

Assessing the Millennium Development Goals Process in the Arab Region

National Case Studies

Prepared by

The Arab NGO Network for Development

Egypt - Jordan - Lebanon - Morocco - Sudan - Tunisia - Yemen



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the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) is a regional network working on three main issues in the Arab region; development policies, democracy and socio-economic reforms, and globalization and trade. ANND members include 7 national networks and 27 non-governmental organizations from 11 Arab countries.

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Foreword



The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) has worked on following up and monitoring the efforts deployed in the Arab region to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It has been seeking since 2003 to mobilize civil society to press on officials and leaders to carry on with the obligation they had committed to in 2000 and which aims at achieving these goals by 2015.

Whether the Arab regimes are capable of realizing these goals is a key question given the number of challenges they are faced with, especially with regards to the absence of security and stability both on the regional level and within many countries, political systems lacking the most basic standards of accountability and peaceful transfer of power, as well as economic, social, and cultural difficulties. In addition, the international crises related to climate change, food prices, as well as the financial and economic crisis exacerbated the situation and aggravated the challenges and risks to citizens' living conditions.

ANND has sought to shed light on this situation in a report issued in 2009 and titled "Assessing the Millennium Development Goals Process in the Arab Region: An Survey of Key Issues" on mainstreaming the goals in national policies, financing for development policies, and the gender dimension. This report was released simultaneously with the Social Watch Report Arabic Edition in Beirut mid-July 2010. The report concluded that Arab rents-based and service-oriented economies, especially in the fields of finance, banking, and tourism services, have turned Arab communities into non-productive consumer communities, a fact that has made them reliant on foreign investment, aid and

debt. Thus, their connection with the global economy is not an interactive one but rather a subordinate connection increasing to the vulnerability of conditions, especially during international crises. The report also observed that national policies generally do not give the social aspects the required importance, particularly in terms of observation and execution, when there is absence of a comprehensive vision dealing with political and social issues through a comprehensive legal perspective.

ANND prepared a number of national reports that highlighted different social and economic aspects in seven Arab states, taking into consideration a sample of countries that range from relatively stable such as Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt to other undergoing internal conflicts such as Sudan and Yemen as well as countries that are in direct involvement with regional conflict such as Lebanon and Jordan. This diversity was also considered on the developmental level, as the samples chosen dealt with the least developed countries like Sudan and Yemen as well middle-income countries. Finally, the sample reaches across political systems, the examples covering various models extending from undemocratic regimes to more open ones.

Regarding the conclusions of the reports, some were common to all countries covered while some were more specific. Common challenges include the absence of comprehensive approaches to resolve economic and social issues, since the adopted vision is based on the principle of boosting growth without linking it to fair distributive policies. This represents the key challenge that was noted in the reports, especially in countries embracing policies prescribed by international financial institutions. The social aspects in this context are no more than a preceding or subsequent reaction to anticipated results of the economic and financial structural adjustment policies. Moreover, the lack of social dimension results from the absence of policies that lead to redistribution through the adoption of income tax systems to substitute dependence on indirect, consumption based taxation, or through the provision of accepted services. This is considering that monitoring does not go beyond the quantitative aspects of the Millennium Development Goals reflected by the indicators included in these goals (report on Morocco). As far as the

qualitative aspects of these services are concerned, they are below the required level when it comes to educational, health, and public services in general.

The second challenge that these states share is related to income distribution, where the income per capita rate increase against the domestic income was not translated into improvement of citizens' living standards. The third common challenge is the wide geographical discrepancy, which reflects major concentration of wealth in the main cities and urban areas as well as marginalization of areas (which is shown especially in the reports on Egypt, Morocco, and Lebanon). All of this calls for the necessary development of governance's administrative systems which reinforce decentralization as well as the enhancement of local governance's mechanisms which could guarantee the enabling of local powers in the service of development.

The last common challenge is related to the indicators themselves that do not necessarily reflect the actual reality of citizens' living conditions. This is owing to the lack of credibility and actual accountability in the collection and circulation of information or the absence of proper statistical mechanisms that contribute to the building of accurate indicators. This challenge is also in connection with the contentment with results drawn out from quantitative indicators that do not reflect the living conditions' quality, which is the same problem of indicators used in the Millennium's declaration itself and which pressed the UN secretary general to present a proposal to develop these indicators so as to make them cover the qualitative aspects of the objectives and not only the quantitative ones.

Finally, with regards to challenges specific to each country, these range from the absence of democracy and the restriction of civil society's freedom in participation, and hence in monitoring and accountability (especially in Tunisia's case), the exacerbation of living conditions and accumulation of debts as a result of excessive expenditure and bad planning (as is Jordan). Also evident are the repercussions of the global financial crisis on the region as a result of connection with foreign economies, especially as in the case of Morocco and Tunisia, which were heavily affected by the crisis in Europe, especially the main industries like textiles,

clothing, and tourism. Sudan, which is considered the leading Arab country in the agricultural field, is witnessing a notable decrease in agricultural production, especially cereals.

From the general conclusions of the reports, it can be said that the conditions in the region are liable to worsen should response be more of the same. Therefore, it is imperative to put into practice comprehensive reform approaches, beginning with political reform promoting accountability as well as peaceful transfer of power, and which opens up for new alternatives that the people themselves opt for through the medium of constitutional, political, and administrative institutions. These approaches should also cover economic reforms that reinforce growth through the enhancement of handicrafts, industrial, touristic, and agricultural sectors and the implementation of tax policies that would encourage the equal distribution of economic growth's earnings and the establishment of effective service systems. These policies would also help the citizens in improve their living conditions. It is moreover necessary to adopt social policies based on principles of human rights, which would ensure social security and care to all. At last, the civil society must be reinforced and be allowed the freedom of formation, work, and the espousal of mechanisms that guarantee its active participation as a strong and valuable partner.

In this book, ANND publishes the seven reports prepared by the Network's members and contributors, in the hope that they would offer a better understanding of the situation.

Ziad Abdel Samad
Executive Director
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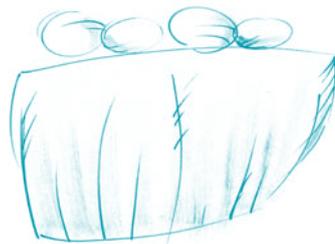
	
	
	
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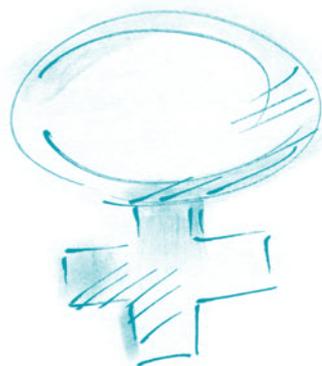
Egypt Case Study

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What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The United Nations hosted in September 2000 the Millennium Summit, where a group of leaders of the world has included development in the global agenda, adopting the Millennium Development Goals and defining clear objectives for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental pollution and discrimination against women, to be reached by 2015.

The Millennium Declaration has confronted the international community with a major challenge, which is to improve living conditions and enhance the well-being of millions of people around the world. The eight Millennium Development Goals are an ambitious agenda designed to bring about a major development of the humanitarian situation by the year 2015. Each of these goals is divided into a number of targets and more specific indicators to be used to follow-up on the progress that has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

What are the challenges facing Egypt?

Looking at each of the Millennium Development Goals separately and at the targets required to reach each goal, it is possible to tell where Egypt stands from its commitment to its vows .

The first challenge: The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger

20.2% of Egyptians still earn less than one dollar a day (6 Egyptian pounds). The target is to reduce this rate to 12.1%

by 2015, and to halve the percentage of people deprived from sufficient food. The real challenge is the eradication of unemployment.

The second challenge: Universal primary education

The percentage of male enrollment in primary education is about 94%, against 91% for female enrollment. The goal for 2015 is to ensure that all Egyptians - both male and female - are capable of completing primary education.

The third challenge: to promote gender equality and empower women

The purpose of this goal is to increase women's awareness of their legal and political rights, to improve the technical and professional skills of women, and to have access to illiteracy eradication services. Education, economic situation, and awareness of the importance of political participation remain the three most important themes in which women have a weak share. Unemployment rates among women, for example, are close to 25%, which is three times more than the male unemployment rate, which is of 7% .

The fourth challenge: Reducing child mortality rate

Every year, out of every 1000 children, 41 children die before they reach the age of 5, while the newborn mortality rate reaches up to 33 newborn per 1000 live births. Our goal is to reduce these figures to two thirds by 2015.

The fifth challenge: Improving maternal health

The rate of maternal mortality in Egypt after delivery is 67.6 per 100000 live births. The goal is to reduce this number to 43.5 by 2015.

The sixth challenge: Combating HIV (AIDS, malaria, and other disease)

Although AIDS (HIV) is not largely spread among the population of Egypt (less than 0.1%), the number of reported cases continues to rise, and the number of unreported cases is likely to be higher than the official number. The goal is to make sure that the spread of AIDS does not exceed 0.02% in 2015. There have also been successes in the control of malaria, while tuberculosis and schistosomiasis infections have declined as well. This goal also includes the priority to fight viruses that represent a nationally widespread health prob-

lem in Egypt, such as hepatitis C and B.

The seventh challenge: Ensure environmental sustainability

Provide and manage properly the natural resources in Egypt through building the institutional capacity to ensure environmental sustainability. The aim is halving the proportion of rural and urban residents who do not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation systems.

The eighth Challenge: Develop a global partnership for development

To establish strong partnerships with all stakeholders such as the private sector, the government, non-governmental organizations, and the civil society.

Egypt's position to achieve the Millennium Development Goals:

Egypt is one of 188 countries that adopted the Millennium Development Goals and agreed to fight for their achievement by 2015. The United Nations issued in June 2002 the first country report on the progress made by Egypt to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which was followed by a second report in 2004.

Although the 2 reports indicated that Egypt continues to advance on the right track toward achieving most of the indicators of the Millennium Development Goals, yet they also revealed the emergence of serious gaps related to income levels and living standards between the Delta and Upper Egypt.

The two Country reports on the Millennium Development Goals in Egypt show that the proportion of poor should fall in general from 25% in 1990 to 13% by 2015. Despite that the reports indicate that along with the expectations of reduced poverty rates in urban areas in the Nile Delta to about 9%, it is expected that this rate increases in Upper Egypt to 39%, by 2015. The situation is not different in rural areas where it is expected that eradication of poverty will take place in the Delta governorates, while poverty rates will rise in Upper Egypt to reach 38% by 2015.

These reports show the extent of poverty's impact on families headed by women, in particular, which represent about 20% of the total number of families. Despite the increase in per capita income in Egypt from 639 US\$ in 1990 to 1390 US\$ in 1999, yet 40% of the poor have access to only 22% of the national resources.

The 2 reports on the Millennium Development Goals reveal the effect of the introduction of exchange rate liberalization system in January 2003, as prices rose rapidly, which negatively affected the purchasing power and hence household consumption. Estimations show a rise in the poverty rates which have reached 7% in the period going from January to September 2003. The 2004 report also points out the World Bank's statement concerning Egypt's need to achieve a sustainable GDP annual growth by at least 7% in order to reduce the unemployment rate to controllable levels.

The reports also highlights the continuing interest of the Egyptian government in the most difficult development issues such as health, education, water, and sanitation, as well as the improvement of living conditions of the majority of the most deprived groups in the society. Nonetheless progress varies from one goal to the other: there is rapid and sustained progress in some areas such as child and maternal mortality, and water and sanitation, there is also some reasonable progress in other areas such as education and poverty reduction, but when it comes to women empowerment and environmental protection for instance the progress is slow-paced. Therefore, Egypt will have to increase its efforts and investments in order to maintain the current progress of some indicators, such as those of poverty and mortality rates and control of epidemic diseases.

Human development indicators:

The Human Development Report for 2008 shows that Egypt's performance in human development has improved over the past years, since after being ranked 120 in the world index, Egypt's ranking has moved up to become 112 this year.

However, this improvement at the country level has been uneven among the governorates, as the report reveals a number of positive and negative indicators in the field of human development in Egypt, including:

- 1 - The health services provided to women improved significantly,

as the number of women giving birth by specialists reached 80% in 2006 after it was about 56.5% in 2001.

The number of women mortality cases during delivery also declined from 60.7 per one hundred thousands to about 52.9 per hundred thousand cases in 2006. In addition, 70% of Egyptian pregnant women are being provided with medical care during their pregnancy, while previously only nearly 60% of them had access to that in 2001.

2 - The report observed the rise of the marriageable age as a positive indicator, as women who give birth before the age of eighteen has been reduced to one quarter in 2006, and the number of women under the age of eighteen who got married has also declined.

The fertility rate has also fallen to 3.1 births per woman in 2005, after it was of 4.1 births per woman in 1991. The report stresses the importance of achieving lower fertility during the next phase.

3 - Education for females increased and the existing discrepancy in education between the two genders might be eliminated by 2014. The rate of literacy in the age group of 15-24 years increased to about 80.1% in 2005, and the ratio of females to males in primary education reached 93%.

4 - There are five governorates with an improved human development performance, led by Port Said and followed by Suez, Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. While the less fortunate five governorates in terms of human development are: Fayoum, Minya, Assiut, Sohag and Beni Suef.

This means that the development performance lacks equitable geographical distribution among governorates. The most fortunate governorates as to achieving human development are the urban governorates and the capital, while the less fortunate in human development were mainly concentrated in the Upper Egypt region.

A range of negative factors cause the decline of sub-indicators of human development in Egypt, including the fact that approximately 14.7% of children at the age of 6-15 years old did not enroll in primary education or have dropped out of it. This is largely due to the tendency of the poor to send their children at this age the labor market in addition to the expansion of slums in cities.

5 – The cause of low human development rates in Upper Egypt governorates becomes clear if we consider the situation of poverty there. The report shows that: “Poverty is largely concentrated in Upper Egypt, while this region represents 25% of the total population. Its share of the poorest population is almost 66%, in addition to the fact that 95% of the poorest villages are located in Upper Egypt. 762 villages of the 1000 poorest villages are located in the governorates of Minya, Sohag, and Assiut, while 59 % of the poorest villages are located in Sohag alone. The average poverty rate in the poorest 1000 villages is 52%, while this percentage reaches 77% in the 100 poorest villages. The high rates of poverty are associated with high rates of unemployment, illiteracy, and high dependency rates, as well as a lack of basic services”.

Despite the fact that Cairo is experiencing low rates of poverty, the projections indicate that the poverty rate will be rising from the current 4.6% to 7.6% by 2015.

The proposal that the report presents exposes the full readiness of the three partners (government, private sector, and civil society organizations) to act on one hand, but it overlooks the fact that the general situation does not allow the realization of such a participation in reality.

The trend currently prevailing in the Egyptian society is oriented toward self-imposed or individual solutions while moving away from collective solutions or any concern about public affairs. In addition, the culture of market economy that resulted from the economic experience promoted the sense self-interest and the self-love.

Also, the negative effects of market economy are growing day after day, and without heeding the cause of the problem.

The Alexandria library has recently witnessed the launch of the annual UNICEF the State of the World’s Children report for 2009, covering the issues of maternal and child health. The report focused on child and maternal mortality as one of the most hard-to-resolve problems in the development field.

The report states that Egypt succeeded to be the first African country to achieve the fourth of the Millennium Development Goals, which is related to the reduction of mortality rate of children below the age of five by two thirds, years before the date set by the United Nations. This was mentioned in a statement by Dr. Nasr Assayed, Assistant Minister of Health for primary

and preventive healthcare and family planning, in the ceremony held for the release of the report. The report includes updated statistics on the indicators related to maternal and newborn health in various countries around the world, and a statement of the Demographic Health Survey in Egypt, which showed that the decrease of mortality rate of children below the age of 5 has reached 73% during the period extending from 1990 to 2008.

Dr Arma Mannkurt, UNICEF representative in Egypt asserted that Egypt is on the right track toward achieving the fourth goal of the Millennium Development Goals, and that it has achieved a positive change as to realizing the 5th goal, which is related to reducing the rate of maternal mortality by three quarters in the period 1990-2015- noting that the reduction of maternal mortality in Egypt resulting from to pregnancy, delivery, and childbed fever has reached 68% between 1990 and 2007.

On another hand, the African Development Bank announced that only 5 African countries will be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, namely: Tunisia, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Burkina Faso, Botswana; and that Egypt is out of the rating of African countries that will make this achievement.

The president of the Bank said that the 5 countries with no significant natural resources will benefit from their investments in human resources, education, training, and equality in opportunities.

Some critical observations:

1 – Ways to obtain the data:

The previous review on the achieved progress in implementing the Millennium Development Goals in Egypt so far, as well as the one expected until 2015, is based on figures and data from a number of reports, whether issued by the United Nations or the official Egyptian government reports, such as the Human Development Reports and others.

It is worth mentioning that statistics and numbers from certain unofficial research sources are inconsistent with some official figures. At times, inconsistency and contradiction between these figures becomes much significant that it necessitates thorough examination. For example, in this regard, some of the statements issued by non-governmental parties and research centers indicate that the rate of extreme poverty in Egypt (i.e., those earning less

than one dollar a day) is of about 39% - a rate highly exceeding the rate mentioned in the 2008 Egypt Human Development Report which is 19%. A reality that requires us to give consideration to the figures revealed in the report as well as to the methodology used to reach them.

There are also other official figures that contradict the findings of those reports. as an example, we could mention the report issued by the central auditing agency, which confirmed the presence of sewage systems in only 486 villages, i.e. 11% of the total villages. In addition to the presence of 304 unsecure slum areas and the irrigation of cultivations with waste water, which means that Egypt is far from being able to achieve the 7th millennium goal, contrarily to what other official reports promote.

This observation leads us to reconsider the methodology used in the provision of data and perhaps to value and consider the data issued by non-governmental research centers known for their competency

2- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger:

The use of the indicator “growth rate” by international financial institutions to measure the success of developing countries in poverty eradication is unrealistic and contradicting the practical realities of the lives of citizens in those countries. The struggle, at the international and national levels, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger - the first of the Millennium Development Goals - requires us to reconsider our view of poverty. Poverty is multidimensional, so limiting it to “growth rate” makes it impossible to be determined. In addition, the high growth rate in Egypt during the years preceding the financial and global economic crisis has in fact widened the gap between rich and poor. The rich got richer whereas the status of middle class and lower class has deteriorated, owing to the application of privatization and economy liberalization policies, dictated by the global neo-liberal capitalist institutions.

For the eradication of poverty to be effective, the governments and civil society institutions need to find new ways of cooperation in order to reassess these policies imposed by exterior forces and to formulate alternative strategies to become integrated in the global system.

3 - Reducing poverty or a tool used by neo-liberalists?

A first reading of the commitments undertaken by the United

Nations to combat poverty through the Millennium Goals, may lead to optimism; however, a deeper look reveals several weaknesses that undermine their effectiveness. These modest goals are within the framework of the post-“Washington consensus” era, which aimed to maintain the framework of neo-liberalism advocated by international financial institutions, to adopt the principle of “good governance” in favor of open markets and the dismantling of national regulatory frameworks, the weakening of local capacities, and the ongoing process of democratization. Therefore, to avoid having the goals become the tool of the unipolar world order, a true model of democratic governance should be adopted, the role of international financial institutions must re-examined, and finally invest efforts to establish compatible partnerships. This process should be accompanied by changes in the balance of powers by ensuring the independence of poor countries and identifying the forms of development they wish to follow.

4-The World Trade Organization:

Some WTO regulations, stipulated in specific conventions, are totally contradictory to the Millennium Goals. The conventions on agriculture and services trade, intellectual property rights, and industrial products, reflect a clear bias in favor of developed countries. These agreements seek to maintain the programs of agricultural subsidies that impede the development of agriculture and the work of farmers in the South-South. Developing countries find it difficult to put special preventive mechanisms into practice, as well as mechanisms of special and favoring treatment and other exemptions... Those are supposed to guarantee a minimum of political space necessary for the preparation of their own development strategies. In addition to the lack of transparency, these obstacles prevent the establishment of partnership for the sake of development and reducing poverty in the world.

5 - Legalizing and expanding the dominant model:

The review of the Millennium Development Goals and the ways of implementation lead to the conclusion that these goals are a broken chain, within a series of circumstances that rule out their chances of being transformed into a tangible reality. Worse yet, the analysis of the facts and of the logic behind them shows a deliberate intention to push the countries to accept the imperatives of liberalism in order to serve the interests of the hegemony of globalized capitalism. The real goals are:1) privatization, intended to open new opportunities for the expansion of capitals;

2) spreading the model of agricultural land ownership; 3) the liberalization of trade and capital movements; 4) prohibiting the state intervention in the economic life.

However, on the flip side, the restoration of the sovereignty of the countries and the recognition of their role's legitimacy in the field of development are two fundamental prerequisites for achieving the Millennium Goals.

6 - A struggle against poverty or a war on the poor?

The Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations are undisputedly crucial, but they are not enough to combat poverty and promote development. The reason is that the root causes of the problems were completely ignored. The international institutions announcing the desire to achieve these goals is a concealment and an ethical pretext to ascertain neo-liberalism policies and establish devastating partnerships that aggravate poverty.

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The continued espousal of strategy of neo-liberalism, in which the claim of “fighting poverty” represents the cornerstone of its ideology, has turned the goals into a war against the poor. Moreover, most of economists that are “sensitive to the social dimension of development”, or even intellectuals who criticize neo-liberalism (among the winners of the Nobel Prize in economics) do not suggest a substitute for it, despite the majority of world states' and peoples's condemnation of it.

Henceforth the goals listed by the United Nations can be achieved only through the provision of a real democracy for the people.

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Jordan Case Study

Prepared by

The Jordanian Women's Union





Introduction:

The main challenges facing Jordan and having a significant impact on the MDGs are primarily the following: the large deficit in the budget and the soaring volume of internal and external debt, which reached a record with 12 billion US\$ according to official figures and are in continuous augmentation due to poor planning and excessive spending. This debt is causing a huge concern, especially as international funds impose on Jordan more economic patterns and plans that do not go with reality, and hence exacerbating the problem in terms of macroeconomic stability, which results from the chronic macroeconomic imbalances when it comes to public budget, trade balance, external debt, and the weak public accountability. This requires decision-makers to make more efforts to reverse these imbalances, achieve economic growth, as well as raise and develop the level of investments in order to increase the level of economic growth, raise income, and improve the living conditions.

What is more, there is a dire need to develop the institutions legally and administratively, especially in light of the current global economic crisis which resulted in intensifying the role of the government and the economic structure, as well as improving the infrastructure that supports and stimulates investment and all economic activities in all sectors and boosts economic stability and macro-economic environment. We should also reassert that the main reason for this imbalance is the evident budget deficit, which is expected to increase this year reaching (1.5) billion

US\$, due to internal and external loans used to cover the deficit in revenues. There is speculation that indebtedness will be rising during the current year to (16.8) billion US\$, since Jordan

is seeking to obtain new loans: external loans valued at (420) million US\$, and internal loans of around (980) US\$. According to a statement from the Ministry of Finance, the volume of debt has increased to (15.2) billion US\$ by the end of 2009, i.e. by more than 60% of the Gross Domestic Product.

Accordingly, the solution resides chiefly in achieving development and reforms to address these major thorny issues, face the pressures and thwart any interference in the affairs and future of the nation. This solution will also help in relieving tension and anxiety, withstanding plans and rapid changes, and promoting and maintaining the progress of development and stability in order to get to a just peace in the region, granting the Palestinian people their full rights through the complete withdrawal of occupying forces from all Palestinian and Arab territories as of 1967, allowing thus the establishment of the Independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with international resolutions (242 - 338 - 194).

Development in Jordan / key issues and social and economic challenges

There is constant talk about the need to encourage investment and provide an advanced and competitive environment for investment. Several attempts have been made in this regard that have led to some accomplishments especially in the development of certain economic sectors and in putting into practice some measures to attract investors. However, there are still many obstacles, most notably the absence of an effective institutional investment framework aimed at coordinating and consolidating investment policies; the weakness of the main infrastructure and its high costs; and the inflexibility of labor laws, the complexity of western systems, and other obstacles that impede the improvement of the investment environment, trade, and project development. Nevertheless, some initiatives were often determined and that aim at establishing the institutional frameworks necessary to support investment policies, promote investment, and boost the cooperation in the decision-making process between the public bodies and stakeholders, as well as prioritizing government's support of industrial and service sectors, and applying mechanisms to improve their competitiveness, promote their growth, and increase their economic revenues; in addition to some measures to improve financial and knowledge services that boost investments and the financing of new projects.

Attempts are also being slowly made to support employment and vocational training to help create new job opportunities, despite of the certainty that these efforts are not sufficient to address the issue of unemployment, whose rate is expected to increase from (12.5%) to drastic levels - perhaps up to (20)% by (2015). Hence, it seems that reaching the target rate of unemployment of (6.8) % in (2017) is hard and unrealistic, unless new and serious measures are adopted that could achieve high and effective economic growth and provide new job opportunities of not less than (600) thousand jobs, which is a remote possibility under the current economic situation and population growth rate, as well as the gender inequality in the labor market and the tangible decrease in productivity due to workforce's low-level education and qualification. Add to that the difficulty faced by companies to obtain funding that would support them in their self-development and in recruiting new employees as well as the issue of bureaucracy and many other administrative, technical, and legal obstacles.

- To tackle the need for a comprehensive development strategy, clearly defined and declared by the concerned authorities and the role of civil society organizations in the vision, planning, and implementation of development policies, the government has formed a committee of representatives from the government, the parliament, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media and political parties to prepare a "National Agenda" aimed at "Facing the major challenges, building a strong economy, improving the lives of citizens, ensuring the fundamental freedoms and Human Rights, and adopting Democracy and intellectual and political pluralism". This agenda has determined, though it was never put into effect despite the major issues it covered, development targets that would lead to economic growth and social participation. It also included comprehensive strategies covering all political, economic, and social aspects, and identified a clear vision of the means needed to achieve the Goals. Moreover, it defined a number of initiatives, which include a government policy and reforms that would stimulate economic development and the provision of social welfare and security; help create a suitable investment environment that would strengthen financial discipline, administrative development, justice, accountability, transparency, and economic

competitiveness; remove trading obstacles and activate the role of small and medium enterprises; provide continuous quality education, in addition to adequate health care; preserve rights and basic freedoms; ensure political, economic, and social participation, equality before the law, equal opportunities and freedoms; guarantee the development of all the services including water and energy, the preservation of the environment, and the access to information technology; as well as providing quality banking services. Thus, we now call for a return to this “National Agenda» and its reactivation because it holds various solutions to all issues and crises that Jordan endures, despite our awareness of the many difficulties, obstacles, and challenges resulting from the poor economy in general, the high unemployment rates that might be around (20%), and the impact of the global financial crisis on many issues, especially on banks’ policies that are reluctant to provide the necessary funding to support investments. We can also add the imbalance in taxation, the long periods of economic recession, the chronic deficit in the public budget, and the accumulation of debts, as well as the decline and the lack of aids and foreign grants, which might decrease even more in the coming years. Indeed, the tangible facts have proven that foreign investments did not succeed in bridging the investment gap again. This is a situation that requires the restoration and renewal of the National Agenda with all the successful and effective strategies and solutions it comprises in order to address all the challenges and achieve a comprehensive social and economic development. This would be the only way to achieve many of the Millennium Goals before the year (2015).

- Concerning the monitoring of the MDGs, the Ministry of Planning has published two reports that monitor the progress made toward achieving these goals. We have previously referred to the National Agenda which was formulated with the participation of organizations of the civil society. Other programs and reports have been also issued. These reports are usually circulated through the media and they reach a large popular audience... All the reports include an objective and realistic analysis of the situation in Jordan and an overview of the MDGs, and they often enclose implementation plans that in most of the time, however, are



neglected and never implemented. It must also be admitted that civil society organizations' capacities and potentials in general, therefore requiring serious planning and active support, while the support provided by the government and concerned international organizations is deficient and scarce and does not suffice the aspirations or meet the required needs. Practically, there is no serious and effective partnership between these parties and civil society organizations.

-As regards the work on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it could be said that despite the fact that the National Agenda abovementioned was not based on the MDGs, yet the executive program that was prepared based on this agenda included many of the indicators found within the themes of direct relevance to the objectives of the MDGs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This executive program may be more comprehensive than the MDGs in terms of the framework and themes; it practically contains most of the themes of the MDGs.

To be fair, Jordan has made some progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the fight against poverty; however, it still is insufficient and needs more efforts and follow-up.

Significant achievements were also recorded in the field of achieving universal primary education. This area is receiving a significant official attention on all levels, especially in the direction of education development and illiteracy plans. A goal that is likely to be (100%) achieved by 2015 in terms of primary education for males and females. Also, progress was made with regard to promotion of gender equality women empowerment, as well as in the areas of health and education; however, gaps are still present when it comes to the involvement of women in the labor market and their participation in politics and economy. As to reducing child mortality rates, there is serious attention being given to health and vaccination campaigns, as serious and organized awareness campaigns have been conducted with the participation of all parties. Finally, with regards to the improvement of reproductive health, reproductive mortality cases are still relatively high, calling for new policies that would contribute in increasing care and awareness, providing postpartum medical services, and reducing costs.

- As to combating AIDS and other infectious diseases, there exists a number of measures that are sufficiently effective to fight these diseases, but they need increased

awareness and greater development of the health care system.

- As for the environment, there are gaps in the area of legislation and awareness. There is also a major water shortage in Jordan, which may increase in the near future.
- As for the development of the global partnership, the challenges and difficulties are considerable. These will require legal and economic modernization, especially to the tax system, as well as the upgrading of the trading and financial system which would call for the improvement of the administration, launching the reform process, and applying changes based on efficiency in addition to the development of organizational structures, facilitating of work processes in many institutions, boosting the productivity of the civil servants, and fighting corruption in all its forms.

Conclusions and suggestions

Despite the numerous obstacles hindering the realization of goals, many of which we mentioned, including the lack of resources, changing political circumstances in the region, and some of the existing social practices hindering the development and progress, yet it is still possible to achieve many of the MDGs by (2015), especially if a serious work is done on the highlighted issues, i.e. improving the investment environment, increasing its competitiveness, raising the Gross Domestic Product, promoting the principles of transparency and the rule of law, strengthening the independence of Justice and its impartiality, and fighting all forms of corruption ...

In the following, we provide some suggestions, which we find necessary to reach and achieve the Millennium Development Goals:

- 1) giving attention to development, in all its dimensions, particularly the economic level, through preparing and implementing a coordinated program of useful and targeted public investments and the adoption of National Strategies for development, supported regionally and internationally. We stress again the need to control the budget deficit and stop the soaring debt, investing all

resources so as to reduce them.

- 2) Channeling a major portion of investment into agriculture, and improving the services for these investments, especially in the fields of water, energy, land recovery, and productivity improvement. This important investment sector creating jobs and resolve part of the unemployment and poverty problem, especially among women.
- 3) Forming a dedicated national committee comprising representatives of the government, civil society organizations, and the government sector as well as all the active actors to follow-up and monitor the progress made towards achieving the MDGs, and to take necessary measures to put them on track.
- 4) Confirming and emphasizing women's rights, especially with regard to their participation in labor areas and enhance their economic and political participation.
- 5) Confirming the activation of the financial reform process using all possible ways and means to solve the various concerns related to budget and economic growth and to preserve financial and monetary stability.
- 6) Confirming the promotion of Arab and regional partnership and cooperation in all areas, which would help in achieving the MDGs, especially with the support of the rich countries.
- 7) Promoting political participation and organizing the upcoming parliamentary elections at the end of this year with full transparency and integrity, promoting civil liberties and the freedom of the media and the press, ensuring the rule of law, and guaranteeing the application of human rights.

Conclusion

We, at the Arab Network for Development / Jordan, believe that the realization of Development in our country, Jordan, does not allow for any delay as there is a pressing need for an overall reform. We are aware of the considerable challenges facing our country; however, we believe in the possibility of updating the plans, strategies, and policies, "leading to solving many problems, and above all poverty". We have confidence in the country's capacity

in solving the problems of the region fairly, first and foremost when it comes to the Palestinian issue. We therefore call for a joint international cooperation in order to facilitate the provision of support to all poor countries, including our country, Jordan. We also believe that our country in all its components, classes, and institutions, would be able to overcome all the hardships and launch the building of a new advanced and sophisticated Jordan capable of completing many important issues, mainly the fight against poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and taking special measures related to basic health care, as well as enabling partnership with all countries and international institutions and international cooperation and solidarity, and working hard to find effective solutions to the problem of indebtedness, which involves Jordan as a whole.

Lebanon Case Study

Prepared by

Rabih Fakhri

The Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union

This report comes within the framework of preparation for the unofficial consultation sessions, which were called to by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in order to **push the course of the Millennium Development Goals, 10 years after their launch, toward constructive directions and to help the voice of the civil society, which is involved in economic and social development, in being heard at international platforms.**

The World Bank classifies Lebanon among middle-income countries, as its gross domestic product per capita is of around US\$ 5944. However, that does not necessarily reflect the distributional dimension of the gross domestic product or its impact on the productive economic sectors. Development efforts face major challenges at the economic, social, and political levels. The absence of a clear development strategy adopted by the Lebanese state comes at the top of these challenges. The country that had just emerged from a devastating civil war in 1990 was unable to achieve economic recovery and start on the process of long-term growth. Add to that the frailty of political stability due to external and internal factors. As to the external factors, during the past two decades, Lebanon has endured three Israeli attacks (1992, 1996 and 2006) that targeted the economic infrastructure of the country. The economic cost of the latest aggression (2006) has been estimated to about -5% of annual economic growth. At the internal level, on the other hand, Lebanon has been, since 2005, going through consecutive dramatic events, starting with the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri, one of the most prominent local and international political figures, and the series of assassinations that followed it targeting ministers, MPs, and journalists, as well as random bombings; and up until 2007 when the political situation deteriorated with the

increase of sectarian and political pressures, the vacancy of the Presidency seat, and a constitutional dispute over the legitimacy of the government. As a direct result of the fragility of political stability on the course of development, it is possible to notice that no public budget for the country was approved since 2005. At the economic level, a financial engineering that combined expansionism construction policies and other financial policies, focused on curbing inflation and increasing interest rates in order to attract investments in the treasury bonds, marked the past decade. After two decades, Lebanon recorded one of the highest rates of total public debt to gross domestic product in the world (¹ 157% in 2008), and the debt service consumed 40% of the total expenditures of the Treasury and the budget for the period extending from 1993 to 2006.

Population	4.2 million
Human poverty rate	7.6% ^a
Economic growth rate (1990-2007)	2.4% ^a
Per capita GDP (2007) \$	5944 ^a
Proportion of aid allocated to social sectors (2007)	33.8%
Public debt to gross domestic product (2009)	157% ^b
Debt share of public expenditure ()	41% ^b

Sources: a- Human Development Report Database, b- Lebanese Ministry of Finance reports

The assessment of economic growth figures for the total previous period (4% for the period 1993 to 2006) reflects the inability of Lebanon to benefit from the economic boom resulting from the accompanying reconstruction phase and financial injection, as available data indicates the start of economic downturn, 5 years (1997) after the official start of the reconstruction process. This was happening at a time when growth rates decreased and, in parallel, remittance rates from overseas workforce increased, which indicated a high migration rate in a country emerging from civil war and entering into a phase of relative stability. The structure of the Lebanese economy is another challenge

¹ Reports from the Lebanese Ministry of Finance

facing development in Lebanon. Most of the GDP is achieved by the service sector (the main contributor to the GDP of the total past period, and with a big difference against the industry and agriculture sectors, where the majority of the poor workforce are employed) coming from the real estate rents and financial services, which are mainly non-productive activities.

Lebanon needs a national development strategy that would expand the productive base of the national economy and stimulate the enabled growth of the poor. However, this is not evident in government policies, where planning is limited, on one hand, to financial management of public debt and curbing inflation, while, on the other hand, to efforts to limit public spending and privatization as a means to reduce the overall deficit. The Government has committed through the economic reform plan in 2007 (Paris III) to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals through the Social Action Plan, which seeks to develop and activate the mechanisms of intervention to reduce poverty and regional disparities, in addition to activating safety nets and local development. The social action plan also includes a proposal to form a joint ministerial committee to support the implementation plan. The unstable political situation has been a major obstacle for the completion of the implementation of Paris III, at both the economic and social levels. Noting that the proposed work plan does not achieve a social and national strategy, but proposes direct intervention mechanisms, to improve the living conditions of certain marginalized groups, in addition to improving the performance of the ministries concerned in social affairs.

Towards 2015...

Goal	In progress	Overdue
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		
Achieve universal primary education		
Promote gender equality and empower women		
Reduce child mortality		

Improve maternal health		
Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
Ensure environmental sustainability		

Source: based on summaries of the results achieved in the national report on the MDGs (2008)

The progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals was monitored through two national reports (2003 and 2008) assessing the progression of component indicators of the Goals. The table above shows the course of work toward achieving the goals according to the second report issued in 2008 by the UNDP. Here it should be mentioned that the challenges consist of three main goals:

The 1st Goal, as poverty remains a central challenge for the course of development in the absence of a national strategy to combat poverty and of a structural change in the national economy towards the empowerment of the poor to enable them become productive in the economic process. About 8% of the population lives below the poverty line. This percentage reaches 28% for those living below the highest poverty line². Poverty in Lebanon takes multiple dimensions. Regional disparities, as about 82% of the very poor and 75% of the total poor are concentrated at the periphery (the North, the Bekaa and the south³). Poverty also goes together with the denial of the right to quality education that enables the poor to improve their productivity, with a high proportion of individuals with low education level. University graduates are 3.2% of the poor, while 18.6% are non-poor. Poverty rates among women are high, as unemployment rates among women are increasing, depending on geographical zones (peripheries). Moreover, the proportion of illiterate women is double the proportion of illiterate males. On the other hand, high rates of unemployment are recorded among the poor (14% compared with 6.7% for the non-poor) this rate among poor women (26.6%) is twice the rate of unemployment of poor males (13.5%⁴). The unemployment rate is rising among the youth (15-24 years), as they account for about 48% of the total unemployed⁵. According to a study on the

2 Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon; UNDP and MOSA, August 2008

3 ibid

4 Ibid, Annexes table A.3.7b

5 Lebanese MDGR- 2008, UNDP

living conditions for 2007, the proportion of those who do not benefit from any kind of health insurance is of about 35% of all workers surveyed.

The 3rd Goal, as the Lebanese women are still subjected to systematic discrimination by personal status and nationality laws, in addition to the non-application of any form of women's quota in parliamentary and local elections⁶. The Lebanese parliament did not approve this year the electoral reforms that guarantee women's quota. The Lebanese State also appealed a decision allowing a Lebanese woman to transfer the citizenship to her children she had acquired from a missing foreign husband. The Justice has accepted the appeal and the case is still pending awaiting the final verdict.

The **environmental issue** is the third challenge facing progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as it requires implementation of the environmental protection laws and the supportive political will. Furthermore, the environmental issue is not regarded as a national priority. Lebanon is facing serious environmental problems, such as the forest fires that destroyed more than 2350 hectares of green spaces, in addition to the environmental damage resulting from the Israeli aggression (July 2006), after the bombing of oil installations located in the southern coast of Lebanon (Jiah) resulting in the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea at the east coast, with more than 12000 tons of heavy fuel oil spread along 150 km of the Lebanese coast. Lebanon is also suffering chaos and political compromises, controlling issues directly affecting the environment, such as quarries, in addition to the exploitation of marine and river properties. There is no national environmental plan due to the limited government resources for environmental protection (0.1% of the total public expenditure) in addition to the absence of application of the regulations related to the environmental law.

On another level, the Millennium Goals include no indicators monitoring the status of individuals with disabilities and those suffering in Lebanon from clear discrimination when it comes to implementing the relevant laws and monitoring resources. The report issued by Associations for Disability, in the context of the periodic review of the implementation of the Convention on

6 It is worth mentioning that the Lebanese Government has approved (2010) some amendments of electoral laws related to reform issues such as the feminine quota, but the same parties represented in the Government have rejected these reforms at the Lebanese Parliament.

Human Rights, pointed out the discrimination faced by disabled individuals regarding political and economic participation, and pertaining to health and education sectors. The report refers to the delay in Lebanon (for 10 years) in the adoption of the regulations of the law 220 \ 2000, which guarantees the various civil, political, and economic rights for individuals with disabilities.

The national reports on the Goals do not indicate the nature of the involvement of civil society organizations in monitoring the progress of the work; however we do know that some of the civil society bodies are involved in the discussion of sector output of the report, usually prepared by the United Nations Development Programme. With regard to the participation of civil society in the economic and social reform plan, it was very brief when it came to the economic aspect and social issues, as a consultative meeting was held with civil society organizations shortly before its submission at the donor conference in Paris III. The implementation mechanism did not observe any significant role for civil agencies.

The monitoring of development in Lebanon goes beyond the indicators identified in the Millennium Goals and refers to the need for resettlement of development goals in harmony with national needs, in order to push for further development pathways based on rightful background.

The eighth goal - towards a global partnership for development

Lebanon recorded a rise in the ratio of net official development assistance from the GDP for the period 2000-2006, as the proportion rose respectively from 1.2% to 3.2%⁷. However, the country is straining under the burden of a public debt that is one of the highest of net public debt to GDP in the world, reaching 167% in 2006 to fall back to 128% in the year 2009.⁸ The Lebanese state has started to make tremendous efforts to secure foreign aids in order to reduce the aggravation of the public debt, and to curb its increasing growth. The Lebanese government proposed in 2002, during the Paris II conference, a roadmap for financial reforms. The project was based on increasing government revenue by adding the value-added tax and a proposal for the privatization

7 MDGs report 2008.

8 <http://www.finance.gov.lb/Public•Finances/Public•Debt/Public•Debt•Overview/General•Debt•Overview.ht>

of energy and telecommunication sectors, in addition to the reduction of uncontrolled public expenditure and the decrease of the debt service burden by re-scheduling the debts with less interest rates. Ultimately, the value of direct financial aid reached about US\$ 2.4 billion⁹; the local banking sector has played a key role in lending the government about US\$ 3.6 billion at low interest. As a direct result, the debt service decreased and government revenues increased. However, the political trouble in 2005 and the subsequent difficulties brought back doubt and risk on economic stability.

In 2007, the Lebanese government called for the donors meeting known as Paris III Conference, and submitted a proposal for financial reform that is not much different from the previous plan. The percentage of aid promised by donors reached around US\$ 7.5 billion, spent to support the treasury operations, development projects, support for the central Bank and civil society organizations. The progress report on progress toward achieving the goals of Paris III reveals the signature of 78% of the international commitments. The Lebanese government had received about 63% of them by January 2009, distributed as follows: 44% as support for the budget, 28% subsidies to the private sector, while the remaining percentage (28%) went in support for other items on the agenda of Paris III.

The challenge in Lebanon is different from that in other developing countries. The main problem in the financing of development is the absence of a clear strategy for development and the fact that reforms proposed are limited to a series of fiscal and monetary policies. This is happening at a time when there is no clear planning for the improvement of sectors of the effective economy (i.e. agriculture and industry), which includes most of marginalized people. The challenge is not in obtaining development aid, as much as it is in not reinvesting these resources in the economic structural change for development. Debt service consumes most of the aid, and a part of the aid goes to finance the spending. This is why there should be an evaluation of the economic growth figures achieved in Lebanon in terms of the distributional dimension of that growth and its impact on the poor and those with limited income. It is worth mentioning that the challenge here is the attraction of real estate, banking and tourism, to 90% of direct Arab investments, which constitute about 90% of the total direct foreign investments in Lebanon.

⁹ Ministry of Finance. 2003. One Year Progress After Paris II. Beirut, Lebanon
Ministry of Finance. December

Remittances have grown in real estate, by 17.6% yearly between 2003 and 2008¹⁰. On the other hand, the banking sector is the backbone of the Lebanese economy, where the proportion of total deposits to GDP reaches 315%. This is the highest rate in the world, but Lebanon comes in the hierarchy down pertaining to the proportion of loans to deposits (32%), while this ratio is of 75% in the Middle East and North Africa, 82% in emerging economies and 93% at the global level¹¹. The assessment of credits reveals a high level of concentration, as the share of 2.1% of the borrowers reaches about 76% of the total loans granted in the years 2007 and 2008 .¹²The share of agriculture is 1% of total loans ,a figure that rises to 13% in industry while the services sector's share is of about 41% of the total loans granted by local banks in .2008 It is to be noted that because of the policies of the excessive raise of the benefits of borrowing ,investment in treasury bonds is the most profitable economic activity for banks, whose share is of about 62% of the total government bonds.¹³

Recommendations

- Resettling the Millennium Development Goals, including setting national priorities) balanced regional development ,eliminating all forms of discrimination against young people ,women ,and persons with disabilities (towards some more development initiatives based on local realities and human rights.
- Involving the civil society in the planning and evaluation process for the progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals .In addition to ensuring the participation of representatives of the civil society in setting the priorities and the nature of economic and financial reforms and in the preparation of the public budget the budget assigned by sector.
- Preparing an integrated development strategy for socio-economic development that would decrease the regional and gender disparities in income and access to the labour market ,education and basic services.
- Developing programs targeting youth ,specifically working to enhance their skills and capacities and chances

10 ibid

11 Lebanese banking Sector, Audi Bank, August 2009.

12 Association of Lebanese Banks, annual report 2008.

13 Lebanese Ministry of Finance

to contribute and implement policies which benefit from them as a crucial element in social ,economic ,national and local development ,and curbs their migration.

- Undertaking a monetary review of the financial and economic policies ,in order to expand and strengthen the productive base of the sectors of the real economy)agriculture and industry (towards further empowering growth for the poor and creating jobs that suit the profiles of the poor and marginalized groups in Lebanon.
- Enhancing measures to curb wasteful spending of available resources as a step towards providing social services in a geographically and socially equitable way.
- Ensuring availability and accessibility of data to the public and developing official statistics that can guide national and sectoral policies that are up to date and guarantee the rights of all social categories .Mainstreaming integrating development indicators and standards in statistical and social reform plans as official statistics on living conditions lack data related to special needs persons.
- Reforming the tax system towards greater redistribution of resources through the reduction of taxes on consumption and raising income tax on elites by more than ,20% in addition to imposing a tax on profits from real estate speculation and profits of banks.
- Developing a strategy for public debt management and for limiting its growth and its exhaustion for public resources and development assistance.



Morocco Case Study

Prepared by

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Introduction

Following the neglect of economic and social development plans and with the inconsistency between public affair management and the Government's commitments, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained the main reference for citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Morocco, who became more and more demanding toward their governments in terms of improving performance and achieving progress in this regard.

The Millennium Declaration includes a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of these "goals" and submission of regular reports on the progress made in the achievement of the MDGs, mainly to be established by governments and supported by the United Nations system.

Report after report, it appears that the department in charge of the progress of goals in Morocco enjoys an essentially quantitative approach, self-sufficiency, and self-satisfaction: "We're done with some goals and the remaining ones are on track".

Without doubt, the statistics of the High Planning Commission (HCP) are hard to dispute, as the commission kept to quantitative indicators for monitoring the MDGs as they are expressed. Nevertheless, reality and experiences of people are marked by inflexibility.

Many questions may be raised

Based on a review of literature and outcomes of round tables organized by L'Espace Associatif with academics and other thinkers and experts¹⁴, we decided to focus this contribution on

14 Roundtable meetings held in Rabat (April 21, 2010) Quarzazate (May 9, 2010)

two important aspects related to the implementation of MDGs in Morocco:

- Key findings on the issue of funding of development and partnership in Morocco (paragraphs 1-3)
- Question in paragraph 6, related to a specific social problem concerned with the cooperation in a development process aimed at supporting the Moroccan education system, which illustrates the complexity of social facts, and the limitations of linear and quantitative approaches of public policies.

1. General remarks

In general, it is clear from the presentations and discussions on this issue among researchers, civil society associations, and other parties that this problem does not arouse the interest of the authority responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are now at two-thirds of the cycle of the MDG cycle (2000 - 2015), and we realize that our governments are not ready for monitoring the MDGs.

Of the three national MDG reports, only the 2007 report has addressed the issue of funding and the building of a work structure for the 8th Goal, based on the same design used with the other goals.

Another weak point lies in the fact that the High Planning Commission has no accurate and credible financial information on development and specifically on the contribution of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The funding of development, including the international aids, has remained so far an obscure issue. It was not clear until survey data from OECD/DAC 2008 were published, as it was subsequently possible to learn more about the contribution of international partnership in funding development in Morocco, and to understand the structure of ADP funding.

1. The emergence of three findings (2008-2010)

1st Fact:

The 2009 National Report on the MDGs reveals that Morocco,

which has endorsed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, participated in 2008 in the second survey monitoring indicators under the umbrella of a working group on the effectiveness of OECD aids, especially those of the committee of Development Assistance.

This survey showed the insignificant dependence of Morocco on the ODA, that amounted to a total of 2268.7 million US\$ in 2007, representing only 2% of the national budget (1.8 billion US\$).

The World Bank, according to the report, is a major financial partner, with 18.8% of total ODA in Morocco (426.00 million US\$), followed by the European Union with 13.6% (308.00 million US\$), the European Investment Bank 9.7% (221.00 million US\$). The United Nations System contributes only up to 1% of total ODA (22.50 million US\$), followed by the United States of America (USAID) with 0.9% (20.00 million US\$).

Partners	Amount (millions US\$)	%
- World Bank	426,00	18,8
- European Union	308,00	13,6
- European Investment Bank	221,00	9,7
- AFESD– Canada	201,00	8,9
- African Development Bank	169,00	7,4
- France	154,00	6,8
- Germany	127,00	5,6
- Islamic Development Bank	126,00	5,6
- Japan	116,00	5,1
- Italy	111,00	4,9
- FADD	97,00	4,3
- KFD	79,00	3,5
- Spain	33,60	1,5
- United Nations System	22,50	1,0
- USA (USAID)	20,00	0,9
- FSD	15,00	0,7
- Canada (CIDA)	10,30	0,5
- Belgium	9,00	0,4
- OPEC Fund	8,00	0,4
- China	7,00	0,3

- Global Fund to Fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	5,30	0,2
- IFAD	3,00	0,1
Total	2268,7	100,0

MDG National Report 2009

Representatives of civil society organizations have not failed to note the surprisingly low relative share of ODA to finance development in Morocco. This “demystification” of the finding implies a very significant fact, which is that the Moroccan citizens are the ones who are mostly affected by this funding.

We have also realized that among the contributors to ODA in Morocco, the United Nations system offers only a small fraction of development funding (1%), although its presence is most visible in the field of development as a “carrier” of the MDGs.

We need, however, to qualify the position of some donors of ODA to Morocco through the following observations:

i. First, it would be relevant to mention the confusion in the language of development, between **loans** to states and **(official) public support**, in the context of development support, then between (official) public support for the fight against poverty and the “randomness” of official “assistance”.

Thus, we cannot explain why the World Bank, to mention only this emblematic institution, appears in a very good position among the organizations of “international cooperation” that “support” development in Morocco. Everyone knows it is not a charitable institution. It is primarily a bank, and the majority of funds allocated to Morocco are loans and not grants, which will be all reimbursed and with interest. In addition, part of the relatively low donations of this institution and many other international donors is destined to fund technical studies that prepare for granting development loans.

Here are some examples of important social projects supported by the World Bank¹⁵ that will eventually turn out to be loans for future generations to repay:

- Project aiming to improve the basic education of adults “Alpha Maroc” (loan no. 46790 - 2003/2007 - initial loan

¹⁵ Nawafid Magazine on the Maghreb region, December 2007. World Bank, Rabat Office.

value: 4.1 million US\$].

- Project in support of the redesign of basic education [loan no. 72730 - 2005/2008 - loan value: US\$ 80 million US\$].
- Project aiming to improve the quality of the education system [loan no. 72200 - 2004/2008 - loan value: 130,3 million US\$].
- Reform plan for Higher Education [loan no. 73920 - 2006 / 2011 - loan value: 76 million US\$].
- National Initiative for Human Development [loan no. 74150 - 2007/2011. This loan aims “to reduce poverty, vulnerability, precariousness, and social exclusion, while creating sustainable dynamics for human development”. Loan value: 100 million US\$].

When we now realize the gravity of the crisis and the obstruction facing the Moroccan education system, to which there has just been set yet another reform plan called “Emergency Plan” at a cost of 5.3 billion US\$, it is highly relevant to raise questions on the World Bank’s stands and its recurrent sermons concerned with good governance and development projects.

Additionally, the numerous civil society associations “ NHRIs generation “ do not evaluate the fact that the cash value that is randomly distributed on projects whose quantity clearly takes precedence over the quality, is not a gift from heaven, but rather burdens being laid on the shoulders of future generations.

ii. Repositioning of the U.S. development assistance

The Development cooperation with Morocco provided by the United States of America does not feature prominently in the summary quoted by the HCP in the 2009 National Report on MDGs, according to the OECD survey of 2008. It represents only 0.9% of total ODA, with 20 million US\$. The U.S. has recently signed a contract with Morocco within the framework of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) valued at 697.5 million US\$¹⁶.

¹⁶ The contribution of the Moroccan Government to the funding of the program is estimated to about 250 million US\$.

300.90 million US\$ of these were allocated for tree planting, 116.17 for manual fishing, 111.87 for the promotion of crafts in Fez, 46.20 for the development of financial services for micro-enterprises and 33.85 for the support of two initiatives: “Moukawalati” and the National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD).

The 5-year agreement concluded with Morocco in August 2007 is “one of the most ambitious” MCC¹⁷ programs... This assistance aims to stimulate economic growth through increased productivity and improved employment opportunities in sectors with high potential.

The CEO of MCC, Ambassador John J. Danilovich, said that the package signed with Morocco is “comprehensive and unique” because it intends to improve the GDP of 118 million US\$ annually, benefiting 600,000 Moroccan families¹⁸.

More than two years after its implementation, the Morocco MCC program has a particularly low implementation system. This finding is obvious through the inadequate results according to some MPs. According to the SUPF¹⁹ MP Saloua Karkri Belkeziz, in two years of entry into force, only 50 million US\$ were actually paid, from the 700 million US\$ granted to Morocco by the MCC.

The pace of delivery of projects would be well below the expected goals, while the MCC only grants budgets on projects duly delivered. Moreover, Members of Parliament raised the issue of criteria, action, and spatial distribution selection for the projects’ objectives. The multiplicity of stakeholders also complicates the implementation in a timely manner.

There was another important issue raised by civil society representatives during the discussions on the structure of expenditure allocation of ODA:

17 Since its establishment in 2004, the MCC has concluded multiyear agreements with 18 countries with a total value of about 6.2 billion US\$. The aids provided to Morocco might be the most important ever.

18 Press conference in Washington, September 15, 2007 (Dispatch from MAP: Maghreb Arabe Presse).

19 SUPF: Socialist Union of Popular Forces, a political party represented in the Moroccan Government since the advent of democratic change in 1998.

Out of each 100 US\$ granted by this grant, how many dollars (or euros) never made its way across the borders? How much was allocated to the operational structures (Agence pour le Progrès (i.e. Agency for Advancement) in the case of Moroccan MCC, Sanad, Alef, and other major U.S. projects to name but a few?) How much was allotted for the funding of international expertise, as usually is allocated by agreements and programs? How much for national expertise? And how many dollars remain for main activities? Where does national expertise stand in these agreements and programs? How much dollars remain for the real work? What is the direct impact of the remaining residual dollars or euros that manage to cross the thresholds of the ODA pension extracts?

2nd Fact:

ODA to Morocco is in dire need of coordination and harmonization, as it faces the inflation of agencies, institutions, and other organizations of national social development in Morocco along with adjacent competition (Ministry of Social Development, Social Development Agency, Development Agencies of the North, the South, the East, of the Oriental region, Rural Development Agency, National Mutual Help, etc..). The programs and projects of international cooperation are not in better position, as they overlap and replicate, substantially affecting the effectiveness of development assistance in general. Hence, emerged the idea of establishing the “Theme Group Inter-Donor Harmonization”. This is a coordination group for assistance including dozens of partakers; the group works in order to ensure aid effectiveness, achieve congruity among different practices and coordinating the aids.

It aims to:

- Provide guidance, direction, and follow-up through the improvement of aids.
- Publish a guidebook to good practices to be used by technical and financial partners and stakeholders in Morocco.
- Check the tangible proposals presented to the Government of Morocco to optimize the mechanisms of aid coordination.

The question that may arise, however, is: is the Moroccan party in the right position and is it aware of its role? Two dimensions that seem absent from the mechanism. Therefore, why should a leadership be provided for this thematic group?

3rd Fact:

The establishment of the SIG Project, i.e. map of development projects in Morocco:

“In the context of the commitments made by Morocco under the Paris Declaration, the Ministry of Economy, along with UNDP, and with the financial cooperation from the French and Spanish partnership, has engaged since 2008 in a project to establish a map of development projects through a geographic information system.

This project is intended as a database providing the integrated management of information on development projects. It will allow, in the medium term, all partners access to comprehensive and reliable data on interventions defined under the ODA projects as well as structural development in Morocco, giving greater visibility to aid in the Kingdom. “(2009 National Report on MDGs, PHC, Morocco)

This project is presented as:

- A tool for communication, publication, and information;
- A work tool based on teamwork and coordination among members;
- A tool for planning, analysis, and monitoring of partners’ commitments in Morocco.

1. Other items of discussion on funding and partnership for development:

i. Is it actually possible to have social development without an economic development? “We suffer because we lack competitiveness, what is taking place now is the decline of exports”. Along with social development, we should think of economic development because it is the most important.

ii. Despite the scarce international aids, it is nevertheless a kind of certain standby component that still drives the public authority to monitor and respond to requirements. This led us to recover certain situations, such as the rentier economy that weighs heavily on our economy, through the pressure of stakeholders who do not wish for things to work out. Foreign aid and association with the EU and its standards are welcome to break the rentier economy in order to reach a healthy and transparent economy.

iii. The MDGs remain a slogan that is periodically used during the drafting of national reports and their publication. After that, we no more hear of them, either in the government or among the majority of civil society organizations. .

I. Each year, the significant amounts of US ODA allocated in Morocco, are not disbursed. We must reconsider this reality in Morocco. The reason is that there would be no “reliable customizable and measurable project, and out of this chain all regular national and international agencies practice redundancy in their activities”. Then there is a “loosening” of these funds and their loss to other countries and other horizons.

ii. The capacity of civil society organizations to take direct action vis-à-vis donors remains low. They mostly tend to lock up in the role of executive or services agencies.

iii. The hegemony of the planned development on joint development. In Morocco, we act with a supply policy. This is not a need policy, and not a human rights policy. This is why there is always a mismatch between public supply and social demands; this was noticed in all State programs.

2. What is the impact of official international cooperation and ODAs? Examples of some issues related to the Moroccan education system

The education sector is deemed to be a budget-consuming sector; it is also the one that benefits most from international cooperation and ODA - but to what ends and how effective is it?²⁰

²⁰ See above examples of loans' values from the WB allocated to the support of education reform, starting with literacy to higher education.

To illustrate the reservations and the confusion of the civil society in this regard, here is a summary of the main findings and key questions raised in the debates on this subject:

The quantitative results seem on track. However these are only quantitative indicators for both formal (on all levels) and informal education. In terms of quality, these results remain extremely unsatisfactory. International Evaluation Studies on Educational Achievement, in which Morocco took part - including TIMSS 2003 and PIRLS 2006 - highlight the poor performance of Moroccan students in science, math, and reading.

For example: concerning the performance of Moroccan students after reaching the 4th year of primary education: they scored in math an average of 347, which is well below the international average score of 495. 61% of Moroccan school students do not meet the minimum requirements set by TIMSS in mathematics. Moroccan students obtained in Sciences an average score of 304, which is far below the international average score of 489. 66% of Moroccan students do not meet the minimum requirements set by TIMSS in Science.

Other issues of discussion were raised by the participants to reflect the situation MDGs, especially Goal 2 related to education:

i. Education, training, emergency plan:

Strengths:

- The education-related issue concerns the authorities; it has long been addressed since it is regarded as a national priority
- Authorities' admittance as to the Moroccan education system crisis
- Assigning a large budget (about US\$ 5.3 billion) for the implementation of the «Emergency Plan» (EP)
- “Success School” initiative within the framework of the EP
- Interest of civil society in the education sector

- Increasing numbers of civil society organizations involved in preschool education and in remote areas.
- The National Initiative for Human Development's contribution in the construction and rehabilitation of many schools
- A gradual introduction of Information and Communication Technology in educational practices.

Weaknesses:

- Failure of the reform introduced by the National Charter for Education and Training
- Use of a foreign research office for a non-participatory design of the EP
- Current use of French technical documentation in the EP projects
- Improvisation in the implementation of projects developed within the EP
- Lack of training of school principals in Project Development
- The Amounts Allocated to EP Projects are not Budgeted by the Regional Academies on time
- Problems related to school mapping and statistics. The latter is often unmonitored, uncontrolled, and ambiguous
- Non-participatory management of trainers' and directors' training in the Ministry, and lack of proper preparation of training sessions
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation of training results
- "Success School" remains in many places just a slogan: Classes overloaded with students and the recruitment of executives in different school levels with no previous training in education
- School provision remains limited in remote areas
- Preschool education is far from widespread, and if available it is modernized and updated: with a dominance of traditional preschool education that does not meet the requirements and standards of education and training.

- Lack of Rationalization of Human Resource Management: lack of teachers in many places, and “ghost” teachers (absentee) in others

- Lack of multipurpose classes and lack of integrated classrooms provided in the National Charter of Education and Training

ii. Non-formal Education and literacy

Strengths:

- Availability of a department assigned to informal education and literacy (NFE)
- Availability of a National Strategy for NFE and Literacy
- Great public interest in literacy programs
- Introduction of new teaching approaches: education based on skills and on empowerment

Weaknesses:

- Despite the numerous literacy programs in place since the independence (1956), illiteracy rate remains high in Morocco (over a third of the population) compared to countries of similar level
- Illiteracy is not treated at source: no schooling, drawbacks from schools, return to illiteracy
- Lack of real mechanisms and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of NFE and literacy
- Lack of motivation of human resources to engage in NFE and literacy: low payments and irregular payments
- Lack of employment status and hierarchy and lack of professional horizons
- Lack of adequate financial and motivational capacities for the elimination of illiteracy and for the development of informal education programs
- Numerous economic constraints and socio-cultural resistance to adult education
- Insufficient basic and continuous training for NFE and literacy trainers

- The content of literacy programs is not suitable for regional needs
- Specific problem of weakening in NFE programs, especially literacy programs

In all the debates dealing with the Moroccan education system, the civil society has reservations on the official statistics produced and disseminated by the Ministry of National Education (MNE). With specific regard to the literacy sector, everyone is aware of the difficulties faced in adult education (general MNE program, associations' programs, program of other state sectors etc.) and the significant losses in the implementation of these programs. The MNE made sure to take the burden off its shoulders, while experts assess the impact of such on enrollment between 30 and 50%. Moreover, the neo-literates are often unable to access post-learning opportunities and cultural spaces in order to pursue their development and widen their learning; they thus fall back into illiteracy.

Sudan Case Study

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Introduction

The 2003 report on human development issued by the UNDP included the Millennium Development Goals, which were formulated in 2000 and adopted by the largest assembly of heads of states ever, compelling rich and poor countries to invest all capacities to eradicate poverty. The Millennium Declaration that was prepared by a large number of experts from all over the world came to define a development program with defined goals and a set timeframe for achieving these and also offering the possibility to measure the achieved progress or slowness and/or regression in realizing them.

In this report, we will present five of the eight goals on which information was available in order to review what has been achieved so far in Sudan.

Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The target: halving the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar per day between 1990 and 2015. The experts have determined that those whose daily income is less than a dollar are considered as being in a state of extreme poverty or as absolute poor... as for those with a daily income that is less than two dollars, they are considered as living below the normal poverty line. The millennium development program also highlighted that the efforts to fight poverty should focus on social containment and the policies aimed at the generation of employment opportunities.

The President of the Republic signed this international convention on the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, when Sudan is

close to the end of the ten-year development plan (1992-2002) – a plan that could not achieve any of its declared goals; conversely, it failed outrageously in doing so. As to achieving the first of the human development goals, the lowest cereal production rates were recorded as the ten-year plan's aim was to reach a production of 20 million tons of corn by its end in 2002. However, it only reached a production of 2.825 million tons, i.e. 14 % of the target. Moreover, the production that was achieved by the end of the plan is actually less than the 60% of the corn production realized in 88/89, before the arrival of the Government of Salvation and in the last years of the democratic rule. The ten-year development plan also aimed at achieving a total production of 2.360 million tons of wheat by its end, yet what it actually attained was only 247 thousand tons, i.e. the same production figure of the last years during the democratic rule. As to millet production, it remained as is after the plan's end in comparison to the production before that. This is as regards the production of cereals to point out how was the production like before Mr. President's signature of the Millennium Declaration– a confirmation of the above appeared in a joint report between the government of Sudan and the World Bank in 2003.

In this joint report, it was concluded that an economic growth has taken place in Sudan ranging between 6 and 10 % in the years that had preceded the signing and which a very small fraction of the Sudanese community have monopolized. The extremely high cost was laid on the shoulders of the absolute majority of citizens whose standards of living saw a drastic decline – what promises the abortion of whatever economic reform achieved earlier, if no serious policies favoring the poor are adopted. The joint report stated that the number of the poor in Sudan has increased, which is a significant indication to the decline of human development in Sudan. This bleak picture is reflected in the report on the state of food security issued by the Ministry of Agriculture's Food Security department in 2006, where we note that there is an actual shortage of 400 thousand tons in nutritious cereals. The shortage in Great Darfur adds up to over 500.000 tons, when it is about 45.000 tons in Kassala, 83.000 in the North and West Kurdufan, 3.000 in the White Nile, and 866.000 in Khartoum.

These figures call for great concern over the situation and indicate an imminent risk of food crisis in Sudan due to the food gap both on the regional level in particular and the country level in general. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Sudan's data reveal that Sudan imports about 1.5 million tons of wheat annually.

Goal 4: reducing child mortality rates

The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Countries report prepared and published by the UNDP in December of 2003 reveals that the pace of progress in the region towards the reduction of child mortality rates for children below the age of five is insufficient so as to achieve this goal by 2015. Some countries like Djibouti and Somalia have recorded a recession or a slow-paced progress compared to Sudan, which in its first development goals report that was issued by the Sudanese Government we note that a slight progress has taken place since 1990 as health indicators stated in the report reveal. This is mainly due to the fact that since the year 2000, about 5 million children received a dose of Vitamin A twice a year and over 8 million below the age of 15 were vaccinated against measles. The report also covered child mortality for children below the age of 5 in all Sudanese states as the following table shows:

Table: child mortality for newborns and children below the age of 5 in 2004

State	Newborns-per 1000	Below the age of 5 – per 1000
Northern	50	78
Red Sea	116	165
Kassala	1	148
Al Qadarif	68	117
Al Jazirah	43	59
Sennar	52	98
White Nile	70	111
Blue Nile	101	172
Khartoum	69	103
Northe Kurdufan	60	103
South Kurdufan	95	147
West Kurdufan	72	95
North Darfur	61	101
South Darfur	64	96
West Darfur	72	104

However, the statistical report issued by the Federal Ministry of Health in 2006 stated that child mortality rate exceeded 57 per 1000 live births for newborns and 112 per 1000 for children below the age of 5.

We observe that government expenditure on the health sector is very low compared to overall government expenditure. In 2006, expenditure on the health sector amounted to 1.6% out of overall government expenditure. This situation needs to be taken more seriously so that we would be able to achieve this goal, which in view of our present performance looks out of reach.

Goal 5: improving reproductive and maternal health

The unified report between the government of Sudan and the 2004 UN Country Team reveals that cases of maternal mortality in 1989/1990 stood at a ratio of 537 per 100.000 live births. Further, according to the ministry of health's program it is expected that the ratio decreases to 134 per 100.000 live births. However, the abovementioned official report does not expect that we would attain this target, but on the contrary it expects that maternal mortality rates remain around 459 per 100.000 live births. The report points out that these cases exist mainly due to absence of health services.

Thus, if maternal and child health services in Sudan continued to perform at such extremely low levels then the future of Sudanese health sector does not look very bright, especially in the least developed states. It becomes therefore crucial to create a balance in terms of necessary health services among rich states and those that are less fortunate.

Goal 7: securing environmental sustainability

The target: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. The Seventh Goal includes 4 indicators, and these are: 1) integrate the principle of sustainability into government's development programs, 2) reducing the rates of loss of biodiversity, 3) halving the number of inhabitants who have no access to water and sanitation services, 4) achieving noticeable improvement in the lives of no less than 100 million of slum area dwellers (poor and overcrowded neighborhoods) by the year 2020.

The joint report between the Sudanese government and the UN Country Team issued in December 2004 on Sudan and on what has been achieved of the Millennium Development Goals so far, reveals that rainfall varies from near zero in the northern desert to about 1,500 mm in the south of Sudan. The country is characterized by four ecological zones with 35% of Sudan's total area consisting of a desert zone, 20% of a semi-desert, 25% of low-rainfall savanna, 12% of high rainfall savanna, and 8% of fuel wood plains and mountain vegetation. According to the National Drought and Desertification Control Programme's Monitoring Unit, more than half the land area is affected by desertification, which is a result of inappropriate land use methods, over-cultivation, over-grazing, and deforestation. According to the Monitoring Unit, wrongful deforestation was taking place in 1990 at a rate exceeding 1% per annum.

Large area of the land is being eroded, while arid or semi-arid areas are coming under pressure, as people are looking for more land for cultivation or grazing. Erosion then reduces productivity, pushing people to demand for yet more land – and this vicious circle leads to additional land degradation, vulnerability to erosion, and environmental decline. All of these have increased following consecutive droughts in the 1980s and the felling of trees for different purposes. There is also great pressure on pastoral areas owing to mechanized agriculture, which is mostly concentrated in the most fertile grazing lands – and all of this result in increasing the pressure on resources.

In 2006, within the framework of the Green mobilization, the Ministry of Finance and Economy provided the National Forestry Authority with 60 million dinars, equal to 0.6 SDP or 600.000 pounds in the new currency. The amount that the National Forest Authority had requested that year was 53 million SDG, yet the annual budget allocated only 4 million SDG. However, what was really paid at the time of implementation was a little more than 1 % of the requested amount and 15 % of the amount allocated in the budget that was adopted by the Ministry of Finance. But in 2007, nothing was received from the ministry. In 2008, within the framework of the agricultural revival and development program, the Ministry of Finance pledged to offer 40 million SDG to rehabilitate the Gum Arabic belt and another 1 million SDG to fund projects concerned with the national development of forests, add to that a sum of 2.150 million was offered at the joint meeting between the Near East Forestry Commission and the Africa Forestry and Wildlife Commission held in Sudan the

same year. However, none of the above was actually delivered. As to the green mobilization project, out of the 5 million SDG assigned to it only 50.000 SDG were paid, i.e. 1%. Hence, the sum of the funds received from the Ministry of Finance amounts to 0.1% of the originally adopted amounts, i.e. a ratio of 1 to 1000.

The end-result is that each fell tree is being replaced by only six other trees... and so, the neglect of forest development persists.

Indicator: achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (poor and overcrowded neighborhoods) by 2020.

In the 2003 Millennium Development Goals report in the Arab countries issued by the UNDP, it was stated that one of the indicators relevant to this target is represented in the proportion of inhabitants who have access to improved sanitation services in urban areas.

The following table presents the proportion of inhabitants with access to water and sanitation services

State	of Proportion with Population Water to Access	of Proportion Access with Population Services Sanitation to
Khartoum	93	87
Kurdufan South	79	51
Jazirah Al	78	57
Sennar	74	55
sea Red	72	51
Northern	77	79
Kurdufan West	67	73
kassala	60	47
Qadarif Al	59	40
Nile River	58	86
Darfur North	56	57
Darfur South	50	63
Kurdufan North	42	36
Nile White	39	48

Source: UNDP Report

This report pointed out that the proportions of inhabitants with access to safe drinking water among different states are highly disparate. According to the report, state proportions as to access to safe water is as follows: 93% in Khartoum, 79% in South Kurdufan, 78% in Al Jazirah, 74% in Sennar, 72% in Red Sea, 77% in Northern state, 67% in West Kurdufan, 60% in Kassala, 59% in Al Qadarif, 58% in River Nile, 56 % in North Darfur, 50% in South Darfur, 42% in North Kurdufan, 39% in White Nile, and 29% in West Darfur. This time, the state of the Blue Nile came last among the northern states, and thus outshining the state of Darfur for once as it took over a position which has always been reserved for West Darfur when it comes to social services and other types of services.

With regards to sanitation, the report stated that the proportion of inhabitants enjoying improved sanitation service was as follows: 87% in Khartoum, 86% in River Nile, 79% in Northern State, 73% in West Kurdufan, 63% in South Darfur and the same proportion in Blue Nile, 58% in Al Jazirah, 57% in North Darfour, 55% in Sennar, 54% in White Nile, 51% in South Kurdufan, and the same proportion in the Red Sea, 48% in West Darfur, 47% in Kassala, 40% in Al Qadarif, and 36% in North Kurdufan – again for the second consecutive time, we see the state of West Darfur being outclassed by Kassala, Al Qadarif, and North Kurdufan.

The report mentions that the proportion of inhabitants having access to sanitation networks in Sudan is 6%; amongst the urban dwellers 3.5% enjoy access to Septic Tank Services while 26.4% of them use traditional pit toilets, and in the rural areas 49.5% - and generally in Southern Sudan 45% of the population use traditional pits, with a proportion of 58% for city dwellers and 38% for rural dwellers. The report asserted that expenditure on the development of these services amounts to 4.2% out of the overall expenditures spent on development in that year.

A joint report between the government of National Unity, the government of South Sudan, and the Central Bureau of Statistics published in December 2007 confirmed that 28% of the inhabitants of Sudan drink water installed inside their dwellings or in a fenced space for the collective use, while 7% of them drink water from public or manually operated faucets, 12% from wells equipped with pipes, 11% from artesian wells or small rivers, 1% from rain water, 15% from unprotected wells and rivers, 8% drink from shallow waters, and 18% from unprocessed water.

However, there exist great differences among various states, in

that the proportion of households drinking water connected to their homes up to 2006 represents 8.7% of the Sudanese population, while this proportion is 29.9% in Khartoum, 20.1% in Sennar, 14.1% in Al Jazirah, 11.9% in Kassala, 9.8% in River Nile, 2.8% in al Qadarif, 3.7% in North Kurdufan, 0.9% in North and South Darfur, i.e. 9 per 1000. As for West Darfur the proportion is 0.1% or 1 per 1000, and the proportion reaches 0% in South Kurdufan and Western Equatoria, 12.5% in Al Wahda, 7.1% in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, 5.7% in Western Bahr El Ghazal, 4% in Upper Nile, and 0.5% in Eastern Equatoria, i.e. 5 per 1000.

The households that drink water from manual pumps make 19% of the Sudanese population; 66.7% in Northern State; 56.6% in River Nile; 51.9% in Al Jazirah; 45.9 in Khartoum; 27.2% in White Nile; 20.6% in Sennar; then the proportion decreases to 0% in South Kurdufan; 4.1% in South Darfur; 1.8% in West Darfur; 1.5% in North Darfur; and the highest proportion in the South is recorded in Western Bahr El Ghazal state with 4.8%; 1.8% in West Darfur, 1.5% in North Darfur; and the highest proportion in the South in Western Bahr El Ghazal with 4.8%; 2.5% in Jonglei; 1.7% in Upper Nile; 0.2% in Lakes, 0.5% in the Western Equatoria. As for public faucets, 16% in West Darfur, 15.55 in South Darfur, 15.8% in North Kurdufan, 11% in Sennar, 10.3% in Al Qadarif, 9.5% in Jonglei (the highest in South of Sudan), 7.4% in the Upper Nile, 0.5% in Lakes, 1.1% in the Western Equatoria, and 0% in the other two Equatoria states. Finally, the proportion of households drinking water from animal-driven water tanks are 41.5% in the Red Sea, 22.2% in South Darfur, 15.9% in Kharoum (again these represent the immigrant and marginalized people), and 10.8% in South Kurdufan.

The proportions of households with water access located at an hour's travel distance or more from their dwellings are as follows: 42.9% as an average for the general population, 84.9% in Red Sea, 67.1 in Kassala, 65.1% in White River, 54.2% in Jonglei, 52.1% in Western Equatoria, 45.9% in North Darfur, 32.6% in Khartoum, 28.8% in West Darfur, 43.9% in South Darfur, 28% in Al Qadarif, 27.9% in River Nile, and 23% in Northern state – an indication to the suffering women in particular experience as they have to travel long distances in order to get water from available sources. However, when it comes to improved sanitation, the proportion of households for whom this service is available are: 83.2% in River Nile, 79.7% in Northern state, 78% in Khartoum, 32.3% in North Darfur, 29.8% in West Darfur, 20.1% in South Darfur, 14.2% in South Kurdufan, 10.7% in Blue Nile, 11.2%

in Western Equatoria, 7.5% in Upper Nile, 5.6% in Lakes, 5.6% in Al Wahda, 5.3% in Northern Bahr al Ghazal, 1% in Warrap, and the national average for the entire Sudanese population is 31.4%.

The report did not indicate the targeted proportion to be reached in the coming period, but it is clear that this little invested effort does not promise the possibility of realizing of the millennium development goal concerned with drinking water and improved sanitation.

Goal 8: Make aid more efficient

Increasing aids will not be sufficient. According to a recent study carried out by the World Bank, aids that were offered on different times and in various places (ranging from extremely efficient, non-efficient, and anywhere in between) have helped in achieving numerous remarkable success stories during the last decades - in Indonesia and the Republic of Korea in the 1970s, Bolivia and Gana in the 1980s, Uganda and Vietnam in the 1990s – and have pushed international programs towards the green revolution, the efforts to control river blindness, and the expansive vaccination campaigns against infant diseases. However, many of the aids have reached countries that are plagued with corruption and governed by misleading policies – and these conditions could only make the aids go down the drain.

What could be done to guarantee that aids be more efficient, and above all to accelerate advancement towards the goals? There exist 3 issues that are dominant in recent analyses, and these are pivotal when it comes to the principles of the strongest partnership which appeared in Monterey and Johannesburg: the rule of the fittest, increased ownership, and the best practices in aid investment.

Governance – i.e. the policies and institutions that regulate the interactions between individuals and groups in the society - is considered as part of the basis of sustainable economic growth and human development. This is why the aid donor countries have made their contributions available yet adhering to conditions related to the efforts developing counties put into practice to reinforce the governance. These donor countries have provided the necessary support through technical cooperation with the receiving countries, and they consider the espousal of measures related to fighting corruption, the adoption of comprehensive and

correct economic policies, and the implementation of effective and accountable systems through public resources as fundamental to guarantee that external resources may not be squandered. Moreover, rule of law, execution of sound contracts, and strong public organizational institutions are all significant for the market economy businesses and good economic governance.

However, there exist other significant facets to rule. The human development report also attempted to prove that human development requires a democratic rule that fulfills the needs of the poor, and the democratic rule itself calls for what is beyond policies and institutions that ensure efficient public services. The Democratic rule entails just institutions and systems as well as decision-making processes that grant people the right to partake in expression of opinion and allow them to guarantee accountability of the government. Therefore, political institutions that reinforce people's voice and government accountability are important factors for expediting progress towards the set goals, even though an agenda favoring the poor could conflict with the interests of the elites – this is what the UNDP report on human development carried in its 2003 edition.

Tunisia Case Study

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1 -Introduction

Tunisia is among the countries that have managed to accomplish a significant progress in achieving most of the Millennium Goals. Many international actors have recognized this fact, including, for example, the manager of Bank of Africa, who assured that “Tunisia is one of the five countries of the continent capable of achieving the MDGs”. On the other hand, Tunisia faces two major challenges that would affect directly or indirectly the pace of development in the next phase. The first challenge is the continued presence of sometimes-major differences between the parties, especially those located in the North-West of Tunisia, such as the departments (Kassrine, Sidi Bouzid, Kairouan, and Tataouine Siliana). The second challenge relates to the ability of the Tunisian economy to contain the financial and global economic crisis, which can affect the pace of development and hinder the achievement of some of the MDGs.

2- Assessment of the MDGs in Tunisia

A – Overview: the status of Development in the country

The Tunisian state has adopted since the 60s a planning policy, through the development of tertiary plans at the start, before turning these into quintet plans. In this context, 10 plans have been implemented, before the application of the 11th plan, covering the period between 2007 and 2011. This plan covered the development strategy adopted by the government and state bodies. As part of this strategy, a number of promises have been set as well as the major goals that are being achieved.

The first objective is “to reduce inequalities, promote equality,

and improve the quality of life”, especially “to reduce disparities between the various actors.” The second strategic objective relates to the “improvement of youth and their prosperity, and the protection of children and the young”, in a country where the age group ranging from 15 to 29 ranges of 29.7 % of the population, according to the general census and housing survey for the year 2004.

The third objective focuses on employment, through working on raising the level of income and creating new job opportunities. The last objective relates to how to face the repercussions of globalization on development issues.

The development policy pursued in Tunisia is a cautious one, since the government, although described as a “good student of the World Bank”, remained keen to protect social stability.

What are the main social and economic issues and challenges in Tunisia

Unemployment is on top of the problems facing development efforts in Tunisia, especially unemployment of university graduates. Unemployment rate is still high, ranging between 16 and 14 %, according to official estimates. However, it might by far exceed 20 % in some less developed regions. This is one of the main reasons behind illegal immigration, which worsened during the past ten years, and left hundreds of dead who were devoured by the sea after being unable to reach European shores. The differences between the internal parts and the coastal areas pose a major challenge that masks a sense of injustice by the citizens of the same country. The serious events witnessed at the mining areas of the South-West basin (in 2007), when the authorities used excessive force to restore stability in this sensitive region of Tunisia, are nothing but a dangerous sign of what the increased gap between the parties could lead to.

Is there any involvement of civil society organizations in the vision, planning, and implementation of development policies?

The involvement of civil society organizations in setting policies, plans, and subsequent implementation is one of the major divisive issues between the authority on the one hand and the opposition and NGOs on the other. The Government is organizing expansive consultations before preparing any plans, and discussing the files related to the various sectors; however, that is only a circumstantial measure according to the civil society activists,

and does not constitute a permanent and effective participatory policy. Consultations and participants' identification still depend on the political decision of the authorities, without falling within an institutional framework subject to regulation and accountability. Civil society organizations do not represent a key player in determining the choices, nor do they play a crucial role in monitoring and policy implementation, whether it is related to the MDGs or other vital issues.

Will Tunisia achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015?

All the indicators show that Tunisia is ready to achieve the Millennium Development Goals before 2015. Indeed, some of these goals have already been achieved, such as the poverty rate decrease by almost half compared to what it was in 1990. In 2005, this rate has reached around 3,8%, and is now moving towards 3% only. It is worth noticing that this percentage is not homogeneous in all the areas of Tunisia, as it varies from one region to another to reach, for example, 12.8 % in the central West of the country, which holds 41 % of the total poor Tunisians.

Regarding the second goal, on the need to enable all children, boys, and girls, to complete their primary education and by the year 2015, we can say that this has been achieved in Tunisia. The proportion of schooling for children under the age of six has reached since 1998, 97.3 %, and is expected to reach 97.6 % by 2015

This is also the case for the sixth goal related to fighting the AIDS virus, which is still in a limited spreading. As regards to the seventh goal on protecting the ocean and environmental sustainability, the number of Tunisians who have access to drinking water reached 10 million people in 2007, i.e. almost the entire population with 97.3 %. This proportion may fall to around 92 % in some rural areas. The electricity network has also extended, covering 99,5% of the Tunisian territory.

As for the rest of the goals, either they have been achieved partly or they did not reach the required rates. It is noted that the third goal related to the abolition of all differences between the genders and the empowerment of women had partially been achieved, but in the opposite direction, meaning that the differences between the genders have been reversed. Males became less privileged in the proportion of schooling or in the quality of learning results. As for the political empowerment, the presence of women in the parliament has increased to around 25 % compared to 4 %

in 1990, 15.2 % in the Shura Council, 20 % in the Economic and Social Council, and 26 % in the municipal councils. On the economic front, women reached an important position, with their participation in the agriculture amounting to 28 % and 44 % in the industry. However, despite all the efforts made, the number of illiterate women is still twice as that of men, standing at a rate of 28,5%, according to the 2007 statistics. Discrimination also still exists at work, as the unemployment rate among women is around 17.8 % compared to 12.8 % for men.

This also applies to the fourth goal related to reducing child mortality, where progress has been made; but the goal has not yet been achieved, despite the efforts made in this context. The proportion of deaths registered in 2007 was around 18.5 % for every thousand births. As for the fifth goal, it requires reducing the maternal mortality rate during childbirth to around 3/4 by the year 2015, and this figure had declined by half over the past fifteen years. The main constraint to achieve the goal lies in the disparity between the Tunisian authorities in the field of health services.

B - Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

How many national reports on the MDGs were prepared and published in the country?

Tunisia has completed two reports so far. The first national report on the Millennium Development Goals was issued in 2004. It has been prepared by the United Nations system and the Tunisian government. In light of the revealed results, the Ministry of Development and International Cooperation in partnership with the United Nations agencies operating in Tunisia decided to call for the preparation of a second report complementing the findings of the first one.

How are these reports prepared? Is there any active involvement of civil society organizations?

At the beginning, there is a preparation of the general idea of the report based on constant cooperation between the Tunisian government and UN organizations operating in Tunisia. After drafting the preliminary report, the two parties hold a workshop on the national level, where local, central, and regional institutions and organizations are invited, in addition to a number of civil society organizations that are selected according to criteria that sometimes exclude independent associations that may have

positions that criticize the authorities. A number of international partners are also invited to these events.

Are the reports published and circulated to the public so they may be discussed and have people informed about them?

After the first report was drafted, it was published and made accessible to those wishing to view its content. However, it is still difficult to get a copy of the second report on the disparities between the parties, for some reasons that remain unknown. It is worth mentioning that the previous report was promoted politically and by the media, and used extensively to raise awareness of its findings and observations, given the positive data it contains.

Do the reports contain suggestions and action plans? Are they being adhered to and evaluated in subsequent reports?

The first report that was issued in 2004 identified a set of observations, primarily referring to a discrepancy in achieving the MDGs between parties or Tunisian regions, especially between the suburbs of the capital and coastal areas on one hand, and the South and the North-West areas on the other. Accordingly, the Government has committed to focusing its attention on the interior provinces, and included this point within the 11th plan of Development. Ministries and institutions are following-up the relevant aspects related to them.

The status of development through the two reports

Given the progress made in the achievement of most Millennium Development Goals, and based on testimonies trusted by competent regional and international bodies, the Tunisian Government is seeking in collaboration with United Nations agencies operating in Tunisia - through its report - to realistically monitor the status of development. However, that does not prevent the disparities between the official authorities and other parties whether academic or from the opposition and the civil society, when it comes to the interpretation of the figures announced and the consequences of those reports.

C - Working on the Millennium Development Goals

Are the Millennium Development Goals clearly stated in official policies?

The Government is working on integrating the MDGs into its

development plans. It has been considering this in recent years through its policies and political speeches, and even making it a means of gaining the confidence of international bodies and funding agencies such as the World Bank and the regional banks and institutions.

NGOs and the Millennium Goals

The main problem facing civil society in Tunisia is that it is evolving in a legislative and political environment that makes it vulnerable to the interferences of the ruling party and the state in its activities and its internal affairs, which would affect its independence and freedom as to activity and initiative. Accordingly, the government has a broad range of associations linked to the authorities, or affiliated to it in some way. These associations are doing a good job in the field of the Millennium Goals in collaboration with governmental agencies, which provide them with support and assistance. The independent and criticizing associations face various major difficulties, primarily the Organizations specialized in the defense of Human Rights and working in the field of mobilization and protection. Nevertheless, they make considerable efforts to defend the Millennium Goals, and provide critical observations about the gaps they see in the government's policies, particularly with regard to transparency, good governance, and the large lack of democracy. These associations have received independent support and solidarity from regional and international organizations and institutions. The Government might let these independent organizations participate from time to time in some consultation events.

D –2010 and a review of the MDGs

1 - External factors and the course of Development

Given its geographical position and its commitment since the beginning of the implementation of structural reform policies aimed at achieving wider integration in the global economy, the Tunisian economy has become more sensitive than ever to any fluctuations that can affect the economic and financial regional and international balance. The Tunisian economy was relatively able to withstand recent global repercussions of the crisis because of its limited integration in the global financial cycle and since local banks are not much connected with many international and European financial markets. This fact resulted in the protection of the economy from the present storm, yet the

market has been strongly associated with the European market, particularly the French one. Thus, any deficit that can affect the budgets of its key partners such as France, Italy, Spain and Germany, will be necessarily reflected on the local market and the Tunisian economy, particularly with regard to direct foreign investment affecting some vital sectors such as textiles and spare parts market for cars and tourism. This has led to the closure and bankruptcy of many companies and factories in Tunisia, resulting in the loss of more than 30.000 jobs. This has also brought to a halt some of the major investment projects that were initiated by some of the Gulf and international institutions. These negative complications have caused the growth rate to fall from 5 % to 3 %, before eventual containment.

2 - Building Development partnerships

Was there any cooperation or consultation between government parties, international organizations, and civil society?

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The Tunisian government became in recent years very eager to diversify its foreign trade, and has made lately concrete efforts to search for various financial markets. Nevertheless, despite of achieving some limited results, the Tunisian economy remained largely connected to the European Union countries, and above all, France, Italy, Germany and Spain. This is why Tunisia was at the head of the Maghreb and North African countries that supported the initiative to establish the Union for the Mediterranean, hoping that it would present new opportunities for the Tunisian economy. However, this initiative has not seen the light yet.

With regard to the Government's openness to the different components of civil society - and its invitation to them to discuss these challenges – it could be said that it is still limited and circumstantial, owing to the political and legislative factors previously mentioned. The only initiative related to the MDGs that has been achieved in recent months was the important workshop that was held recently to discuss the results of the second report. The government initiated the event, and invited to it a number of associations, international bodies, and some local experts, in order to discuss the problem of disparity between the parties.

3 - The eighth goal

Are there any national initiatives clearly linked to the eighth goal of the MDGs?

There was no initiative, not up till the writing of this report, on the discussion and review of the eighth goal. Noting that with regard to the debt issue, Tunisia is still keen on the obligation to pay its debts installments regularly and timely. A thing that made it gain the respect and trust of regional and international financial institutions. As for extending the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technology, Tunisia has achieved a rapid growth in this area. The number of people owning a telephone line skyrocketed from 500.000 members in 1994 to 9.200.000 line in 2007 out of a total of 10.000.000 inhabitants, as the network has been developed to cover all the areas, including rural areas. However, this was paralleled with increased internet censorship, especially of sites that the government considers opposing to its official policies or having tendency toward independency. This resulted in making Tunisia being identified by numerous regional and international organizations as one of the states recognized or their extreme internet censorship.

The main problem related to the eighth goal is the absence of a national and in-depth debate on the issue concerning the involvement of civil society organizations on the aspect related to “commitment to good governance”, which involves transparency, accountability, and democracy.

4 - Conclusions and suggestions

How can the course for the MDGs be activated? Are there any alternative suggestions for this course, especially after the year 2015?

Based on the above observations, it is possible to come out with the following conclusions:

- Tunisia has achieved a significant progress on the course towards achieving the goals, but the Government and all the actors of the civil society are still required to make more collective efforts in order to materialize all the goals for the benefit of all citizens.
- The disparities between the various parties are the main challenge facing the development process in Tunisia. If they are not overcome, they will lead to depriving a

large part of the population from enjoying along with the other citizens the fruits of the development efforts equally. This makes it necessary to encourage a policy of decentralization and the involvement of the various regional structures in the planning and implementation of domestic policies.

- A work needs to be done on building a genuine partnership with civil society representatives, and on dealing with their organizations, without discrimination or exclusion, so that the development policy is an expression of a community choice, not an imposed order. In order to achieve this partnership, there is a need to review the legislation related to the law of associations and the right to organization and to assembly, and the release of public freedoms, particularly the freedom of expression and the press.
- It is necessary to launch a national dialogue involving everyone, on how to establish good governance as a precondition for achieving sustainable development.

Yemen Case Study

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1. **Introduction:**

The estimated population of Yemen is 23 million people, 76% of whom live in the countryside. Its area is 524 square kilometers. The population growth rate is 3.02%. Yemen is among the countries with the lowest level of development and is one of the poorest in the world. When the Eight Millennium Development Goals were adopted in September 2000, the Yemen was placed among the eight countries which are most in need of support to achieve development goals. So the Yemen approved of developing strategies and plans necessary to implement these goals. However, at the start of the tenth year of the specified fifteen-year period, Yemen is still classified among the countries which will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Perhaps the most important issues faced by Yemen and that have prevented the achievement of development lie in the financial and administrative corruption, as Yemen is considered among the highest corrupt countries as noted in the International Transparency report in 2009, which ranked it 154 out of 180 countries, and scored 2.1 out of 10 degrees in the Corruption Perception Index. Moreover, internal strives and increasing political, sectarian, and provincial conflicts played a significant role in wasting the resources of the state away from development and its requirements.

2. **An assessment of the Millennium Development Goals on the national level:**

A. **About the development status in the country concerned**

In addition to the abovementioned, the most prominent economic

and social challenges are the increasing rates of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy as well as major gaps in terms of primary education with a wide discrepancies in enrollment ratios between the sexes, poor health services, weak infrastructure, and low-quality basic services, especially in rural areas. The State's five-year plan (2005 - 2010) has made it clear that the most important challenges and difficulties that impede the development process in Yemen are the following:

- high pressure that the population growth exerts on the available economic resources;
- weak human resources development as a result of high illiteracy, low level of educational outcomes, and inadequate health services;
- decline of water resources as a result of low rainfall and the growing levels of water consumption and wasting;
- poor investment environment and the low volume of investment, resulting from administrative and security obstacles, plus the low level of infrastructure services;
- lack of action to combat corruption and to reform the judiciary system and courts;
- limited funding and absorptive capacity of the national economy; and
- liberalization of trade, opening markets, and launching the competition domestically and internationally

It is noticeable that with the growing development needs, the plans and government programs can accommodate only a small portion of them, and the poor implementation and corruption make the outcome of those plans and programs hardly efficient.

- Yemen has a long-term strategy prepared by the government for the development work up to the year 2025 and a set of strategies concerned with the fight against poverty, education, health and women. The five-year plan for economic and social development and poverty alleviation (2006 -2010 AD) is considered to be the basis for the governmental detailed plans and programs. Although the plan had already contained a number of the millennium goals and objectives, yet the initial assessment shows that what has been achieved is only a fraction of what had been planned.

The government declares that it has engaged civil society organizations in the preparation of the visions and plans and implementation of development policies but, in fact, it only

invites but a small number of organizations adhering to it and only in appearance.

- The government acknowledges that it will not be able to achieve the millennium goals because of its weak financial capacities, and it announced in 2005 that it needs 48.5 billion US\$ to be able to achieve significant improvement of the millennium goals. The government reaffirmed this year that it needs 44 billion US\$ for the period remaining up to 2015, noting that the general budget of the state in 2010 set the amount of local resources up to 6.5 billion US\$, an amount which may decrease in case of lack of oil's purchasing power, which represents about 70% of the revenues. Therefore, Yemen will remain in our estimation unable to achieve any of the Millennium Goals unless serious changes and treatments take place to the reasons that lead to undermine the achievement of plans and programs, especially stamping out the corruption and achieving political stability and security.

B. Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

Two national reports on the Millennium Development Goals, in addition to some public reports of specific targets, were presented by the government, one of which was most recently presented at the end of March 2010, prepared by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Planning and Development earlier). Some academics and professionals, along a number of pro-government civil society organizations, are involved in the preparation of these reports. The problem in these reports lies in the fact that they are based primarily on estimates given the lack of accurate statistics, conflicting data, and absence of transparency and bad edition of the information. These make the reports conflicting with each other and inconsistent with the international reports, which themselves are based on estimates and on the measurement of the overall situation. As the government shows resentment towards shadow reports and regional and international reports, saying that these do not do justice to its achievements, these agencies see that the reports of the government lack credibility and objectivity.

Tables (1) and (2) show a summary of what was stated in reports I and II which were prepared by the government represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation dealing with the evaluation of the government's ability to fulfill and achieve goals. The second table, in particular, is the summary of

what was stated in the draft of the second report to be submitted by Yemen at the UN conference in September 2010.

As for Table (3), it represents a part of what was revealed in the global report on human development in 2009. This report estimated poverty in Yemen by 54%, the illiteracy rate by more than 41% of the population above the age of 15 years. The studies also show that unemployment is up to 40 % for those who are within the working age.

Table (1)

Summary of what was stated in the government report on the performance and progress made towards achieving the millennium development goals in 2003

Goals	Will it achieve the desired goals	State of the supporting environment
Poverty: to halve the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line by 2015	unlikely	weak; can be improved
Hunger: to halve the proportion of underweight children below the age of five	unlikely	weak; can be improved
Primary education for all: circulation of primary education for all by 2015	possible	acceptable
Social gender: to ensure equality in primary and secondary education between boys and girls	unlikely	acceptable
Child mortality: to reduce mortality for children under five by two thirds	possible	acceptable
Reproductive health: to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015	unlikely	weak; can be improved
AIDS: to halt and reduce the spread level of AIDS	possible	weak

Malaria and other infectious diseases: to halt and reverse the spread level of malaria and other infectious diseases	unlikely	weak; can be improved
Environmental sustainability: to reduce the loss of environmental resources	unlikely	weak; can be improved
Basic services: to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015	unlikely	weak; can be improved

Table (2)

Summary of the draft of the second government report on the course of the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted to the United Nations conference in September 2010

Goals	Percentage or number at present	Target in 2015
The proportion of people whose income is less than two dollars	47.6 %	23.5%
Low-weight children below the age of five	45.6%	15%
Enrollment rate in primary education	65.1%	100%
The ratio of boys to girls in primary education	78.5%	100%
Mortality rate of children below the age of five per thousand	87.2%	40.6%
Maternal mortality rate per 100 thousand of live births	365	88
The proportion of people who do not receive water from the public network	76%	32.6%

Table (3)

Part of what came in the Human Development Report in 2009 for Yemen

		Human poverty index	Survival rate until the age of	Illiteracy rate among adults 15 years of age and older (1999-2007)	Population not using good water source (2006)	Underweight children below the age of 5 (2000- 2006)	Population living below poverty line (2007)	Rank of human poverty index minus poor income			
rank	country	rank	value	40 (2005- 2010)	years of age and older (1999-2007)	34	46	17.5	46.6	41.8	35
140	Yemen	111 out of 135 countries	35.7	15.6	41.1	34	46	17.5	46.6	41.8	35

C. Working on the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium goals are integrated into the official programs, plans and policies, but the major problem remains in the level of implementation to achieve these goals on the ground. For example, according to official reports, the expenditures in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals during the period extending from 2006 until 2009 is 3 billion 860 million US\$, i.e. a rate of 8% of the amount needed only (30% of the amount mentioned came through third-party support resources). Therefore, this rate of work highlights the low possibility of implementing the goals within the specified period.

During the last period, no serious national initiatives have been taken except for the establishment of a global call-to-action coalition against poverty, which has not been submitted until today. Personally and even though I am a member of this alliance board, I do not think that what the coalition has done so far has efficiently contributed to combating poverty. The coalition's activities within the last five years were only restricted to holding festivals and giving some food to poor families, who sometimes did not exceed the number of 100. In fact, there are some organizations that operate in the areas of health, education, or charity, but what they offer is highly insufficient compared to the size of the problems. The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) did monitor the activities of the coalition against poverty and organized a regional workshop in Sana'a around the initiative for democratic reform and its economic and social impact in April 2008, where development needs were discussed.

As for the partnership between civil society organizations, the government, and international organizations, it could be efficient in the event that international organizations and donor countries helped to press for the matter; however the attempt to avoid conflicts with the government and accepting the cooperation with the parties designated by the government only have led to the exclusion of active organizations and therefore the failure to achieve the principle of partnership that the Declaration of the Millennium Goals clearly supports.

D. Year 2010 and review of the MDGs:

The national initiatives related to monitoring and international review of the course of the Millennium Development Goals are represented by the aforementioned government reports, the study

the National Commission for Women as a government agency have completed in 2005, an informal review presented by the coalition against poverty in the same year, in addition to the Arab and international Human Development Reports, and World Bank reports. However, there exist no shadow reports yet of the civil society.

We expect that the government to take the initiative and invite its organizations to complete a report supporting the official report.

3. Global Partnership for Development: opinions on the effectiveness of the eighth goal of the Millennium Goals:

A. External factors and the course of development

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Once again the financial and administrative corruption and poor implementation of plans and programs are reflected in the efficiency of aids and grants. In the period of 2000-2007, Yemen received grants that ranged between 50 and 100 million US\$, and in 2008 these rose to 500 million US\$ following the donor conference held in London in 2006, which acknowledged the support of Yemen by nearly 5 billion US\$. By the end of last year, the Yemeni government complained about the lack of commitment by donor countries to fulfill their promises, since in two years it has received only fifth of the appointed sum. The donor countries responded that there are not sufficient guarantees from the Yemeni government to enable such assistance. In a study conducted by the Economic Committee of the Shura Council in Yemen (the second parliamentary room) on the effectiveness of aids, grants, and loans during the period of 2000-2005, it became clear that the effectiveness did not exceed 34%, which underlines the poor effectiveness of aids unless governance administration does not improve through serious political management.

B. The eighth goal

National initiatives in the field of enabling MDGs are still basic and with limited capacities and capabilities. They only reflect a lack of awareness of the importance of enabling these goals on the one hand, and the government's lack of conviction in the necessity of finding real partners to play a developmental role contributing to the enabling of the Millennium Goals.

Given the briefness of the remaining period, what is needed is a conviction and management complementing the work done by the government and the civil society in order to achieve an effective partnership, whose first requirements would be transparency and genuine partnership at all stages of development (planning, implementation, supervision, and assessment). Moreover, at present, the civil society must also play its role in monitoring and evaluating the previous period.

4. Conclusions and proposals:

Based on the presented above, the following recommendations could be put forth:

- The government needs to prepare with complete transparency a serious and comprehensive strategy aimed at implementing the Millennium Development Goals and to allocate effective rates from the public budget for the achievement of these goals.
- The government needs to provide the right political, security, and democratic climate, to concretize the rights and freedoms through a true will and a real partnership with all political and social parties, and to enable social justice in concrete terms.
- An open and effective shift toward a national ruling system with full jurisdictions, and serious efforts to eliminate corruption and to stimulate transparency and governance in accordance with the concepts of good governance.
- The active involvement and support of civil society to achieve its developmental role in cooperation with the government (planning, implementation, supervision, and assessment).
- The provision of adequate guarantees to enable aid, loans, and local resources and monitoring the performance of these in achieving the goals.