



THE MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

IN STATE OF QATAR 2005

THE PLANNING COUNCIL
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PREFACE

At the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held in September 2000, world leaders agreed to save mankind from poverty and underdevelopment, making every effort to enhance the principles of liberty and dignity, spreading out peace and welfare among nations and achieving human development to promote human capabilities and widening living options for them.

Accordingly, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set-up, stressing the need that all countries are committed to and work for achieving them by 2015.

To identify achievements accomplished by the State of Qatar within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, and realizing challenges being faced, the Planning Council has prepared its first national report in this respect. The report demonstrates that the State of Qatar has already achieved many of those goals and targets, based on the vision that the human being is the ultimate objective of comprehensive development.

The General Secretariat of the Planning Council in presenting this report, “*THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN STATE OF QATAR, 2005*”, hopes to portray a true picture of the efforts that have been exerted by the State of Qatar, enabling the Qatari citizen to maintain high levels of welfare as well as secured and dignified life.

Hamed Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al Thani
The Secretary General

INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Development Summit was held in September 2000, with the participation of 191 countries, of which 147 countries were represented by heads of state or government.

The member countries of the United Nations adopted the “*Millennium Declaration*”, committing themselves to the following development goals:

- 1. Eradication extreme poverty and hunger.**
- 2. Achievement of universal primary education.**
- 3. Promotion of gender equality and empowerment women.**
- 4. Reduction of child mortality.**
- 5. Improving maternal health.**
- 6. Combatting of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.**
- 7. Ensuring environmental sustainability.**
- 8. Developing a global partnership for development.**

The *Millennium Declaration* also identified eighteen targets and forty eight indicators to monitor the progress achieved at national levels.

The State of Qatar has shown a high degree of consideration to basic infrastructure, economic, health and educational issues. It has also strived to enhance the role of women in development and achieve high levels of community welfare. This has meant the achievement of many of the goals of the *Millennium Declaration*.

It is worth noting that the goals embodied in the *Millennium Declaration* do not represent serious challenges to the State of Qatar since most have already been achieved, and all will have been achieved well ahead of 2015.

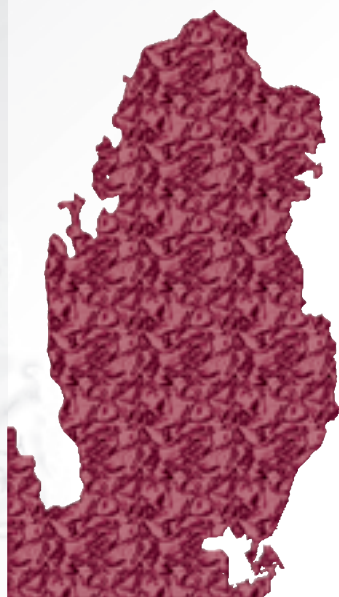
This report, prepared to reflect progress in achieving the MDGs, has been based on information obtained from government agencies and a number of civic society institutions.

Population and Geographical Location

The State of Qatar, with a population of 744029 in the year 2004, is situated midway along the western coast of the Arabian Gulf, between latitudes 24° 27' and 26° 10' North and longitudes 50° 45' and 51° 40' East. It is a peninsula extending northward, with an area of 11493 square kilometers. It comprises a number of islands, reefs and shoals, the most well known of which are Halul, Shira'wa, Al Ashat and Al Bshiria.

The Qatari peninsula extends 185 km. in length and 85 km in width. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates form the southern and south-eastern boundaries. The territorial waters of Qatar extend 95 nautical miles to the west and nearly 51 nautical miles to the north, into the Arabian Gulf.

Qatar is characterized by a desert climate, hot and humid in summer, semi-dry during winter, with irregular rains. Maximum temperatures can be observed during June, July and August, while minimum temperatures are recorded in the months of December and January. There is little variation in temperature and humidity from one location to another. Rainfalls are mainly during the period December to April, their amounts decrease gradually as we move southward.



THE FIRST MILLENNIUM GOAL

Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger

TARGETS:

- Halve, between 1990 – 2015, the proportion of the population whose income is less than one dollar a day .
- Halve, between 1990 - 2015 the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger.

In regard to the first target of eradicating extreme poverty, the State of Qatar is considered among those countries with a high level of income.

Detailed information provided by the Households Income and Expenditure Survey in 2000/2001 shows that the average individual expenditure of the most impoverished section of the Qatari population was QR 1086 per month, equivalent to 300 U.S dollars, or 10 dollars per day. This shows that the Qatari citizen has ten times surpassed the extreme poverty line specified by the Millennium Development Goals as one dollar per day. Similarly, average individual expenditure of the most impoverished section of the non-Qatari population was Q.R 412, i.e. 3.8 dollars per day , and this surpasses the Millennium Development Goals. This is due to the relatively small size of the population and the increase in the value of the GDP on one side, and the development policies aiming at providing the minimum basic requirements, including provision of accommodation, medical treatment, education, electricity and water services in addition to the requirements of the elderly people and those with special needs. The State has already launched various supporting programs as well as economic and financial facilities aiming at improving the quality of family life and activating the process of economic growth .

In regard to relative poverty and due to non existence of absolute poverty among the population of Qatar, a relative the poverty

line was adopted, to identify income levels of the different population sections since the majority of the population finds no difficulty in meeting the minimum requirements of living. The relative poverty line for the Qatari population was defined to be 40% of the expenditure median .

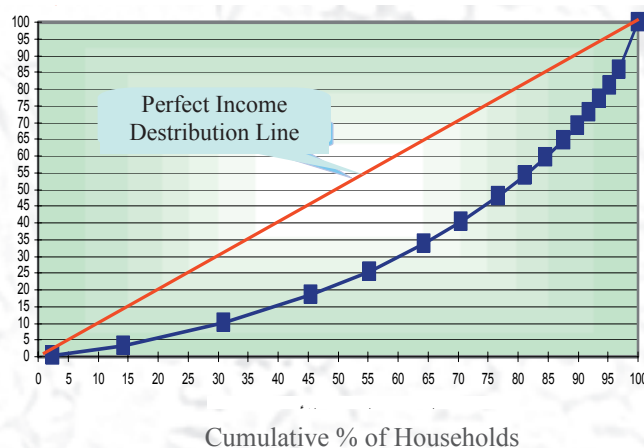
Share of consumption of the poorest 10% - 20% of the Population

Particulars	1988/1989	2000/2001
Share of the poorest 10 %	2.5	2.8
Share of the poorest 20 %	5.9	6.3
Share of the richest 10 %	25.2	25.1
Share of the richest 20 %	58.0	52.1

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey mentioned earlier shows that the share of the poorest 10% of the population is equal to 2.8% of the total expenditure, while the share of the poorest 20% of the population represents 6.3% of total expenditure.

Comparing the share of the poorest 10% - 20% of the population for the years 1988/1989 and 2000/2001, it becomes clear that there is an increase in the share of the poor in between the two surveys, as revealed by the previous table.

Lorenze Curve For Measuring Inequality of Income Distribution 2001



Children’s Underweight Indicator :

Lack of decent standards of living can be measured by the ratio of children under five years who suffer from underweight.

Data regarding this indicator shows that The ratio of children under five years who suffered from underweight was 6% as revealed by the 1998 Health Survey. This is due to the advanced level of health in the field of maternity and childhood care through hospitals and health centers built throughout the country and the rise in income levels, which means that the entire population can maintain a proper nutritional system.

In regard to the second target i.e. reducing the proportion of the population who suffer from hunger and as a result of increasing levels of income and the availability of all necessities, Qatar is considered free of hunger, whether among Qataris or expatriates.

THE SECOND MILLENNIUM GOAL:



Achievement of Universal Primary Education

TARGET:

- Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

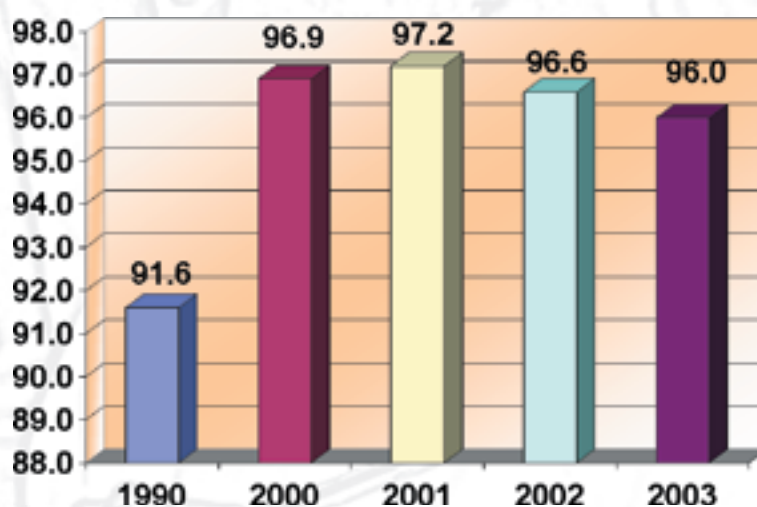
Under this goal, one target has been identified viz. ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete the full course of primary education. Three indicators were selected to measure progress towards achieving this goal. These are: net enrolment ratios in primary education, proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 and the literacy rate among 15-24 year-olds.

Net Enrolment Ratio In Primary Education :

The indicator of net enrolment ratio in primary education reflects the considerable interest of the State towards education. Net enrolment in primary education reached advanced levels. In 1990 it was 91.6% and rose to 96.0% in 2003.

Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education 1990-2003	
Years	Net Enrolment Ratio
1990	91.6
2000	96.9
2001	97.2
2002	96.6
2003	96.0

It is worth mentioning that 100% net enrolment ratio was not reached due to the fact that a proportion of children managed to enroll in primary education before the age of six . Similarly there is a relatively insignificant proportion of children enrolled in primary education at the age of seven. However, achieving universal primary education by 2015 is not considered as a challenge to the State of Qatar .



Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 and Reaching Grade 5 :

The proportion of pupils remaining enrolled till the fifth grade was 88.0% in 1997. This proportion witnessed a significant increase reaching 99.1% in 2003. This is reflected in the decrease of drop-out rates in primary education. In light of this , the State of Qatar will achieve this indicator before 2015 .



Literacy Rate Among 15-24 years olds :

The literacy rate among the age group 15-24 was 97.3% in 1995. This rate increased to 98.7% in 2004 as a result of the efforts exerted in the field of illiteracy eradication and progress in literacy rates for this age group. As a result of what has been achieved in the form of a steady annual increase, the State of Qatar is expected to achieve this indicator well before 2015.

Literacy Rate of 15 – 24 Year – Olds 1990 - 2004

Year	Literacy Rate
1990	96.5
1995	97.3
2000	98.0
2001	98.2
2002	98.3
2003	98.5
2004	98.7

THE THIRD MILLENNIUM GOAL

Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

TARGET:

- Elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary, Secondary and High Education:

Reviewing statistical data related to education in Qatar for all levels, we find that ratios of girls enrolment to boys enrolment in primary education range between 93.3% - 100.4% during the period 1990-2003. Hence this goal of achieving gender equality was reached before the targeted date.

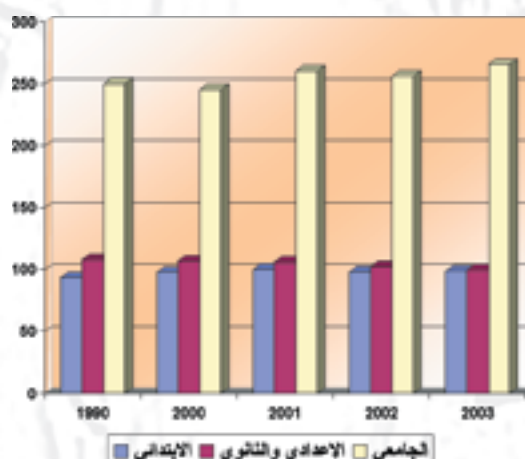
With regard to enrolment in secondary education, we find that the ratio of girls enrolment to boys enrolment was 107.9% in 1990 and rose to 99.8% in 2003. These indicators show that there is an steady increasing enrollment among male students in recent years leading to balanced ratios between boys and girls. Accordingly, Qatar was able to achieve this goal long before the specified date.

In connection with university education, the ratio was 250.2% in 1990 and continued to increase to reaching 266% in 2003.



Ratio of Girls Enrolment to Boys Enrolment 1999-2003

Years	Primary	Preparatory & Secondary	University
1990	93.3	107.9	250.2
2000	98.0	107.1	245.7
2001	100.4	106.1	260.5
2002	98.2	102.3	256.4
2003	98.6	99.8	266.0



Ratio of Literate Females to Males, 15 – 24 Years Old .

On the basis of indicators related to education and accomplishments achieved to reach gender equality in literacy for the age group 15 – 24 years old, we find that the ratio of females to males was 98.7% , 99.0% and 99.1% for the years 2002,2003 and 2004 respectively. These indicators confirm that the State of Qatar achieved gender equality in education a long time ago .

Ratio of Literate Females to Males, 15 – 24 Years Old 2004 - 1990						
Indicator	1990	1995	2000	2002	2003	2004
Ratio of literate Females to males	96.8	97.6	98.5	98.7	99.0	99.1

Share of Women in Waged Employment in the Non-agricultural Sector :

Qatari women have managed to be involved in the labor market and got the opportunity for waged employment in non-agricultural sectors. Based on 1986, 1997 and 2004 censuses data , we find that the ratio of women participation in the labor force was 27.5%, 35.3% and 40.6% in 1986, 1997 and 2004 censuses respectively .

The share of women in waged employment in the non-agricultural sector was 16.3% in 1997 and reached 17.8% in 2004.

Share of Women in Waged Employment in The Non – agricultural Sector 1986 - 2004 (%)

Indicator	1986	1997	2004
Share of women in waged employment in the non-agricultural sector	10.0	16.3	17.8

Proportions of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments :

Qatari women have occupied numerous leading posts in the State. These include the posts of Minister, University President, Deans of several colleges as well as members of administration boards of various governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Accession of Qatari women to the membership of the Municipal Council was among the interests of the State towards political, social and economic reforms. The first public election for the Municipal Council took place in March 1999. All men and women alike, eighteen years and above, were entitled for candidacy and voting.

In the second election of the Municipal Council, April 2003, a woman succeeded in winning a seat in the 29- seat Municipal Council i.e.3.4%. Elections take place every four years.

THE FOURTH MILLENNIUM GOAL

Reduction of Child Mortality

TARGET:

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

To achieve up this goal we should highlight achievements in handling the main causes of child mortality related to maternal health, pregnancy and nursing care, child care at that stage, and observation of immunization against infectious and parasitic diseases.

The following indicators show achievements towards reducing child mortality rate .

Under five mortality rate :

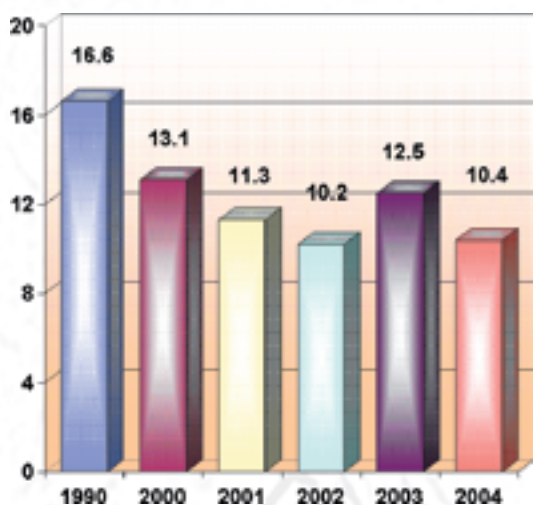
The state of Qatar provides an advanced level of health care for both Qataris and expatriates through the health centers available throughout the State, expansions in hospitals and other health facilities, as well as supporting the private sector to provide modern hospitals with up to date technology. These efforts to reduce the mortality rate in general, illness rates, eradication of infectious and parasitic diseases among children led to a remarkable reduction in child mortality during previous years, as shown in the following table :



Under - five Mortality Rate 1990 – 2004

Years	Under-five mortality rate per 1000 live birth
1990	16.6
2000	13.1
2001	11.3
2002	10.2
2003	12.0
2004	10.4

The table demonstrates that under five mortality in 1990 reached 16.6 per 1000 live births. The rate declined during the following years to reach 10.4 per 1000 live births in 2004.



The drop in child mortality rate reflects the huge efforts exerted by the State to improve community health and in particular child and maternal health. It also reflects the high priorities given to primary health care and controlling infectious diseases, aiming to reach a rate of 5.5% by 2015.

Infant mortality rate :

The distinct level of maternal and child health care, whether in the health centers or maternity hospitals, led to a drop in infant mortality rate from 13.5 per 1000 live births in 1990, to 8.6 in 2004 .

Neonatal mortality rate indicator reflects the good medical care provided to mothers during pregnancy and maternity.

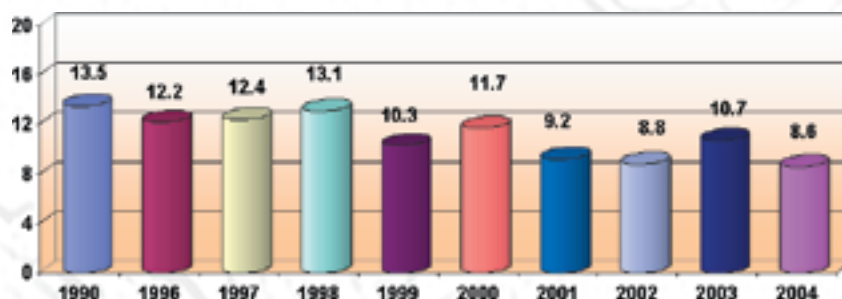
**Infant Mortality Rate and Neonatal Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births,
1990 – 2004**

years	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate
1990	13.5	8.5
1996	12.2	5.1
1997	12.4	5.1
1998	13.1	5.2
1999	10.3	4.9
2000	11.7	5.2
2001	9.2	3.5
2002	8.8	2.9
2003	10.3	7.5
2004	8.6	2.7

The table shows that :

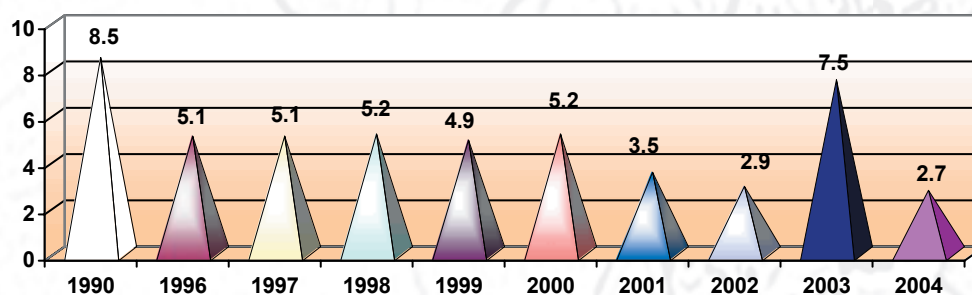
The neonatal mortality rate dropped remarkably from 8.5 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 2.7 per 1000 live births in 2004.

Infant Mortality Rate



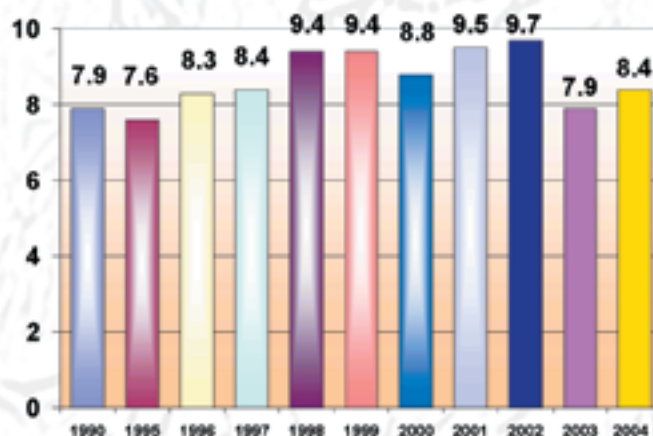
There are other supporting factors for improving health situations. Most important of these are the availability of fresh drinking water, growing health awareness and availability of vaccination against different diseases during the infant's first year .

Neonatal Mortality Rate



Percentage of Underweight Infants at Birth 1990 - 2003

Years	Percentage of Underweight Infants
1990	7.9
1995	7.6
1996	8.3
1997	8.4
1998	9.4
1999	9.4
2000	8.8
2001	9.5
2002	9.7
2003	7.9
2004	8.4



Proportion of 1- year - old children immunized against measles :

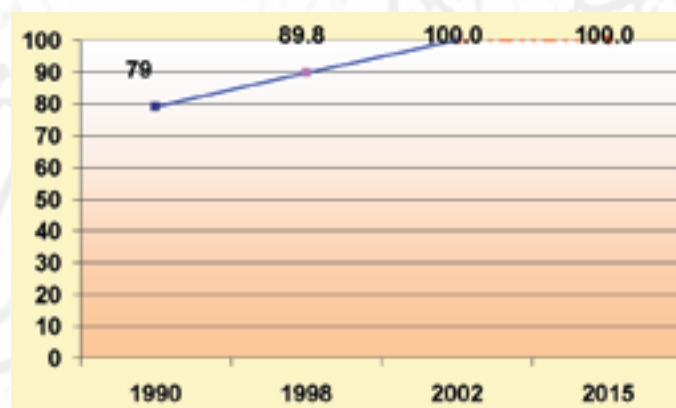
The State of Qatar is considered to be among those countries that have achieved full coverage of immunization for all children in their first year of age as a result of excellent health care and the establishment of health centers as well as maternity and child care centres.

**Infants' First Year Program
Of Immunization (%) 1990 - 2002**

Years	%Covered by immunization			
	BCG	DPF	HBV	Measles
1990	96.0	81.0	90.0	79.0
1995	96.0	92.0	90.0	86.0
1996	98.4	92.1	90.0	86.1
1997	99.0	92.4	90.1	87.2
1998	99.5	93.6	92.3	89.8
1999	97.0	80.0	80.0	87.0
2000	100.0	83.0	83.0	91.0
2001	99.0	93.0	93.0	92.0
2002	100.0	96.0	98.0	100.0

The following graph shows that coverage of measles immunization reached 79% in 1990 and rose to 100% in 2002 .

**Percentage Coverage of Immunization
Against Measles & 2015 Target**



THE FIFTH MILLENNIUM GOAL

Improving Maternal Health

TARGET:

- Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

For a long time the State of Qatar has been improving maternal health, prevention against contagious diseases, prenatal and delivery care as well as health education programs. The State regards maternity care as one of the most important issues of human development and security of women's rights, reaching for safe motherhood. To accomplish the target of reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015, the following two indicators are examined:

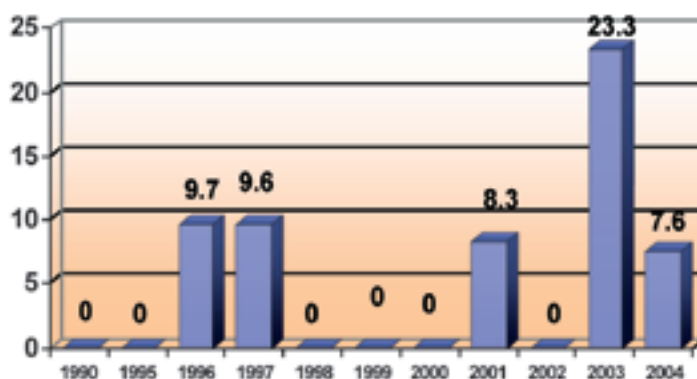
Maternal mortality rate during pregnancy, birth and puerperum :

The State of Qatar has taken major steps towards achieving safe motherhood through implementation of maternity health care programs during pregnancy and birth. In most of the previous years there was not a single mortality case, as shown in the following table.

All deliveries takes place at the maternity hospital under distinctive medical supervision available for all, at a rate approaching 100% .

Maternity Mortality Rate During Pregnancy, Birth & Puerperium 1990 – 2004

Years	Maternity Mortality Rate Per100000 Live Births
1990	0.0
1995	0.0
1996	9.7
1997	9.6
1998	0.0
1999	0.0
2000	0.0
2001	8.3
2002	0.0
2003	23.3
2004	7.6

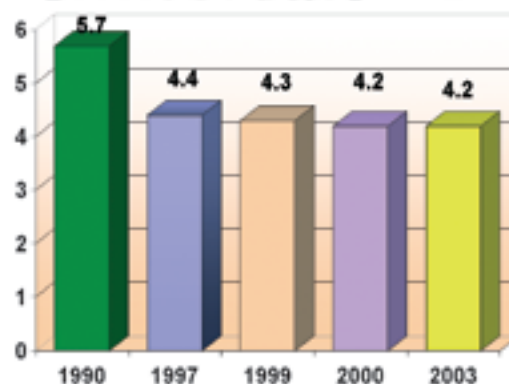


The data indicates that the State of Qatar is in a good position to achieve the target of reducing maternity mortality rate. In fact this has been achieved in most of the previous years.

In addition the demographic change represented by the rapid decrease of the total fertility rate among Qatari women during the last few years as a result of the increase of the age of marriage and the decline in the ratio of teenagers marriage, has led to a decrease in the maternity mortality rate .

Qatari Women’s Total Fertility Rate 1990- 2003

Years	Total Fertility Rate
1990	5.7
1997	4.4
1999	4.3
2000	4.2
2003	4.2



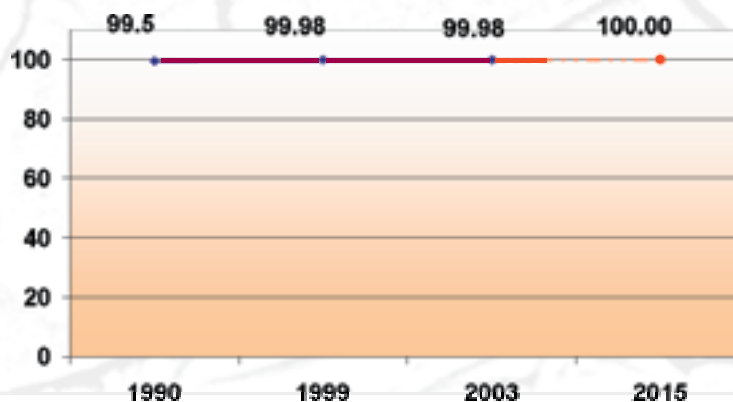
Proportion of Births Attended By Skilled Health Personnel:

Ratio of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel 1990 - 2004

Years	Ratio of births under skilled health personnel
1990	99.48
1995	99.76
2000	99.96
2001	99.97
2002	99.98
2003	99.98
2004	99.98

The rate of births attended by skilled health personnel in the State of Qatar reached 99.48% in 1990 and continued to increase reaching 99.98% in the year 2004. At present all births in Qatar take place in the maternity hospital or other private hospitals under the supervision of advanced medical care. The state of Qatar has now achieved the millennium goal of reducing maternity morality rate.

Ratio of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel & Projected Births in 2015



THE SIXTH MILLENNIUM GOAL

Combat of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis & Other Infectious Diseases

TARGETS:

- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of Malaria and other major diseases.

Available indicators regarding incidence of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis reflect the low level of such incidence in the period 1990-2003 . Recorded cases are among non-Qataris. This low level of cases is due to the monitoring and control programs of infectious diseases. To protect the community from these diseases, the State has established the Medical Commission Department to examine all immigrant labor, to ensure that they are free of infectious diseases and to minimize their transmission. This in addition to the provision of free medical treatment and enhancing control of blood transfusion and other procedures helping to minimize the cases of such infectious diseases.

HIV among pregnant women aged 15-24 years :

The State has paid great attention towards maternity and childhood through early examination, whether for pregnant during the first few months of pregnancy or infants at birth. Available data for 2003 confirms that there is not a single case among these groups being affected with HIV.



Prevalence and death rate associated with malaria:

The State is exerting great efforts to protect the community from the transmission of infectious diseases. Many procedures have been adopted. They include medical examination of immigrant labor and the provision of treatment drugs . This has lead to the disappearance of the disease . During the period 1990-2003 not a single mortality case, due to malaria, was recorded in the State of Qatar .

As for malaria infection, Qatar attract a large number of immigrant labor from underdeveloped countries. Consequently some malaria cases appear among these immigrants . Recorded malaria cases were 2.8 per ten thousands inhabitants in 1990, 1.9 in 2001 and 1.3 in 2003.

**Rate of Malaria Cases
1990 - 2004**

Years	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003
Malaria Cases (Per 10000)	2.8	2.4	1.9	2.2	1.3

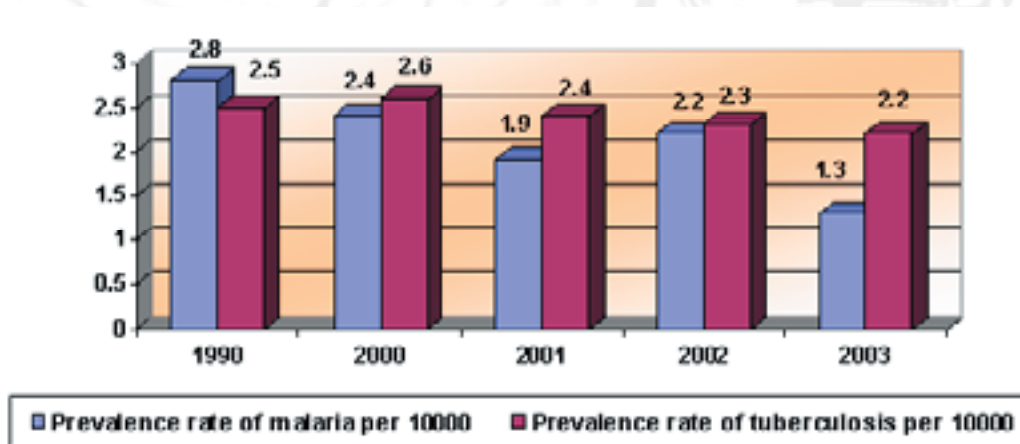


Prevalence rate of tuberculosis:

Prevalence rate associated with tuberculosis ranged between 2.2 and 2.6 per ten thousands inhabitants in the period 1990-2003. Most of these cases were recorded among expatriates. This is attributed to the great efforts of the State to combat the spread of infectious diseases through early detection of cases and the provision of drugs to combat them.

**Prevalence Rate of Tuberculosis
1990-2003**

Years	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003
Tuberculosis cases (per 10000)	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2



THE SEVENTH MILLENNIUM GOAL

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

TARGETS:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation .
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Since the early seventies of the last century the State of Qatar recognized the importance of preserving the environment, its natural resources and protection against pollution in its different forms. This concern was represented in the issuance of several legislations which provide suitable protection for the environment. Institutional environmental action goes back to the early eighties with the initiation of the Permanent Environmental Committee, followed by promoting institutional systems for protecting and preserving the environment through signing and approving various international conventions . This trend was culminated when the Qatari constitution stipulated in article No (33), that “The State has to work on preserving environment and its natural balance for achieving general and sustainable development” .

Furthermore, the issuance of the Decree Law No (11) of 2000 for the establishment of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves, the Decree Law No (30) of 2002, the regarding environment protection, the establishment of the Environment Friends Centre in 1992; the establishment of the Ozone Unit in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in 2000, the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations and the release of 18 categories of projects where industrial establishments are bound to obtain the approval from the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves before setting up any project, the implementation of solid wastes disposition system, the issuance of atmospheric air quality measurements, approval of various programs and activities aimed at raising students' awareness of environmental education and its role in environment protection and conservation of its resources, introduction of several courses in the educational curricula for the different educational levels along with encouraging students to take part in various activities related to environmental protection in cooperation with the agencies concerned especially the media, the launching of the national scheme of marine and coastal protectorates under which a national strategy draft document was drawn up to protect wild life in the State of Qatar .

Proportion of land area covered by forests .

Due to the non existence of forests in the State of Qatar, the proportion of the land area covered with forests is zero.



Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area.

Qatar has been keen to establish protected areas to maintain natural resources. By 2004 these protected areas reached 0.18% of the total surface area. There are several future plans to establish other protected areas . The first of these is expected to be announced in 2005. This is an area covering 0.26% of the total surface area. The ratio is expected to reach 16% within ten years.



Proportion of population using solid fuels

The proportion of the population using solid fuels is due to zero the fact that Qatar is a the producer of oil and gas where non-solid fuel is available for all at reasonable prices.

Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural

The State of Qatar is keen to provide safe drinking water through the implementation of many projects aiming at securing improved water for the entire population . The proportion of the population with access to clean and safe drinking water reached 100% due to the urbanized nature of the Qatari community and the increase in the levels of welfare.

Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural .

The proportion of the urban and rural population with access to improved sanitation reached 100%, due to the economic and social development witnessed by the State of Qatar accompanied by remarkable development in connecting residential buildings with the main networks of water , sewerage and electricity .

Proportion of households with access to secure tenure.

The State of Qatar has devoted great attention to population policies through securing suitable dwellings for all members of the Qatari society, with increasing concern to provide popular and free dwellings for those of low-income levels and reconstruction of these dwelling whenever necessary. The annual growth rate of beneficiaries reached 8.9% during the 2000-2002. the proportion of households with access to secure tenure is nearly 100% .



THE EIGHTH MILLENNIUM GOAL

Developing a Global Partnership for Development

TARGETS:

- Develop further an open trading and financial system
- Address the special needs for the least developed countries and deal with the debt problems of the developing countries .
- Provide access to drugs and new technologies .
- Develop main strategies for decent and suitable work for the youth .
- Make available the benefits of new technologies especially information and communications .

The State of Qatar has been distinguished by its developing relations with the international community . Qatar is an active member of the United Nations and other international agencies and organizations e.g. International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, in addition to Gulf, Arab and Islamic organizations .

The state of Qatar is committed to a number of bilateral agreements with various sisterly and friendly countries .

Develop an open trading and financial system :

The number of economic, commercial and technical co-operation agreements concluded between Qatar and other sisterly and friendly countries, was approximately 45 agreements, of which 21 agreements with Asian and African countries, 13 agreements with Arab countries, 11 agreements with European and American countries. Qatar has joined the Customs Union of the Gulf Co-operation Council Countries. The Trade & Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) was signed with the United States of America in March 2004. This agreement will furnish a framework for expanding and diversifying bilateral trade as well as paving the way to attract investments. In addition, Qatar Business Center was established in 2005, through which the State of Qatar is attempting to promote its aspirations to attract international banks and financial institutions to the domestic market.

No. of Countries With Which Qatar Has Concluded Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation Agreements

Asian & African Countries	Arab Countries	European & American Countries	Total
21	13	11	45

No. of Countries With Which Qatar Has Concluded Investments Promotion & Protection Agreements

Asian & African Countries	Arab Countries	European & American Countries	Total
15	9	11	35

Addressing the special needs of the least developed countries and dealing with the developing countries' debt problems

The State of Qatar offers development assistance and grants to the developing countries . The Easy terms of such grants and their high ratio to the gross domestic product reflect the pioneering role of the State of Qatar in supporting development requirements in the developing countries apart from rendering humanitarian and emergency assistance to countries suffering from wars and natural disasters

Grants and assistance provided by the State of Qatar were characterized by a number of merits and features that makes it one of the examples for developmental cooperation between developing countries . These features were represented in the following :

1. Developmental aids provided by the State of Qatar are distinct from those provided by international resources being easy, unconditional, not bound to conditions like supplying and executing through the institutions of the donor country, non-interference in the economic policies of the beneficiary country as well as flexibility and simple procedures.
2. The wide geographical range of the development aids and grants provided by the State of Qatar: By the end of 2003, the number of countries benefiting from such aid reached 70 countries in different worldwide regions. This shows the wide international range of this aid .
3. The Qatari development aid and grants are usually provided via various channels: direct aid from the government, indirect aid through multilateral regional and international development funds and institutions as well as aid furnished by non-governmental agencies.

The size of the development aid rendered by the State of Qatar to the developing countries jumped from 23 million dollars in 1995 to 126 million dollars in 2003 . The annual growth rate in the size of such development aid was 21.9% in the period 1995-2003 .

Such development aid and grants represented nearly 0.43% of the GDP during the period 1995-2000 and jumped to 0.7% in 2002.

This ratio exceeds the ratio provided by many leading industrial countries, although Qatar is a developing country, with internal development commitments.

It is quite obvious that the State of Qatar has achieved the United Nations' recommended ratio i.e. 0.7% of the GDP, and this is in conformity with the recommendations of the Millennium Summit and Monterey Convention.



Provide access to drugs and new technologies :

The state of Qatar provides free medical services through the State- owned hospitals. Drugs are provided free of charge to Qatari citizens and at nominal fees to expatriates at primary health centers. The State of Qatar is observing a strict supervision on drugs distribution outlets in the private sector pharmacies.

Develop main strategies for decent and suitable work for the youth :

The State of Qatar is implementing an ambitious plan for comprehensive development that requires setting up several economic projects as well as infrastructure projects. Naturally the execution of such projects requires a huge number of youths at working age for recruitment to secure achieving full employment of national young capacities seeking employment. Economically active youths in the age group 15 – 24 years represents 42% of the population.



Make available the benefits of new technologies especially information and communications :

Progress in information technologies is considered as an indicator for economic and social growth and acceleration of the efforts aiming at achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In this field, the State of Qatar has made good progress in the electronic government project in addition to the national project for public services development and elimination of computer illiteracy . These efforts were culminated by the establishment of the Supreme Council for Communications and Information Technology. The number of computer and internet users in the State of Qatar in March 2004 was as follows:

Rates of Computer and Internet Users Per 100 Inhabitants, March 2004

	Males	Females	Total
Computer users	27.8	42.8	32.8
Internet users	22.8	33.6	26.4

