Palestinian Territory is imported from Israel; all the fuel and fuel products, and 85% of the electricity are imported. There is no detailed data about CO2 emissions; the only available data is for the years 2002 and 2003. The per capita per one US \$ from CO2 emissions were 629.4 kg in 2002 and 694.4 kg in 2003.

### Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source:

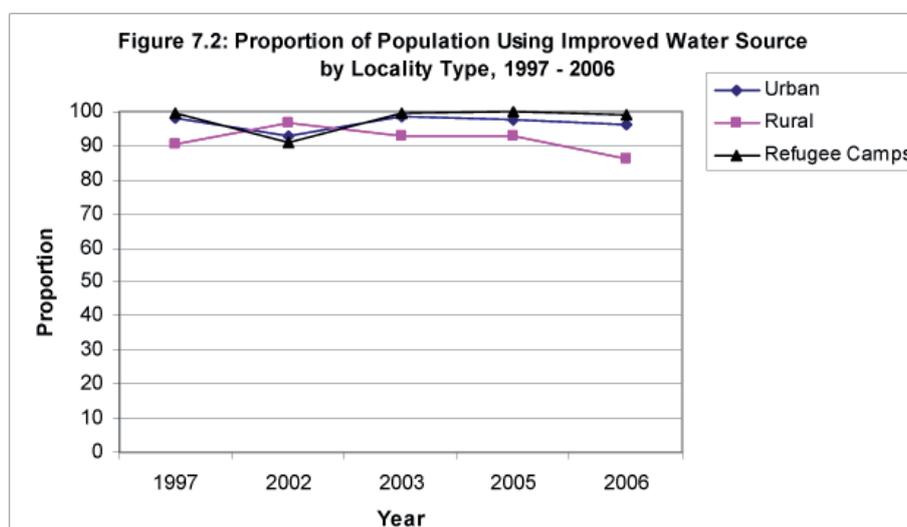
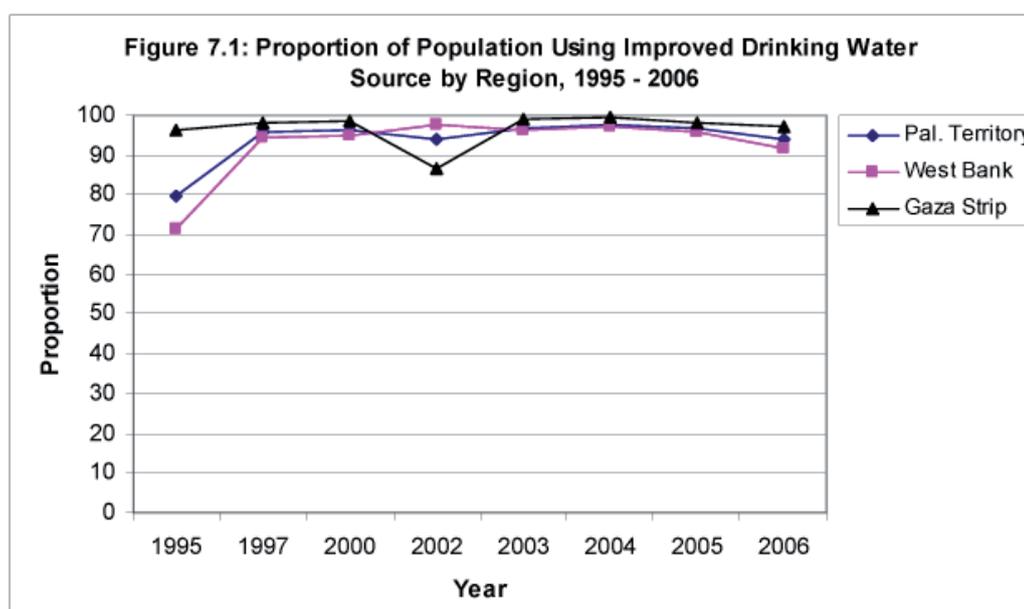
Significant improvement in connection of housing units to water and sanitation networks since 1995. However, the data may not reflect the quality of the services.

The proportion of population who use improved drinking water sources increased from 80% in 1995 to 94% in 2006 (Table 7.1), which means a decrease of about 75% in those who do not have access to improved drinking water sources during ten years. Therefore, the goal is practically achieved, but one should look at the figures with caution because the Palestinians do not have control on their water resources. This means that the water might be disconnected or reduced at any time, in addition to the fact that the quantity of water share per capita is too low, 50-70 liters per day. The situation in Gaza Strip is worse than in West Bank, where in Gaza Strip the quality of water is bad and the intensive chemical treatment of water make it not safe for drinking. In the West Bank there are many risks because many households depend on traditional water sources such as springs, rain water, and tanks, which are normally not safe sources.

Table 7.1: Proportion of Population using an Improved Drinking Water Source by Region and Locality Type, 1995 - 2006

Year	Region			Locality Type		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Urban	Rural	Refugee camps
1995	79.7	71.4	96.3	..	..	..
1997	95.8	94.4	98.2	98	90.2	99.4
2000	96.2	94.9	98.4	..	..	..
2002	93.8	97.6	86.5	92.9	96.6	91
2003	97	96.1	99.2	98.8	92.9	99.4
2004	97.9	97.1	99.5	..	..	..
2005	96.6	95.8	98	97.7	92.8	100
2006	93.8	91.9	97.3	96	86.3	99.1

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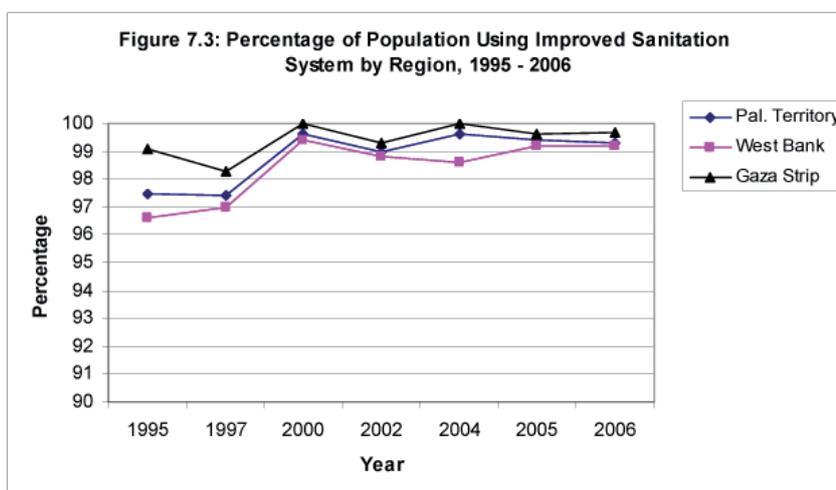
### Improved sewage system:

Data in Table (7.2) indicate that almost all housing units in the Palestinian Territory are using improved sanitation systems; the percentage in 2006 exceeded 99%. The question arises about the quality of this system and its impact on the pollution of underground water, since there is no effective treating system for sewage water, which normally seeps into the ground and mixes with underground water.

**Table 7.2: Percentage of Population Using Improved Sewage System by Region and Locality Type, 1995 - 2006**

Year	Region			Locality Type		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Urban	Rural	Refugee Camps
1995	97.5	96.6	99.1	..	..	..
1997	97.4	97	98.3	98.6	94.7	98.7
2000	99.6	99.4	100	..	..	..
2002	99	98.8	99.3	..	..	..
2004	99.6	98.6	100	..	..	..
2005	99.4	99.2	99.6	99.2	99.5	99.8
2006	99.3	99.2	99.7	99.2	99.2	100

.. : Means data not available.



### Challenges:

There are many challenges facing the achievement of this goal, including the ability to keep the standard quality of water pumped through water networks and other sources of water, providing standard sanitation systems for all localities, insurance of sustainable water resources, moving the responsibility of environmental protection on all the Palestinian Territory to the PNA, protection of species against threats of extinction, providing secure housing for needy people especially in the refugee camps, providing accurate and up-to-date statistics about water and environment, and developing non-traditional water sources.

### **Strengths:**

There are several strengths that help in improving the situation of water, environment and housing. Among these strengths the availability of water and environment authorities and Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the readiness of donors to continue their support to the water and environment sectors, the availability of water and sanitation networks in most main localities, the availability of national capacities to lead the work in these sectors, the reasonability of the prices of water supplied through networks, and the inclusion of water and environment concepts in the Palestinian curriculum which increase the awareness about these concepts among the coming generations.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Developing national strategies for water, environment and housing sectors
2. Building the capacities of workers in water and environment sectors
3. Providing accurate and up-to-date statistics about these sectors
4. Developing laws and regulations organizing the water and environment sectors
5. Implementing the natural reserve laws and increasing their areas
6. Enhancing awareness about the environment
7. Encouraging the private sector to contribute in projects devoted to solving the water and environment problems

# Goal 08



Develop a Global Partnership for Development



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

Palestine is one of the countries that are extremely dependent on donor support; continuous donor donations helped in coping with many humanitarian crises faced by the Palestinians since the outbreak of Al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000. But the change in orientation of donations due to political changes is a main problem for developmental planning. It was clear that the donations in the 1990s contributed to institutional building of the PNA, while during the Intifada, donations were moved mostly to relief assistance.

### Access to global markets:

The Palestinian economy faces many challenges; the Israeli closure is a serious problem for internal trade between the governorates because it adds additional costs on transportation which at the end increase the prices of national products and make them unable to compete with similar exported goods. On the other hand, the lack of Palestinian control on the borders impedes smooth trade with the rest of the world. The export and import procedures are complicated and add additional costs in terms of taxes for ports and harbors because of the need to wait for long periods to finalize security procedures.

The PNA has signed several trade agreements with many countries but the balance is always negative for Palestine, because imports are more than exports.

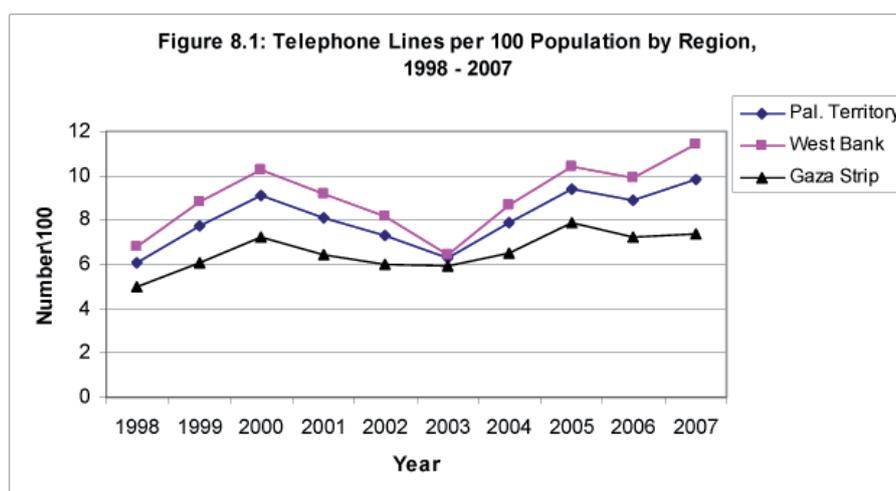
### Information and communication technology (ICT):

The ICT sector in Palestine developed very fast during the last ten years, and many initiatives in this field were launched, the most important of which is the "National Strategy for Information and Telecommunication Technology," prepared in partnership with Ministry of Information and Telecommunication and the private sector, and the Palestinian Education initiative which aims to merge ICT into the formal Palestinian education system.

The telecommunication sector is one of the main potential economic sectors in Palestine, and it can accommodate many projects by the private sector. The number of telephone lines per capita increased from 6.1 in 1998 to 9.8 in 2009 (60% increase), even though the rate still low in compare to the other countries.

**Table 8.1: Number of Telephone Lines per 100 Population by Region, 1998 - 2007**

Year	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip
1998	6.1	6.8	5
1999	7.7	8.8	6.1
2000	9.1	10.3	7.2
2001	8.1	9.2	6.4
2002	7.3	8.2	6
2003	6.3	6.4	5.9
2004	7.9	8.7	6.5
2005	9.4	10.4	7.9
2006	8.9	9.9	7.2
2007	9.8	11.4	7.4

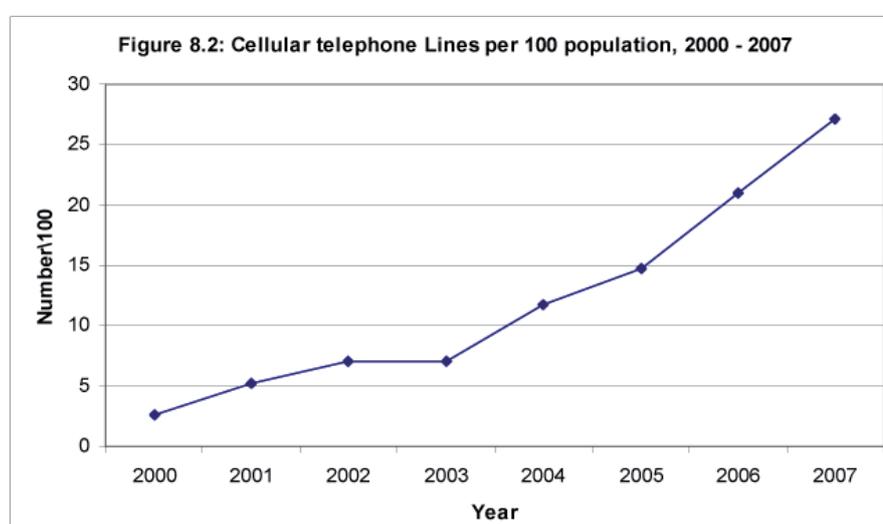


#### Cellular telephone:

Table (8.2) shows the growth in penetration of cellular telephone in Palestine during the period 2000 - 2007. It is clear from the table that the rate of cellular telephone per 100 capita was doubled during this period more than 10 times. It increased from 2.6 in 2000 to 27.1 in 2007. The main providers of mobile telephone services in the Palestinian Territory are the Palestinian Jawwal Company and the Israeli companies. The rate is expected to continue to increase during the coming years.

**Table 8.2: Number of Cellular Telephone per 100 Population by Region, 2000 - 2007**

Year	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip
2000	2.6	..	..
2001	5.2	..	..
2002	7.1	5.7	9.5
2003	7.1	..	..
2004	11.8	8.6	18.8
2005	14.8	12.3	19.2
2006	21	..	..
2007	27.1	..	..

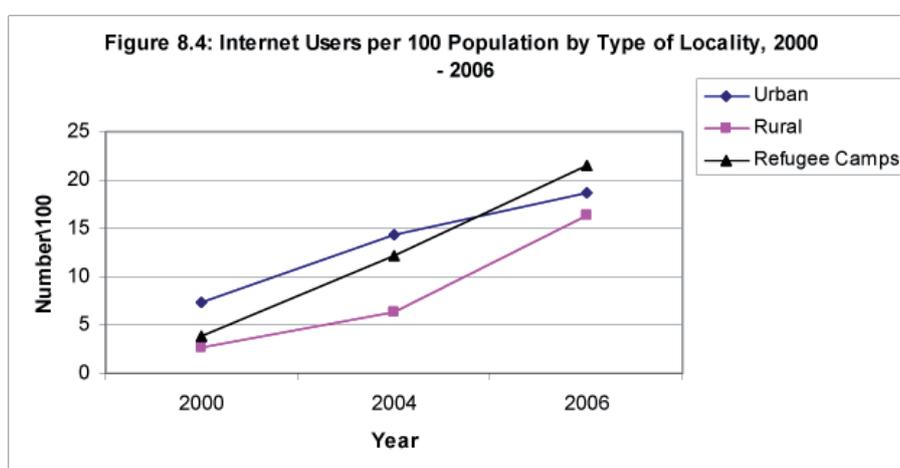
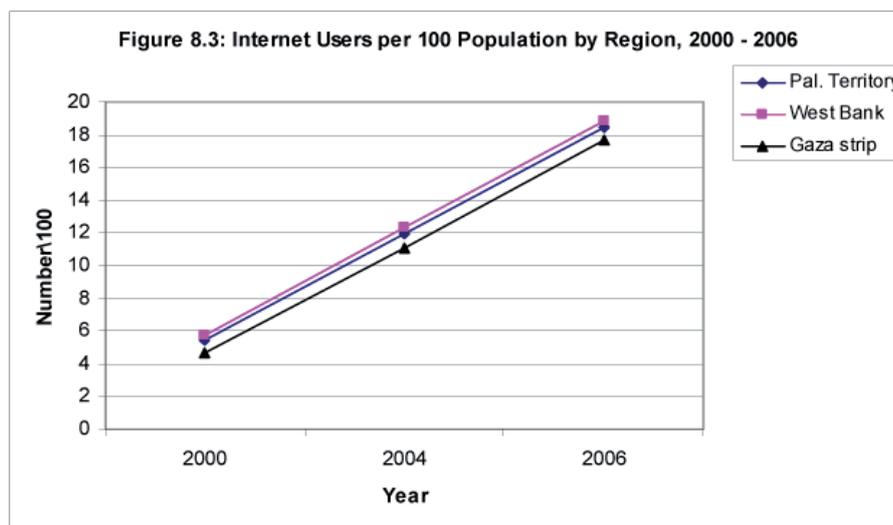


**Internet access:**

The availability of easy Internet access methods assisted the penetration of its usage by all population groups everywhere. The rate of Internet access increased from 5.4 per 100 population in 2000 to 18.4 in 2006. The increase was among both sexes and all localities (urban, rural, and refugee camps). In spite of this increase, the rate is still low in comparison to other countries.

**Table 8.3: Internet Access Per 100 Population by Region, Gender and Locality Type, 2000 - 2006**

Year	Region			Gender		Locality Type		
	Palestinian Territory	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Refugee camps
2000	5.4	5.7	4.7	7.9	2.8	7.4	2.7	3.9
2004	11.9	12.3	11.1	16.2	7.5	14.3	6.3	12.2
2006	18.4	18.8	17.7	23.6	13.1	18.6	16.3	21.5



### Challenges:

There are some challenges facing the promotion of the benefits from ICT technologies in Palestine, such as assuring continuation of donor support for development, smooth access to international markets, continuation of financial support to social and education sectors, removing the constraints on goods movement inside and outside Palestine, promotion of local capacities in manufacturing, availability of accurate statistics, and the unstable political situation.

### Strengths:

The main strengths are the continuous donors support, the accumulative local expertise, and the availability of strategies and initiatives in the field of ICTS.

### Recommendations:

1. Strengthening the infrastructure of industry and transportation
2. Spending developmental support in development and not moving it for relief projects
3. Activating the tax system to increase funds allocated for developmental projects
4. Implementing the ICT strategies

# Annex





## Annex

### Assessment of Progress Achieved, Data Availability and Quality

Goal & Target	Ability to collect data	Availability of data	Data quality	Analytical skills	Ability to achieve the Goal\Target	Supportive environment
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>						
Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	Moderate	Available	Good	Good	Not expected	Weak
Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	Strong	Available	Good	Good	Not expected	Weak
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Moderate	Not available in detail	Good	Moderate	Not expected	Weak
<b>Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education</b>						
Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Strong	Available	Excellent	Excellent	Achieved	Good
<b>Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>						
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Strong	Available	Excellent	Excellent	Achieved numerically (There is no data about Education quality)	Good
<b>Goal 4: Reduce child mortality</b>						
Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Good	Available	Weak	Good	Possible with difficulty	Good
<b>Goal 5: Improve maternal health</b>						
Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	Weak	Not available	Weak	Good	Not expected	Weak
Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	Excellent	Available	Good	Excellent	Not expected	Weak
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>						
Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Weak	Not available	Data not available	Weak	Not expected	Very weak
Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	Weak	Not available	Data not available	Weak	Not expected	Very weak
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Strong	Disease disappeared in Palestine	Not applicable	Strong	Achieved	Excellent

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Good	Not available	Data not available	Weak	Not expected	Very weak
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	Weak	Not available	Data not available	Good	Not expected	Weak
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Excellent	Available	Good	Good	Achieved	Good
Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Weak	Not available	Data not available	Good	Not expected	Weak

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

Target 8a: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	Good	Not available	Data not available	Good	Not expected	Weak
Target 8b: Address the special needs of the least developed countries	Good	Not available	Data not available	Good	Not expected	Weak
Target 8c: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Target 8d: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	Good	Not available	Data not available	Good	Not expected	Good
Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	Excellent	Available	Good	Excellent	Possible	Good