

COUNTRY PROFILE STUDY ON POVERTY

SAUDI ARABIA

March 2003

**JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
PLANNING AND EVALUATION DEPARTMENT**

1. Basic Indicators

1-1. Poverty Indicators

Poverty Line

International Poverty Line ¹		<i>Survey Year</i>
Population below \$1 a day	--	
Population below \$2 a day	--	
National Poverty Line		
National	--	
Male	--	
Female	--	
Urban	--	
Rural	--	
Agriculture	--	--
Industry	--	--
Services	--	--

Human Development Index²

	<i>1990</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>2001</i>
Human Development Index (HDI) ³ Rank	67/130	76/174	68/162
Gender Development Index (GDI) ⁴ Rank	--	81/130	75/146
HDI rank — GDI rank ⁵	--	-20	-11

¹ World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001*

² UNDP, *Human Development Report 1990, 1995, 2001* (HDI was introduced in 1990, and GDI was introduced in 1995.)

³ The HDI is based on three indicators: longevity, as measured by life expectancy at birth; educational attainment, as measured by a combination of adult literacy (two-thirds weight) and the combined first-, second- and third-level gross enrolment ratio (one-third weight); and standard of living, as measured by real GDP per capita (PPP\$). For the details of HDI methodology, see Technical note in UNDP, *Human Development Report*.

⁴ While the HDI measures average achievement, the GDI adjusts the average achievement to reflect the inequality between men and women by using the same variables as the HDI. For the detail of the GDI methodology, see Technical note in UNDP, *Human Development Report 1995 & 1999*.

⁵ A positive figure indicates that it performs relatively better on gender equality than on average achievements. The HDI ranks are recalculated for the 130 countries (1995) and for the 146 countries (2001) with a GDI value.

1-2. Demographic Indicators

Population⁶

		<i>Year</i>
Population, total	20 millions	2000
Male/Female	--	
Urban population (%of total)	85.7%	2000
Population growth (annual %)	2.6%	2000
Life expectancy at birth ⁷ (years)	71.3	1999
Male (years)	70.3	1999
Female (years)	72.7	1999
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	5.5	1999

1-3. Economic Indicators

Economy⁸

		<i>Year</i>
GNP per capita (dollars)	--	1999
GNP avg. annual growth rate (%)	--	1998-99
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	8.1%	1999
Gini index	--	
GDP (current billions of dollars)	139.4	1999
Value added as a % of GDP		
Agriculture	6.1%	1996
Industry	55.7%	1996
Services	38.2%	1996

Public Expenditure⁹

		<i>Year</i>
Health (as % of GDP) ¹⁰	6.4%	1990-98
Education (as % of GNP)	7.5%	1995-97

⁶ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2001*

⁷ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2001*

⁸ World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001*, World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2001*

⁹ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2001*

¹⁰ World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001*

Military (as % of GDP)	13.2%	1999
------------------------	-------	------

Labour force structure

		Year
Labour force ¹¹		
Total (millions)	7	1999
Female (% of labour force)	15%	1999
Labour force participation rate ¹²	--	
Male/Female	--	
Employment ¹³		
Agriculture		
Male (% of male labour force)	20%	1990
Female (% of female labour force)	12%	1990
Industry		
Male (% of male labour force)	21%	1990
Female (% of female labour force)	6%	1990
Services		
Male (% of male labour force)	59%	1990
Female (% of female labour force)	82%	1990
Unemployment ¹⁴	--	
Male/Female	--	

1-4. Social Indicators

Birth and mortality rate¹⁵

		Year
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	5.5	1999
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	18.8	1999

¹¹ World Bank, *World Development Report 2000/2001*

¹² ILO, *World Employment Report 2001*

¹³ <http://genderstats.worldbank.org/menu.asp>

¹⁴ ILO, *World Employment Report 2001*

¹⁵ World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2001*

Mortality rate, under -5 (per 1,000 live births)	25.0	1999
---	------	------

Health

		Year
Reproductive health ¹⁶		
Contraceptive prevalence	32%	2002
Births attended by skilled health staff ¹⁷	91%	1995-99
Prevalence of anemia (% of pregnant women) ¹⁸	--	
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100, 000 live births)	--	
Nutrition ¹⁹		
Underweight	14%	2002
Stunting	20%	2002
Access, services and resources ²⁰		
Population using adequate sanitation facilities	100%	1999
Population using improved water resources	95%	1999
Population with access to essential drugs	99%	1999
People living with HIV/AIDS ²¹		
Adult and children	--	
Adults rate (%)	0.01%	1999

Education²²

		Year
Adult literacy rate ²³	76.1%	1999
Male/Female	83.5%/65.9%	1999
School enrollment		

¹⁶ UNICEF Statistical Data (<http://www.unicef.org/statis/index.html>), Last updated 1 February 2002

¹⁷ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2001*

¹⁸ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2000*

¹⁹ UNICEF Statistical Data (<http://www.unicef.org/statis/index.html>), Last updated 1 February 2002

²⁰ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2001*

²¹ UNAIDS, *Report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, June 2000*

²² Global Education Online Database 2000 (http://www.usaid.gov/educ_training/ged.html)

²³ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2001*

Primary (net)	61.0%	1996
Male/Female	63.0%/60.0%	1996
Secondary (net)	42.0%	1996
Male/Female	--	
Tertiary (gross)	16.0%	1996
Male/Female	17.0%/15.0%	1996
Proportion of primary cohort surviving to 2 nd grade	96.0%	1995
Male/Female	94.0%/97.0%	1995
Primary Repeaters as % of Total Enrollment	--	

2. Poverty in Saudi Arabia

There is hardly any data available on poverty and income distributions in the country as the government is reluctant to issue information.

Population in 1999 is 19.9 million, and 74.8 percent of which are Saudis. Annual population growth averages around 3.5-3.84% and the population is expected to double by 2040. Life expectancy at birth is high at 70 years for men and 73 years for women. Children below 15 years old account for 46.2% of the population.

According to the government illiteracy rate has decreased from 28.4 percent in 1992 to 20.4 percent in 1999. There is a significant gender gap in illiteracy rates with 32.8 percent for women and 10.5 percent for men.

Per capita income peaked at US\$11,730 dollars in 1981, but has declined to 6,300 dollars at the end of 1998. Labor participation rate is estimated at 30.2 percent in 1999. Unemployment rate was expected to have reached 27 percent as many Saudis fail to compete with expatriates with higher skills in the labor market.