



NATIONAL CENTRE  
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SULTANATE OF OMAN

# Millennium Development Goals

The Fourth National Report

March 2016

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# Introduction

After setting up three national reports of the millennium development goals, most recently in 2013, the Sultanate of Oman has prepared this fourth report in 2015, in which the Millennium Development Goals been attained, as a comprehensive assessment of the progress made by the Sultanate in achieving these Millennium Development Goals since its inception in 1990 and until its expiry in 2015. The report also aims to measure trends and attitudes for the post 2015 in various development sectors of the Millennium goals in the Sultanate of Oman, especially since its prepared in coincided with the current mobilization being carroed on the level of the strategic planning with the participation of various ministries and government institutions to prepare the future vision (Oman 2040), which is supposed to lay out the trends foundations of various sectors until 2040. There is no doubt that the preparation of this report along the lines of the various national reports of the Millennium Development Goals, it comes in response to the request of the General Assembly of the United Nations on a regular assessment of the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, more importantly, that it

has been prepared for the purpose of internal self-assessment by the Governmental institutions for development-oriented sectors in the Sultanate in the Millennium Development Goals to be used as a tool by the decision-makers and those in charge of various economic and social sectors and sustainable development management.

In view of the significant progress achieved by the Sultanate at the level of many indicators of the Millennium Development Goals, which reflected by previous reports, where the officials of the National Center for Statistics and Information, which is the governmental institution that coordinating the prepration of the report, felt that the fourth national report of the Millennium Development Goals shall assess the progress made at the level of the Sultanate as a whole, and also on a different level of the provinces. That aimed to the phase that can help the decision-makers in the development policies in line with the specificity of each province and its requirements and orientation to focus on the gaps in the provinces with low rates and indicators sectoral that the other counterparts in the Sultanate.

## An overview of the extent of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Objective and Target	Target achievement
<b>First Goal: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	
Target 1-A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.	Achieved
Target 1-B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.	Achieved with challenges
Target 1-C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of population who suffer from hunger.	Achieved
<b>Second Goal: Achieve universal primary education</b>	
Target 2-A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.	Achieved
<b>Third Goal: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	
Target 3-A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015.	Achieved
<b>Fourth Goal: Reduce child mortality rates</b>	
Target 4-A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.	Achieved

Fifth Goal: Improve maternal health	
Target 5-A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.	Achieved with challenges
Target 5-B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.	Achieved
Sixth Goal: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	
Target 6-A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS	Achieved
Target 6-B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.	Achieved
Target 6-C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.	Achieved
Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 7-A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	Achieved with challenges
Target 7-B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.	Achieved
Target 7-C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.	Achieved

## Eighth Goal: Develop a global partnership for development

Target 8-A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally.	Continued progress, opening up and economic diversification
Target 8-B: Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA (Official Development Assistance) for countries committed to poverty reduction	Continued progress, opening up and economic diversification
Target 8-C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States Through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly	Continuation of the Sultanate's contribution in providing assistance
Target 8-D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.	Continuation of the Sultanate's contribution in providing assistance
Target 8-E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.	Achieved
Target 8-G: In cooperation with private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially Information and Communication Technology.	Achieved

- **Geographical location:** Oman is located in the southeastern quarter of the Arabian peninsula, stretching between latitudes 16.40 and 26.20 north and longitudes 51.50 and 59.40 east.
- **Area:** 309,500 sq km.
- **Capital:** Muscat.
- **Climate:** Hot humid summer, warm winter.
- **Time:** GMT +4 hours.
- **Currency:** Omani Rial = 2.58 US\$ (387 Bz one US dollar).
- **Population:** 4,159,102 inhabitants (Mid – Year 2015).
- **Population Density:** 13.4 people per square kilometer (Mid – Year 2015).
- **Life expectancy at birth (Omani):** 76.6 years (2014).
- **Crude birth rate (per thousand inhabitants of the Omani population):** 33.9 (2014).
- **Crude mortality rate (per thousand inhabitants of the Omani population):** 2.9 (2014).
- **The total fertility rate (live births per woman (15-49) years (the Omani woman)):** 3.9 (2014).
- **Sex Ratio (for Omanis only):** 102.4 (2014).
- **GDP:** RO 31450.8 million (at market price) (2014) initially.
- **Gross national income per capita:** RO 7327.7 (2014) initially.
- **Natural resources:** oil, natural gas, copper, agriculture and fisheries.

# 1

## First Goal:



# Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

### Target: 1-A

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

1. Proportion of population below US\$1 (purchasing power parity (PPP)) per day.
2. Share of the poorest quintile in national consumption.

**Achieved**



### 1. Proportion of population below US\$1 (PPP) per day:

The United Nations and the World Bank classified the Sultanate of Oman within the high-income countries, where per capita GDP reached RO 7877 in 2014<sup>1</sup>. According to the results of the Household Expenditure and Income Survey in the Sultanate carried out during the period (1999-2002) and (2006-2011), show that the monthly average per capita income had raised from 87.5 RO year (1999/2000) to about 144 RO year (2010/2011), while proportion of population below US\$1 per day amounted to zero.

The steady growth of the Omani economy and prosperous growing government expenditure reflect on the most families and segments of Omani society. According to results of the Household Expenditure and Income survey (2010-2011), average monthly income of the Omani family amounted to about RO 1172 after the addition of the rental value of the property and the RO 1042, excluding the rental value. Average monthly basic wage of working Omani citizens in the private sector and regesterd with the Public Authority for Social Insurance amounted to RO 599 in the year 2014<sup>2</sup>. While the average monthly income of expatriate families amounted to about RO 651 with the rental value and RO 650 without calculating the rental value. Based on a survey Household Income and Expenditure carried out during the year (2010/2011), only 3.2 % of households in the Sultanate allocated 60 % and above of their total expenditure on food, which shows that expenditure on food does not constitute the bulk of household expenditure in the Sultanate.

<sup>1</sup> Initially

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, Statistical Yearbook 2015, page 139.



**Table I.1**  
**Proportion of population below \$1 per day (%)**

1990	1995	2000	2005	2011	2015
0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2012, results of a Household Income and Expenditure survey (for the period 20/5/2010-19/5/2011).

National Center for Statistics and Information, 2007, results of a Household Income and Expenditure survey 2006-2007 - importance and objectives.

National Center for Statistics and Information, 2001, a report on the results of Household Income and Expenditure survey (for the period 20/5/1999-19/5/2000).

**Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average of Arab States**

The proportion of population below US\$ 1.25 - 2012	
Average of Arab States	7.4
GCC Index	0
Oman's index	0

Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo.

However, this does not negate the existence of gaps in the standard of living in the Omani society. According to the Household Income and Expenditure survey (2010-2011) 2.2% of the Omani families earning monthly income ranging between RO 100-199 and 0.5% of Omani families with a monthly income of less than 100 RO.

**Table I.2**  
**Distribution of households by Monthly income groups**

Distribution of households	Less than 100	199-100	299-200	399-300	499-400	599-500	699-600	899-700	1099-900	1100 and more
Omani families (%)	0.5	2.2	4.9	6.8	7.5	7.4	7.8	12.7	10.2	40
Expatriate families (%)	7.3	16.9	14.3	12.4	7.9	6.6	5.5	7.8	5.0	16.3

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2012, results of Household Income and Expenditure survey (for the period 20/5/2010-19/5/2011).

These gaps in the limited resources for some groups required the Government of the Sultanate to provide support, assistance and social welfare, through the relevant institutions, especially the Ministry of Social Development, to provide various programs and assistance

aimed to care and improve the social and economic situation of low-income families through the Social Welfare aid mainly. Where beneficiaries of Social Welfare system has reached 7.9% of the total number of the Omani population in 2014, compared with 5.9% in 2010<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 1.3**  
**Social Welfare cases and amounts paid during the period (1990-2014)**

Year	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Cases	37.746	42.155	46.032	48.869	51.262	84.919
Amount (To the nearest million RO)	15	21	23	27	38	132

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, Statistical Yearbook 2015.

With regard to the distribution of Social Welfare system support by Governorates, Al-Batinah North Governorate occupies the first place in the number of cases that receive Social Welfare support by (25.4%) compared to the total number of cases that receive Social Welfare support in the Sultanate as a whole, followed by Ash Sharqiyah South (11.1%) and then Ad-Dakhiliya (10.7%).

**Table 1.4**  
**Number of Social Welfare cases and monthly amounts disbursed by the governorate for March 2014.**

Governorate	No of Cases	%	Paid amounts
Muscat	8404	9.89 %	822,200
Dhofar	5854	6.89 %	525,547
Musandam	1389	1.63 %	166,735
Al-Buraimi	3467	4.08 %	425,533
Ad-Dakhiliyah	9124	10.7 %	875,525
Al-Batinah North	21,627	25.4 %	244,978
Al-Batinah South	9011	10.6 %	944,978
Ash-Sharqiyah South	9447	11.1 %	1,040,392
Ash-Sharqiyah North	8420	9.91 %	903,642
Ad-Dhahirah	6354	7.47 %	705,188
Al-Wusta	1855	2.18 %	213,924
Total	84,952	100 %	9,120,744

Source: Ministry of Social Development – 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Social Development, 2015, a report on the achievements of the Ministry of Social Development to realize the Millennium Development Goals (February 2015).

## 2. Share of the poorest quintile in national consumption

As a result of this government support through the expanded Social Welfare system, the low standard of living compared to other groups of society was declining as indicated in share of the poorest quintile in national consumption indicator. Where the series of household expenses and income surveys that have been implemented during the period (1999-2002) and (2006-2011) indicated that share of the lowest quintile in national consumption had reached 6% based on the results of the Household Income and Expenditure survey of the year (2010/2011), compared with about 5 % for the same survey conducted during the period (1999/2000). These data reflect that there is an improvement in the share of the lowest quintile of the population with progress in the equitable distribution of consumption among the different categories of society, where value of the Gini coefficient\* was about 30.7 in the last survey, compared to 36% in (1999/2000) survey.

Table 1.5  
Share of the poorest quintile in national consumption

Year	2000	2011
Percentage %	5.1	6.1

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

\* Gini coefficient: is a digital measures of the equitable distribution of national income, and its value is limited between zero and one, where a value of 0 represents absolute equality in the distribution of income among members of the community.

Table 1.6  
Share of highest and lowest quintile of Omani households in national consumption (%)

Year	Total consumption				
	Highest Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Lowest Quintile
2011 /2010	45.2	22.1	15.7	10.9	6.1
2000 /1999	47.7	23.4	14.8	9.0	5.1

Source: National Center of Statistics and Information, 2012, results of Household Expenditure and Income survey (for the period 20/5/2010 - 19/5/2011).

National Center for Statistics and Information, 2001, a report on the results of Household Income and Expenditure survey (for the period 20/5/1999-19/5/2000).

This progress is due to the development of Oman's economy and the comprehensive development process by taking into account that the five-year national development plans which are implemented by the government within the long term development strategy (1996-2020) is particularly focused on raising the citizen's standard of living. On the other hand, the increased governmental expenditure in general and government support to the most needy groups, whereas government support for the Social Welfare cases totaled R.O 132 million in 2014 compared to RO 15 million in 1990. In addition, to other various types of support such as emergency assistance in cases of damage caused by weather conditions or sick emergency assistance or assistance offered in some cases as service for the delivery of electricity and water and Hajj and other grants.

## Target: I-B

Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

1. Growth rate of GDP per employed person.
2. Employment-to-population ratio.
3. Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day.
4. Proportion of own-account and contributing household workers in total employment.

**Achieved with challenges** 

### 1. Growth rate of GDP per employed person

The monitoring index: Growth rate of GDP per employed person based on a series of fluctuations due to changes in oil prices, whereas the Omani economy depends upon the oil primarily over the past era. growth rate of GDP per person has been increased to reach 1.8% in 2014.

Table I.7  
Growth Rate of GDP Per Employed Person \*

Year	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
GDP	3.0	1.5	-3.2	-8.9	1.8

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information.

\* Data do not include employees working in the military and security sector.

### 2. Proportion of working population to the total population

The provision of work opportunities for all citizens is one of the most important goals and objectives that the Sultanate sought to achieve. Whereas growth of National economic, development of the investment, the private sector, increased government expenditure and the growth of the public sector has led to an increasing number of employees.

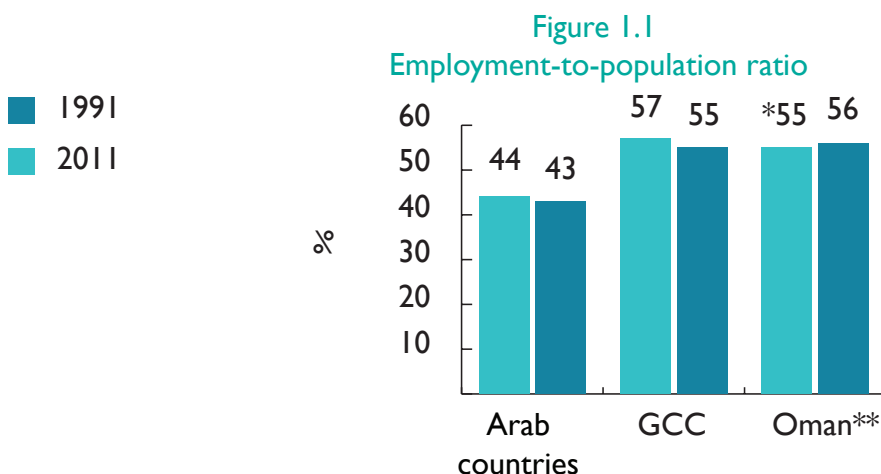
Table I.8  
Proportion of working population to the total population

Year	1993	2003	2010	2014
Percentage %	56.4	48	55	62.4

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

The overall growth rate of working population was 5.7% during the period (2003-2010), while growth rate of expatriates during this period was higher than the Omanis reaching annual percentage of (6.1%) compared to (5.1%) among the Omanis<sup>4</sup>. With regard to gender, male employees was (83%) of the total employees compared to (17%) for females. The annual growth rate of working females in the Sultanate during the period (2003-2010) was faster than the growth rate of the number of working males with a total growth rate of working females (7.1%) during the period (2003-2010) compared to (5.4%) for males. The public sector is the largest sector where which employ (58%) of the Omanis working females, While (52%) of Omanis males Omanis are working in the public sector<sup>5</sup>.

With regard to educational status, data of the general population census 2010 indicated that the proportion of people with higher educational levels, from university diploma to doctorate (23.3%) of the total number of employees and more than three-quarters of employees are holders of higher secondary school certificates and below (76.7%) of the total number of employees and approximately (8.7%) of the employees are illiterate<sup>6</sup>.



Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo.

\* Data for 2010

\*\* Oman Index: National Center for Statistics and Information.

Despite the increasing number of job-seekers, especially from young people, which is the focus of the government, in view of the steady increase in the number of job seekers annually. According to the Public Authority of Manpower Register data for the month of August 2015, the number of Omanis registered as active job-seekers has reached (30,011), as (7,702) males and (22,309) females. With regard to the educational qualifications, more than half of job seekers were holding university diploma or higher qualification, and about 38% are holders of General Education Diploma, and the rest of them were without academic

4 National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, characteristics of employees, Seventh edition

5 Ibid

6 National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, characteristics of employees, Seventh edition

qualifications. It is worth mentioning that the Royal instructions that have been issued in 2011 to employ 50,000 job seekers, has led to lower numbers of job-seekers, (143,892) job-seekers 2010, a quarter of the workforce at the time.

According to the 2010 Census, the geographical distribution of employees indicated that (60%) of employees concentrated in the governorate of Muscat, Al-Batinah North and Al-Batinah South<sup>7</sup>, and noticed the presence of a larger proportion of job seekers in the governorates of Dhofar, Ash-Sharqiyah South and Al-Batinah North compared to other governorates.<sup>8</sup>

Table 1.9

proportional distribution of employees in view of the distribution of population and labor force by governorate according to the 2010 Census

Governorate	Proportion of the governorate's working population (%)	Proportion of governorate's working labor force (%)
Muscat	51.3	94.3
Dhofar	39.7	81.2
Musandam	39.6	84.8
Al-Buraimi	39.5	84.2
Ad-Dakhiliyah	34.1	90.2
Al-Batinah North	33.8	83.0
Al-Batinah South	34.1	86.7
Ash-Sharqiyah South	30.1	82.6
Ash-Sharqiyah North	30.7	86.4
Ad-Dhahirah	37.3	86.8
Al-Wusta	60.0	93.2
Total	39.7	88.3

National Center for Statistics and Information 0.2015, characteristics of the employed (7th issue).

National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, characteristics of job-seekers (8th issue).

### 3. Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day

In terms of the level of the working population income, household expenses and income survey (2010-2011) indicated that the average monthly income of male employees has reached about RO 458, while the average average monthly income of female employees about RO 537 without any proportion of employees living below US \$ 1 (PPP) per day.

<sup>7</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, characteristics of the employed (7th issue).

<sup>8</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, characteristics of job-seekers (8th issue).

Table I.10  
Proportion of employed people living below US\$I (PPP) per day %

2000	2015
0	0

Source: National Center of Statistics and Information

It is noteworthy that the Omani Labour Law has set a minimum monthly wage of the unskilled Omani national labor force in the private sector by RO200 in 2011 and raising the minimum wage RO to 325 effective July 1. It was also decided to unify salaries in the public sector through Royal Decree No.78/2013 issuing standardized grades and salaries schedule for Omani civil employees of the state that has been applied at the beginning of 2014.

#### 4. Proportion of own-account and contributing household workers in total employment

With regard to ratio of the self-employed or working in their family projects decreased to 2.5% in 2010 compared to 4.5% in 1993 due to the increase in joining work in the public and private sectors, which employ about 93% of the total employed according to 2010 census. It is noted that males ratio has been decreased significantly specifically between 1993 and 2010, where self-employment female ratio increased in general during the years 1993 and 2003 and decline slightly in 2010 and the growing proportion of self-employed females due to the increasing growth of economic role of Omani women.

Table I.11  
Proportion of own-account or who are working in household projects f total employees during the period (1993-2010)

Gender	1993	2003	2010
Males	4.7	4.0	2.2
Females	2.3	4.1	3.9
Total	4.5	4.0	2.5

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, General Population censuses 1993, 2003,2010.

However, it must be noted that the Sultanate is encouraging Omani citizens, especially from young people to establish small and medium-sized enterprises. Therefore, the Public Authority for Smale and Medium Enterprises Development has been established under the Royal Decree No. (36/2013) in order to develop policies and planning for the development of Smale and Medium Enterprises and to promote them in coordination with the concerned



government and private institutions in addition to instill the entrepreneurship and self-employment culture among young people. As well as Al-Rafd Fund was established under Royal Decree No (6/2013) in order to support the establishment of small and medium enterprises and provide loans, support and guidance for entrepreneurs, young initiators, job seekers, rural women, Craftsmen and those who are subject to social security as well as owners of the small enterprises, through several programs of soft loans in accordance with the administrative procedures in record time (six days to finish the loan procedures and two days to receive the funds) and facilities includes accessible premiums system during the first three years and grace periods of up to 15 months.

## Target: I-C

Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of population who suffer from hunger.

### I. Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age.

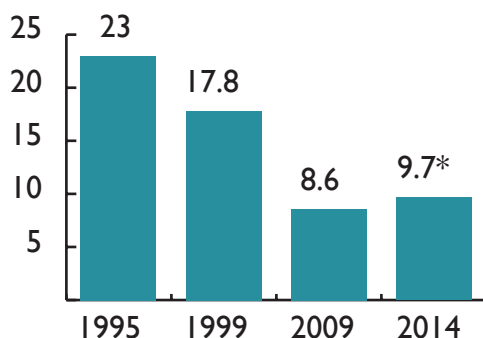
**Achieved**



#### I. Proportion of underweight children under-five years of age

The Sultanate considered the issue of nutrition as one of the areas of work within the five-year plans in the past two decades, particularly for children under 5 years, with great interest to develop and promote adequate nutrition of this age group in particular, and the reduction of food shortages. In this aspect, significant progress was made on reducing the prevalence of underweight level among this age group. The ratio was 23% in 1995, decreased to 8.6% in 2009, a decline of 63%. But it increased in 2014 to reach 9.7%.

Figure I.2  
Underweight prevalence rate for children (0-5) years



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

\* National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average of Arab States

Across the Arab countries, in general, the proportion of children under the age of five who are underweight increased from 14.5% in the 1990s to 15.3% in 2010. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries has been able to reduce the proportion of children under the age of five who are underweight from 12.9% in 1990 to 5.6% in 2010, registering a drop at a rate of 56.6% \*. While the Sultanate of Oman has reduced the proportion from 23% in 1995 to 8.6% in 2009, a decline of 63%. However, the proportion of children under the age of five who are underweight has been increased little bit in the Sultanate in 2014 to reach 9.7%. This means that there is still a difference must be covered in order to achieve the rate of the GCC.

Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health ,Annual Health Report 2014.

At the governorates level, the highest rate of new cases of malnutrition related to the calorie protein for children less than five years have been recorded in 2014, in Ash-Sharqiyah North and Al-Wusta governorates, while Al-Wusta Ash-Sharqiyah South governorates recorded the highest rates of acute malnutrition cases compared to the number of new cases, even if the number of new cases is limited as it is in Al-Wusta governorate.

Table 1.12

New cases of malnutrition associated with calorie protein for children under the age of five years, according to the governorates in 2014

Governorate	Rate of malnutrition per thousand child under 5 years	The proportion of acute cases of new cases (%)
Muscat	1.6	11.9
Dhofar	0.3	12.5
Musandam	3.4	0.0
Al-Buraimi	1.3	9.1
Ad-Dakhiliyah	3.8	16.4
Al-Batinah North	2.2	12.8
Al-Batinah South	0.7	20.0
Ash-Sharqiyah South	2.5	31.9
Ash-Sharqiyah North	7.7	4.9
Ad-Dhahirah	3.6	25.3
Al-Wusta	4.0	38.5
Total	2.4	14.7

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

Economic and development boom that occurred in the Sultanate during the last three eras have led to prosperity reflected on the citizens. However, nonetheless, still there are low-income citizens or with the low standard of living compared to the rest of society, especially in remote geographical areas, least developed region. Hence, the government support provided to these groups through the social security system should be continued, especially in some governorates that are at higher rates compared to other regions, such as Al-Batinah North.

Oman has made significant progress on the employment level and secure job opportunities for its citizens during the period from 1990 until 2015. Nevertheless, there are still challenges faced in this area, including:

1. Despite major achievements in terms of the proliferation of basic education in all parts of the Sultanate, enrollment and girls' education and reduced withdrawal and failure rates, the development of quality education is the major priority that should be focused on it in the coming years in order to provide better qualification for the national future cadres with high production efficiency to meet future challenges and interaction and to deal with the global economy and replacing expatriate workers.
2. The link between education outcomes and specialization and vocational training for Omani youth and the needs of the labor market still in need for more activation.
3. Create additional job opportunities for citizens in the governorates that have large numbers of job seekers compared to other governorates such as the Dhofar and Ash-Sharqiyah South. Where this challenge can be faced by stimulating economic growth in these governorates by working to attract investment to them and establish major development projects along the lines of Duqm projects in Al-Wusta and industrial and free zones in Sohar. More efforts should also be made in these governorates, with a focus on the alignment between education outputs of the Omani youth and the needs of the local labor market in these governments. For example it is noted that proportion of the employed Omanis in Al-Wusta government, despite the existence of Al-Duqm project, which is a large development project, is (11.1%) only, whereas this project depends more on specialized foreign talents due to the limited availability of these specializations among the Omani youth.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the Sultanate's current approach by supporting small projects, young entrepreneurs and job seekers in these governorates under the supervision of the Public Authority for SME development (Riyada). Finally, government institutions should adopt the decentralization in order to increase the creation of additional jobs in the public sector in the various governorates instead of the extreme concentration in government jobs in Muscat.
4. The main challenge in the next phase with regard to the weight loss is make more efforts to reduce underweight rate of children under five years to reach the average achieved in other GCC countries. In this regard, focus should be on governorates with high malnutrition rates, such as Ash – Sharqiyah North.

<sup>9</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, Employees Characteristics (7th issue).

# 2

## Second Goal:



# Achieve universal primary education

### Target: 2-A

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

1. Net enrollment ratio in primary education (Grades 1-6).
2. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary education.
3. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds.

**Achieved**



### 1. Net enrollment ratio in primary education (Grades 1-6)

Oman has achieved the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education, and this is reflected in the fact that the net enrollment ratio in grades (1-6) in 2014 has reached 99.4%.

Table 2.1  
Net enrollment ratio in primary education during (1990-2014)

1990	1993	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014*
-	83.8	85.4	91.7	92.3	97.8	98.1	98.2	99.4

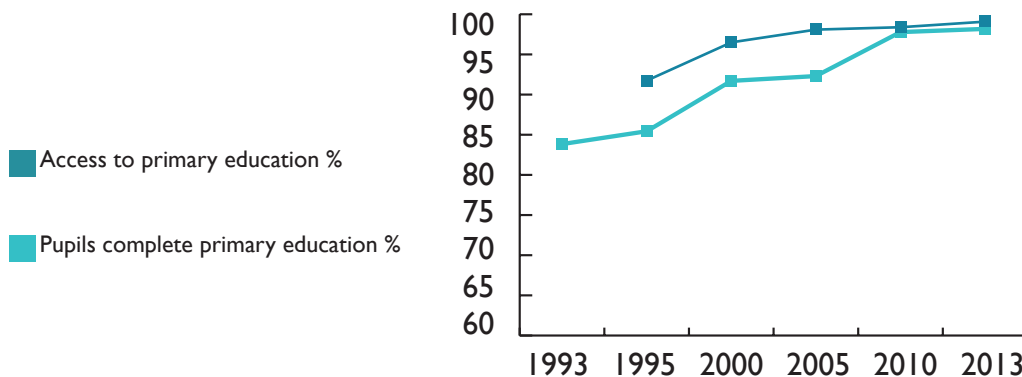
Source: Ministry of Education

\* National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

This was a result of the successive development policies implemented since 1970, through which the spread of education was considered in the first concern of the state. Where the focus in the first phase (1970-1995) was given to the quantitative expansion to ensure

that educational services is reachable to all Omanis children, male and female, in the various provinces. Thus, the various governorates witnessed a wide-range of schools, in remote areas, taking into account the geographical factors, where 22% of the Sultanate residents are concentrating in rural areas in form of hundreds of small scattered population communities. Even so, the Sultanate has faced the challenge by expansion of schools even at the level of the few and limited populations.

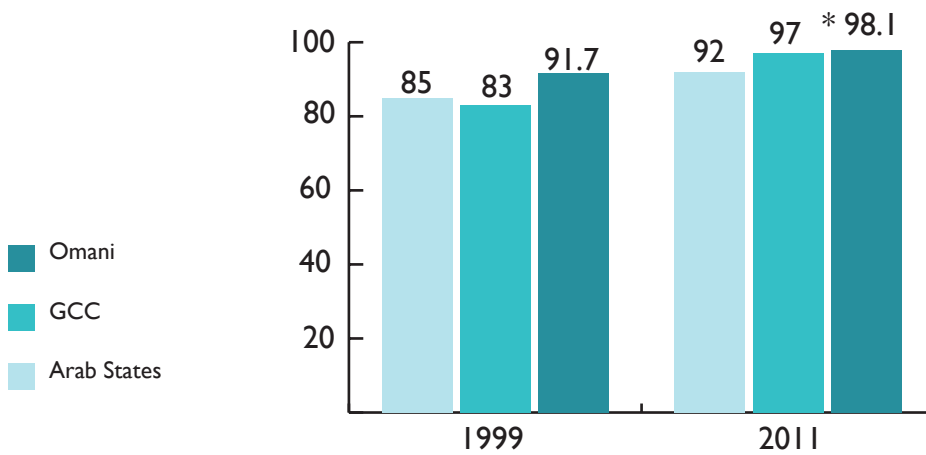
Figure 2.1  
Children were able to enroll and complete primary education in the Sultanate



The work was completed in the second phase, which extended from 1995 until 2010, where the focus was on the qualitative development of education in the Sultanate, followed by the third phase, which began in 2011, as a comprehensive assessment of the educational system. The various levels of education were focusing to ensure that all Omani children benefited from the educational services offered to males and females, which was reflected in the equivalent enrollment rates between males and females. As well as the SAultanate gave great attention to education of disabled children, based on the principle of providing a comprehensive and accessible education for all, through the implementation of a program aimed to integrate the diabled children in primary schools and establishing schools for special education for students with severe intellectual an hearing disabilities and blind.

Figure 2.2

Primary school enrollment ratio - comparison between Oman, GCC and the Arab states



Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo

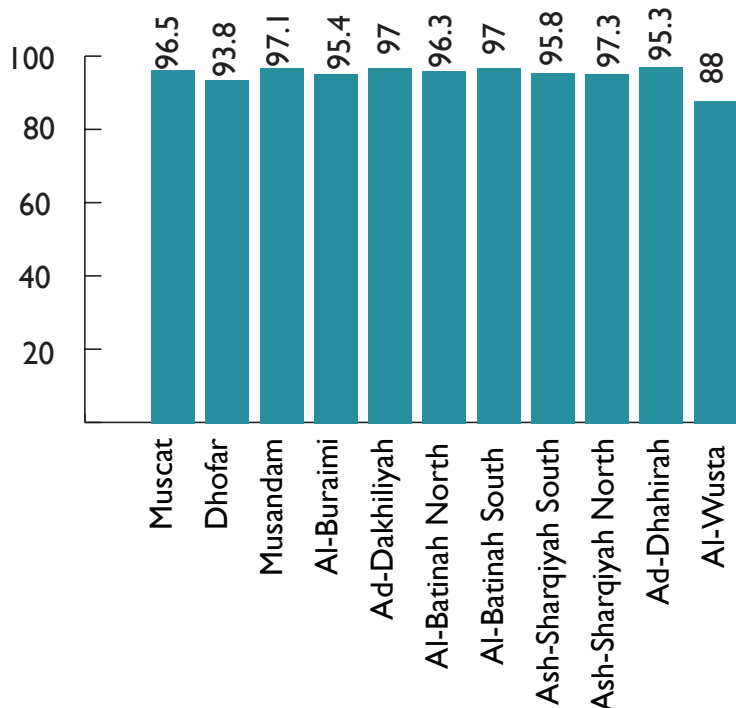
Oman: Ministry of Education

\*Data for 2010

Enrollment ratio in grades (1-6) in the governorates is close with some gaps at some governorates, such as Al-Wusta (88%) and Dhofar (93.8%), and these governorates are characterized by population spread over vast areas.

Figure 2.3

Enrollment of Omani children in grades (1-6) by Governorate - 2010\*



Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, Population Studies series (5th issue), educational characteristics of Omani population.

\* No recent data for enroll rates by the government, except data collected from 2010 census.

## 2. Proportion of pupils starting grade I who reach last grade of primary education

Indicator of pupils starting grade one who reach last grade of primary education shows significant development reaching (89.8%) in 1990 and (99.1%) in 2014. This improvement is mainly due to the development of educational system efficiency that resulting in a lower drop-out rates in grades (1-6).

The development of the efficiency of the educational system had greater focus as of 1995 and is ascending to include curriculum development, quality standards and raise the efficiency of evaluating student performance system and And contribute to raise the academic achievement level, and expanding the use of technology, raising the efficiency of welfare and student awareness programs, and through the establishment of specialized vocational training centers for teachers, educational assessment and examinations, in addition to the development of pre-school education due to its significant impact on students' future achievement, and develop a program dedicated to address learning difficulties and other complementary means related to quality.

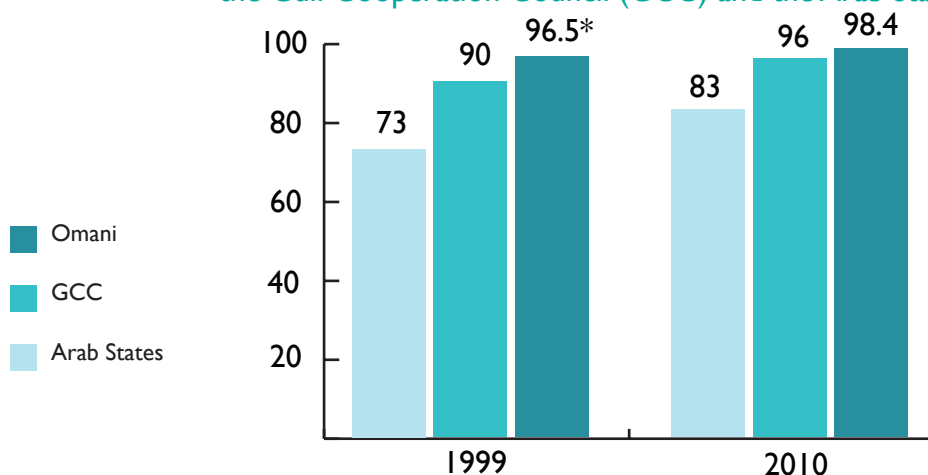
Table 2.2  
Ratio of students who complete grades (1-6)%

1990	1993	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013
89.8	-	91.7	96.5	98.1	98.4	99.1

Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 2.4

Completion of primary school - a comparison between the rate of Sultanate of Oman and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab States



Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo

Oman: Ministry of Education

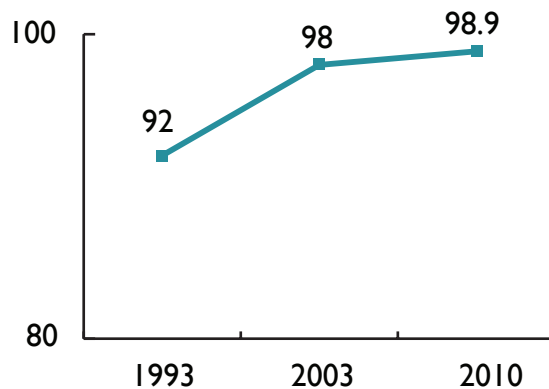
\*2000



### 3. Literacy rate of 15-24 years-old

Literacy among young people (15-24) has risen largely as a result of increased ratios of enrollment in basic education in the Sultanate and also as a result of the continuing development of education, which is a kind of public school education that includes education of illiteracy and adult education programs. Literacy programs have gone alongside with the spread of education among young people since 1970. In the early nineties, the Ministry of Education has developed a plan aimed at reducing the rate of illiteracy in the age group (10+ years) of males and females to 50% by 2015. In 2005, under Ministerial Decree (204/2005), education of illiteracy stage has become of three academic years instead of the two academic years, which is equivalent to the success in grade 6 of general education and basic education. These efforts have adopted outstanding results, where the plan's objectives have been achieved in combating illiteracy among Omanis in general, where data indicate a significant decline in the rate of illiteracy among Omanis (15 and above) from 40% in 1993 to 14% in 2010<sup>10</sup>. With regard to combating illiteracy in youth group (15-24 years), literacy has increased among this age group from 92% in 1993 to 98.9% in 2010. Practically, only very limited numbers of illiterate people among this group, and often are people with disabilities, which makes their education a very difficult process.

Figure 2.5  
Proportion of literacy (15-24) years

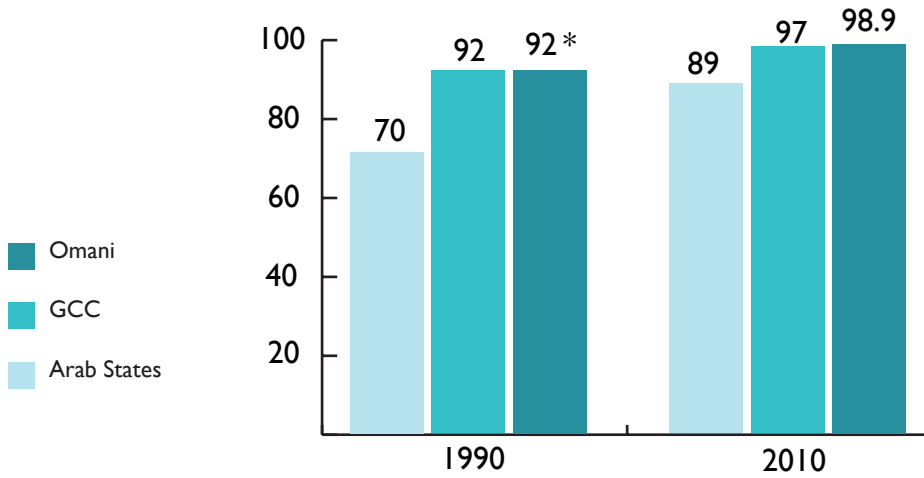


Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

<sup>10</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, Population Studies series (5th issue), educational characteristics of the Omanis population

Figure 2.6

Literacy rate among young people (15-24 years) - a comparison between the Sultanate of Oman and the GCC and the Arab states



Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo

Oman: Ministry of Education

\* 1993

The educational system in the Sultanate has witnessed a remarkable evolution since the seventies till date. Achievements in the education sector have been pointed out in several reports issued by international organizations, such as the World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF. However, this should not obscure the vision of the necessities that are still require processing in order to provide the best development for the Omani citizens in line with the modern challenges. Through the following important points:

1. Focus on the quality of education in general and basic education in particular. This element is linked mainly to improve teachers' quality and effectiveness through training and qualification.
2. Development and expansion of pre-school education: where scientific studies have shown the utmost importance of pre-school education in the development of the child's brain, mental abilities and future learning and professional capabilities. In spite of the progress made at the level of pre-school education in the Sultanate, but the sector needs a lot of development in terms of proliferation and quality, taking into account the fact that only 33% of children aged kindergarten are benefiting from pre-school education services, and few children benefited from nurseries services. To change this reality, large government investments will be needed or to allocate part of government expenditure for the pre-school education and not to leave it for the private sector only.
3. Pay more attention to the governorates, which is still suffering from the presence of gaps and differences, even a relatively limited gaps in enrollment in basic education such as Dhofar and Al-Wusta.

These priorities and other issues are not absent from the persons concerned with the education file in the Sultanate, who have recently launched a project to set up a strategic vision for education in 2040 in partnership with various stakeholders. In addition, a national plan for early education has been developed in order to promote the sector.

# 3

## Third Goal:



# Promote gender equality and empower women

Omani women has received great interest in the Sultanate of Oman along the previous decades. This was demonstrated through the great importance occupied by education, training and development in the Sultanate's policies, with the aim of raising the level of the Omani Women, scientific and professional knowledge and status, and manifested by encourage them to play their effective role in society, economic, public administration and political life on an equal basis with men within a legal and legislative framework to ensure their legitimacy and all civil rights. Whereas the Basic Law of State promulgated by Royal Decree No. (101/1996) in its Article No. (12) stipulates as "All Citizens are equal before the Law and share the same public rights and duties. There shall be no discrimination amongst them on the ground of gender, origin, colour".

### Target: 3-A

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015.

1. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and higher education.
2. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.
3. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments.

**Achieved**



### 1. Ratio of girls to boys in education

The ratio of girls to boys in primary education in 2014 was 96%, while it was 89% in 1990. This ratio was 95% in 2014 at the level of secondary education, while 83% in 1990. The ratio of females to males in higher education reached 138% in the academic year 2013, where it was 83% in 1990, reflecting a growing rate of females compared with males in higher education.

Table 3.1  
Ratio of girls to boys in education

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
Primary *	89 %	92 %	93%	95 %	96 %	96 %	96 %
Secondary **	83 %	94 %	96%	92 %	95 %	95 %	95 %
Higher **	83 %	-	-	103 %	104 %	124 %	138 %

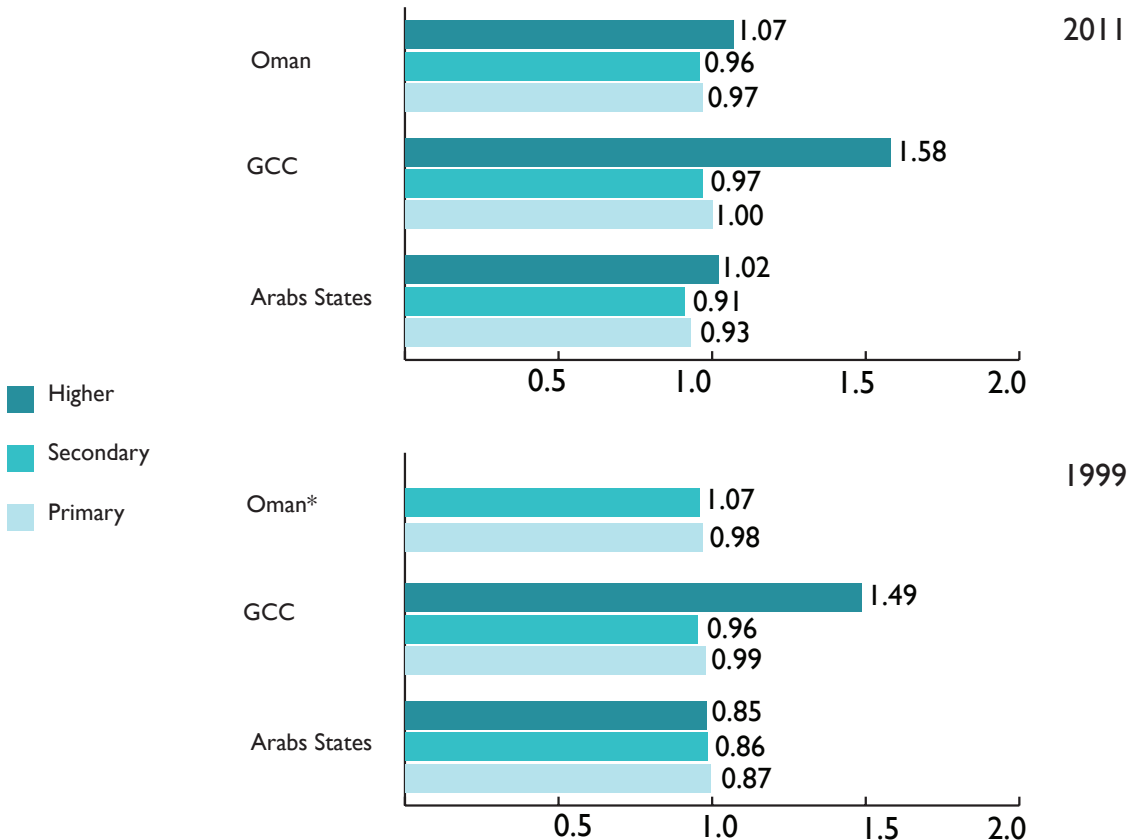
Source: National Center for Statistics & Information

\* Primary grades (1-6) as classified by UNESCO

\*\* Secondary grades (7-12) as classified by UNESCO

Figure 3.1

GPI comparison between the Sultanate of Oman and the rate of the GCC and the Arab States



\* Oman's rate available only for primary and secondary education In the year 2000

Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo Ministry of Education

All governorates have close rates in terms of the ratio of girls to boys in educational stages with a relative reduction in Al-Wusta governorate compared to other governorates at the level of grades (7-9) and (10-12). But at the level of higher education it is noticed a remarkable high ratio of girls to boys in Musandam, Al-Batinah North, Al-Batinah South, Ash-Sharqiyah South and Ad-Dakhiliyah governorates. As well as it is noted clustered decline in the proportion of females to males at the level of higher education in Ash-Sharqiyah North, Al-Wusta and Dhofar governorates.

Table – 3.2  
Ratio of girls to boys in various stages of education by the governments – 2010

Education Stage	Muscat	Dhofar	Musandam	Al-Buraimi	Ad-Dakhiliyah	Al-Batinah North	Al-Batinah South	Ash-SHarqiyah South	Ash-SHarqiyah North	Ad-Dhahirah	Al-Wusta
Grades (1-6)	1	1	1	1.02	0.99	1	1	1	0.99	0.99	0.99
Grades (7-9)	0.99	1	0.98	0.99	0.99	1	0.99	0.99	0.99	1	0.92
Grades (10-12)	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.99	1	0.99	0.98	1	0.77
Higher Education	0.96	0.70	1.25	0.97	1.06	1.12	1.11	1.07	0.82	0.97	0.65

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, a series of Population Studies (5th issue), educational characteristics of the Omani population.

## 2. Share of women in wages employment in the non-agricultural sector

Data of population censuses that have been carried out since the 1990s as well as results of Household Expenditure and Income survey showed significant development in females' overall economic indicators generally. Omani women's economic participation has grown from 6.7% in 1993, to 18.2% in 2003 and then reached 25.2% in 2010, where growth rate for the period (2003-2010) was 7.2%, which is higher than the males' growth rate, which reached 3.8%. The share of women in paid work in the non-agricultural sector has increased to 22% in 2010 compared to 8.2% in 1993.

**Table 3.3**  
**Development of women's share of paid work in non-agricultural sector**

Year	1993	2010
Share of women in wages employment in the non-agricultural sector	8.2 %	22 %

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

The proportion of women in supervisory positions, whether in the private or public sectors has increased from 3.75% in 2003 to 4.26% in 2010. The rate of job seekers also decreased to 24.9% in 2010 compared to 26.8% in 2003<sup>11</sup>.

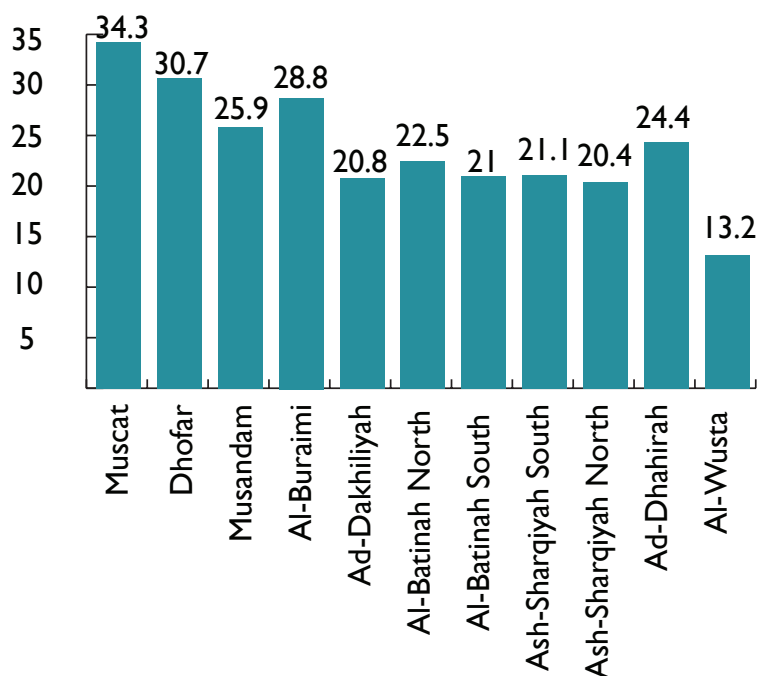
All these indicators reflect the development in the economic empowerment of Omani women and their entrance in the labor market. There is no doubt that increase in educational level of women has a role in this empowerment, but more importantly, the State's policy towards stimulating and encouraging women's work. For example, we find that the Labour Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 35/2003, Article (80) stipulated that "all provisions regulating the employment of workers shall be applicable to women workers without discrimination between them in the same work". The same law in Article (81) ensured the Omani working women that "Females shall not be required to work between nine p.m. and six a.m. save in cases, works, and occasions specified by a decision by the Minister". While Article (82) stipulates as "Women shall not be required to perform works which are harmful to the health or hard works or such other works as may be specified by a decision of the Minister", and ensured her right to full pay maternity leave through Article (83), which states "A female employee shall have the right to a special fifty-day maternity leave covering the periods before and after delivery with full salary for not more than three times during her service with the employer"<sup>12</sup>.

With regard to the proportion of Omani women's economic participation by governorates, Muscat Governorate registered the highest rate of economic participation at 34% in 2010, followed by the Dhofar Governorate of about 31%. While Al-Wusta Governorate recorded the lowest rate of 13%.

<sup>11</sup> Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, characteristics of employees (7th issue), page 58.

<sup>12</sup> The Ministry of Manpower, 2012, Labour Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 35/2003

Figure 3.2  
Proportion of Omani women's economic participation by governorates - 2010



Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, a series of Population Studies (6th issue), the labor force characteristics base on population censuses.

Dhofar is the first governorate in terms of the number of females economically job seekers from total population in 2010 at a rate of 64.05%, followed by Al-Wusta governorate at 56.99%.

Table 3.4  
Proportion of Omani females Job-researchers by governorate for 2010 (%)

Governorates	Muscat	Dhofar	Musandam	Al-Buraimi	Ad-Dakhiliyah	Al-Batinah North	Al-Batinah South	Ash-Sharqiyah South	Ash-Sharqiyah North	Ad-Dhahirah	Al-Wusta
Proportion of females Job-researchers	22.67	64.05	45.58	50.98	33.03	46.94	41.76	38.15	34.21	45.60	56.99

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, a series of Population Studies (6th issue), the labor force characteristics base on population censuses.



### 3. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments

The proportion of the Omani Women's participation in Oman Council has increased up to 9.5% for the period (2011 - 2015) compared to 4.9% in 1997. This participation includes 15 women from the State Council and one from the Shura Council.

Table 3.5  
Percentage of seats that Omani women served in national parliaments.

The Parliament	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Oman Council (Majles As' Shura, State Council)	4.9	5.1	7.8	8.8	9.5
State Council	9.8	9.1	15.5	18.4	17.9
Majles As' Shura	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	1.2

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, Omani Women's empowerment Guide.

Omani Shura Council (Majles As' Shura) elections of the seventh period (2011-2015) characterized by 1133 candidates, including 77 women, compete for the Council's 85 seats, however only one woman was elected to the council. In the sixth period (2008-2011) women did not succeed in winning the votes of electors, unlike the fifth and fourth periods. Elections of the Shura Council is public elections where candidates should have capabilities and skills to manage their propaganda campaigns. Omani women who wish to participate as candidacy may be in need for more empowerment in this side so as to be able to manage their own electoral processes and win the public votes in the provinces, taking into account the fact that the state has not adopted the quota system (quotas) for women in the Shura Council elections on the basis of free competition, and also on the basis that Omani women must acquire sufficient capacity to deal with election campaigns and gain public votes and win. The State Council is a national advisory institute for the decision-making in the state, its members appointed directly from the expertised and specialized persons under a Royal Decree. Women form 17.9 % of the total members of the current session (2011-2015).

As for the progress made in terms of assuming higher Governmental leadership positions, it should be noted that currently there are two women have reached top positions as Ministers (Minister of Education - Minister of Higher Education) in addition to the woman holding the post of Chairperson of of the rank of minister (Chairperson of the Public Authority for Craft Industries), and other two women have reached the post of Undersecretary of the Ministry (in the Ministry of Manpower and the Ministry of Tourism), and four ambassadors (in Washington, Madrid, Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate to the United Nations in New York and Permanent Delegate of Oman to UNESCO in Paris).

Despite the progress that has been made in terms of the empowerment and development of Omani women during the previous periods, further development of the reality of Omani women is needed, especially at the level of economic and political participation, with a focus on the following important points:

1. Review the policies, programs and laws related to women in order to develop them and promote their plans in accordance with social, economic and professional variables. In spite of the great progress and remarkable achievement made by the Sultanate in the field of women's education and reducing the illiteracy rate among Omani females from 54% in 1993 to one-third of this percentage to reach 19% in 2010<sup>13</sup>. However, females' illiteracy rate is still higher than Omani male illiteracy rate (10%)<sup>14</sup>. It is indicating the need for greater efforts to reduce illiteracy among females. Whereas a special focus on the governorates characterized by high rate of illiteracy among women, such as Al-Wusta (42%), Musandam (25.2%), Ash-Sharqiya North (24.3%) and Ash-Sharqiya South (23.67%)<sup>15</sup>.
2. Focus must be directed towards governorates that have lowest rate of girls enrollment in various stages of education as compared with boys with respect to the enrollment of girls in various stages of education, such as Al-Wusta (secondary and higher education), Dhofar and Ash-Sharqiyah North (Higher Education) in order to encourage girls to learn and complete their secondary and tertiary at higher education.
3. Development and implementation of training programs at the level of political participation, in order to build the capacity and skills of Omani women in the electoral process and campaign management.
4. Continue the current approach in the development work involvement, which helps the Omani women's involvement in small and medium business through great support and motivation provided by the Sultanate for women's initiatives in the small and medium business, whether through the Public Authority for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises or through Al-Rafd Fund or through Businesswomen Committees in Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
5. Develop work policies and programs for the Omani women within the governorates with the highest rates of job seekers such as Dhofar and Al-Wusta, Through better alignment between academic and vocational rehabilitation in those governorates and the needs of the labor market, and launch new academic disciplines in local universities and colleges in those governorates that targeting women to suit the needs of the local labor market. It is also necessary to increase the promotion and motivate women job-seekers in those governorates on the initiative and establishment of small businesses and home-based businesses and take advantage of the programs, guidance and support provided by each of the Public Authority for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises and Al-Rafd Fund, and to provide marketing centers or outlets to serve women's economic and productive projects in collaboration with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its branches.

13 National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, population and development in the Sultanate of Oman (November 2014).

14 Ibid

15 National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, Omani Women Empowerment guide.

# 4

## Fourth Goal: Reduce Child Mortality



The Government of the Sultanate developed reduction of child mortality rate within its priorities and successive five-year plans, and sought to provide services for maternal and child health in order to reach this goal. Whereas women and child care has been included in all the approved five-year plans in the past two decades, so as to provide better health services, such as mother reproductive health care during and after pregnancy, and awareness of birth-spacing, and improve the quality of services provided for children with a focus on newborns and infants health. As well as the Sultanate developed plans related to children immunization against infectious diseases so that all Sultanate's children are included within the immunization programs.

### Target: 4-A

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

1. Under-five Mortality rate per 1,000 births.
2. Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births.
3. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles.

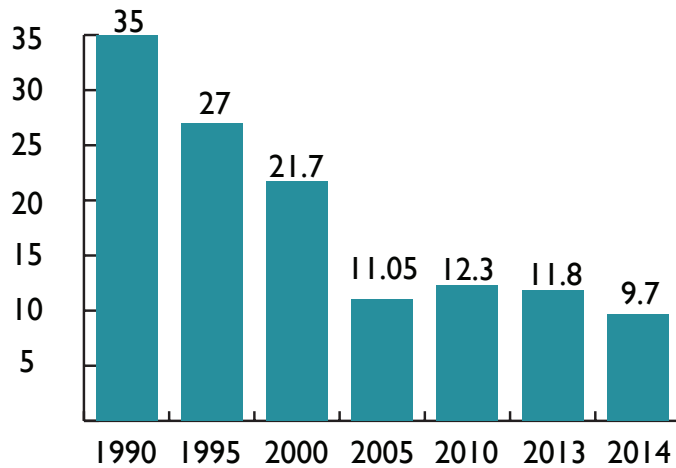
**Achieved**



### 1. Under-five Mortality rate per 1,000 births

Child mortality under five decreased significantly during the past two decades, at a rate of 72.3%. While 35 deaths recorded per 1,000 live births in 1990, the number of deaths per 1,000 live births in this age group 9.7 in 2014. Thus, the desired objective has been exceeded which is the reduction of the rate by two-thirds during the period between 1990-2015.

Figure 4.1  
Change in under-five mortality rate per 1,000



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

#### Oman indicators compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average of Arab States

Under-five Mortality Rate Per 1000 births	1990	2011
Arab States	90	58
GCC	29	8
Oman	35	9.7 (2014)

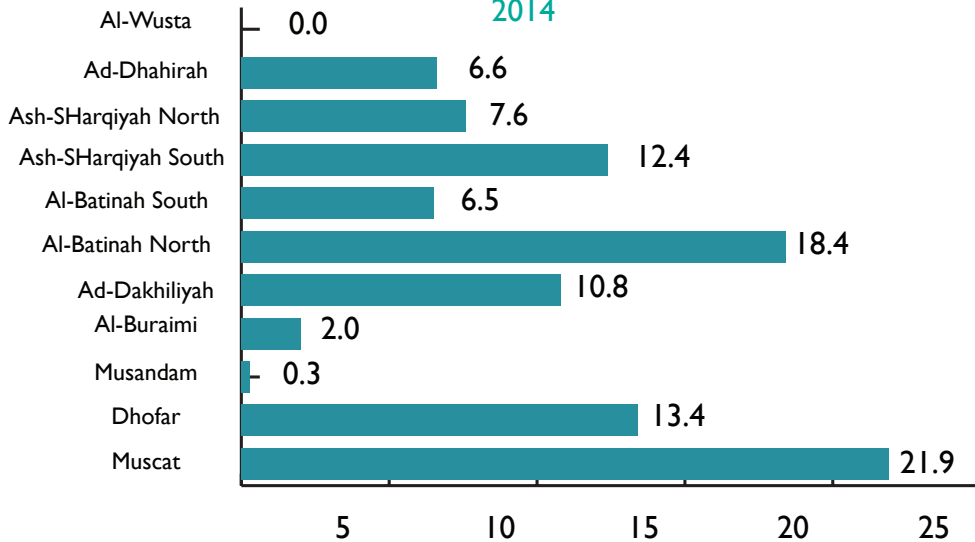
Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

Governorate of Muscat has recorded the highest percentage of under-five mortality at 21.9% in 2014 compared to the total number of under-five mortality in the Ministry of Health hospitals in the Sultanate, being the largest governorate in terms of population density, followed by Al-Batinah North 18.4%<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health report.

Figure 4.2

Under-five mortality rates, in the Ministry of Health hospitals in the governorates during 2014



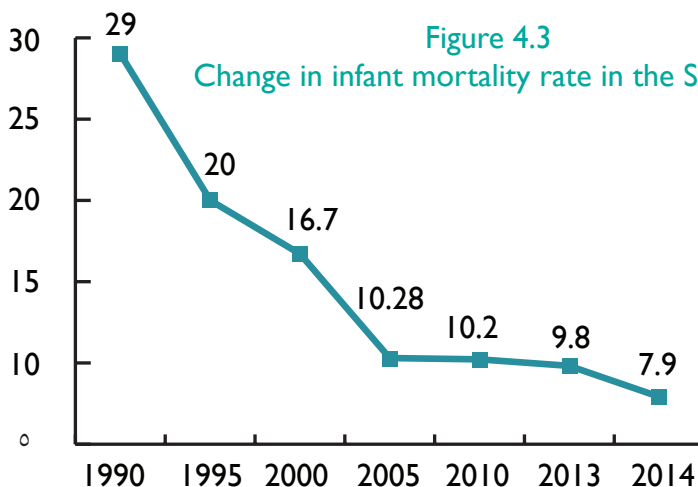
Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

## 2. Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births

Infant mortality rate (under one year of age) has declined from 29 per 1000 live births in 1990, to 7.9 per 1,000 live births in 2014, with a drop of 72.8%. The marked decline has occurred during the period (1990 - 2005), where the rate had dropped from 29 per 1000 live births in (1990) to 10.28 in 2005, then settled close to that rate in subsequent years, nearly to objective to be achieved, which is 9.66 in 2015<sup>17</sup>. It should be noted that 63% of infant deaths occur during the first week of life and 79% during the first month as a result of defects, birth defects and other reasons related to the period of pregnancy as illustrated by the Future Outlook Health Systems (Health 2050), prepared by Ministry of Health.

Figure 4.3

Change in infant mortality rate in the Sultanate



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health report.

Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average of Arab States

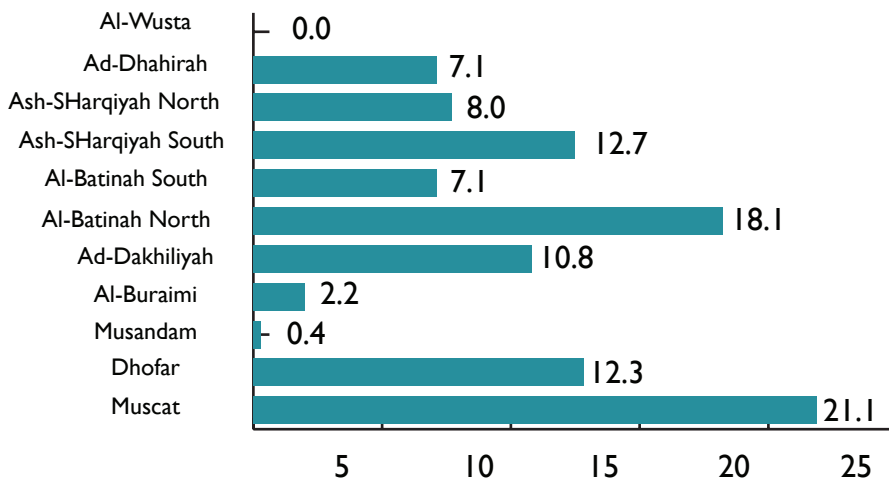
Infant mortality rate in Arab region has declined by 34% during 1990-2010, while the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) recorded a decline of 57% for the same period, the Sultanate has achieved a decrease of 65% for the same period.

Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

In view of the distribution of infant mortality according to governorate, governorate of Muscat recorded the highest rate of infant mortality at 21.1%, followed by Al-Batinah North at 18.1% of the total number of infant deaths in the Sultanate in 2014.

Figure 4.4

Infant mortality rates, in the Ministry of Health hospitals per governorate during 2014



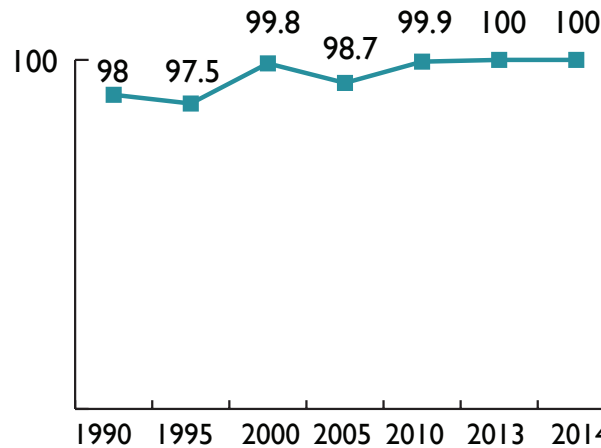
Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

### 3. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles

Immunization of children was one of the priorities adopted by the health sector in the Sultanate during the past three decades, in order to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as (tuberculosis, measles, hepatitis, polio, diphtheria, pertussis), thereby reducing child mortality. Whereas, health measures that have been taken led the Sultanate to be free of polio since 1994 until 2014.

Figure 4.5

Evolution of the proportion of one year-old immunized against measles in Oman



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average Arab countries

de excellent progress over the past two decades, whereas proportion of the immunized children increased from 77% to 87%, this rate has been increased in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) from 86% to 98% during the same period, while in the Sultanate of Oman the rate was 98% in 1990, and became 99.9% in 2010.

Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health 2014, annual health report.

### Towards a post 2015

Although the Sultanate had achieved the fourth millennium goals, but, it should work on further efforts to increase reduction of child mortality rates by strengthening the various Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses programs and coordination among them and improve the quality of services provided in the various health service centers, and efficiency of health workers, especially in the governorates of the relative distribution of child mortality compared to other governorates such as Al-Batinah North. In this regard, it must be noted that the Strategic Health Vision 2050 particularly focused on improving the quality of health services in the various types of health care centers and to develop the capacity of health human resources and increasing their numbers in various specializations, including the child's health in proportion to the population distribution in the Sultanate.

# 5

## Fifth Goal:

# Improve Maternal Health



Oman has developed women's health care within its general strategies, as a major goal, because of its importance in various fields, Committed to the signed agreements, such as children's rights and the Millennium Development Goals agreement. Five-Year Plans has provided for the expansion of the provision of reproductive health package in the Ministry of health institutions, and improving the reproductive behavior of the community. The Ministry had adopted a comprehensive programme that covers all stages of reproduction, starting from pregnancy, childbirth and then, to the post-natal services, then birth spacing, so as to provide better health services to the mother, including educational and awareness programs aimed to a better society.

### Target: 5-A

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

1. Maternal mortality ratio per (100,000) live births.
2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

**Achieved with  
challenges**



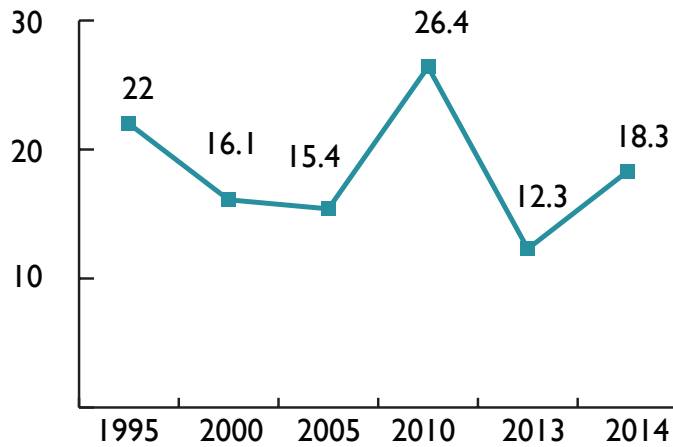
### 1. Maternal mortality ratio per (100,000) live births

Maternal mortality rate in the Sultanate had declined from 27.2 cases per 100,000 in 1991, to 18.3 in 2014. Although the rate has not been reduced by three-quarters during the period 1990 and 2015, as required by the Millennium Development Goal, but, four cases of maternal deaths only occurred in 2014<sup>18</sup>. It is worth mentioning that the danger indicators rise with the rising age of the pregnant mother, where women fertility rates of in 2014 within the age group (40-44) and (45-49) was about 46.3 and 7.1, respectively, per thousand women.

<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.



Figure 5.1  
Change in Maternal mortality ratio in Oman per (100,000) live births



Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, Statistical Year Book.

Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average Arab countries

While the maternal mortality rate at the level of the Arab countries was high in 1990 (358) per 100,000 births, this rate declined to (261) in 2010. In the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) rate was (30) in 1990 and declined to (15) in 2010. This means that the Sultanate was in an advanced position in 1990 at a rate of (27.3) and has made further progress upon reaching (18.3) in 2014 with a sudden decline that took place in 2010. However, it is worth mentioning that the Sultanate of Oman, at a rate of 2014 being closer more than ever rates of the developed Western countries such as Canada and Western Europe countries, which usually has a maternal mortality rate of less than 10 deaths per one hundred thousand live births.

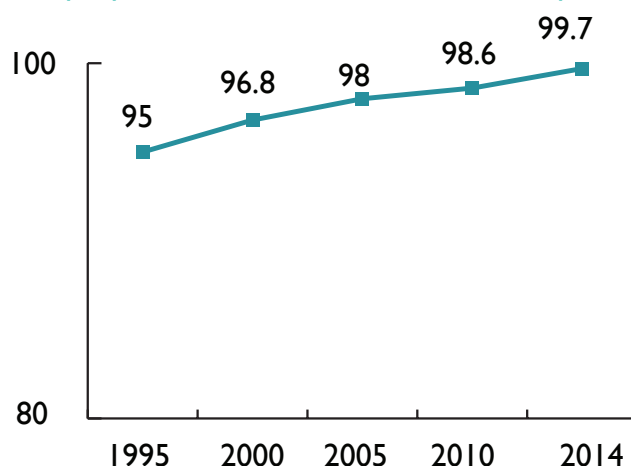
Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, annual health report.

## 2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Maternal and child care program aimed to encourage mothers to give birth in hospitals, and to provide them with appropriate services during childbirth and postpartum.

The Sultanate has made significant progress in this area. While the proportion of births attended by health workers reached 95% in 1995, which is increased to reach 99.7 in 2014.

Figure 5.2  
Evolution of the proportion of births under medical supervision in Oman



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average Arab countries

Proportion of births under supervision of medical specialists has increased at the level of Arab countries from 54% in 1990s to 69% in recent years, with variations among Arab least developed countries where progress remains virtually non-existent. While the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) statistics indicate that 99% of births conducted under the supervision of specialists, while the Sultanate's proportion in 2014 was (99.7%) in the same developed range of the other GCC countries.

Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, annual health report.

### Target: 5-B

Achieve, by 2015,  
universal access to  
reproductive health

1. Contraceptives prevalence rate.
2. Adolescent birth rate (per thousand women aged 15-19 years).
3. Antenatal Care coverage (at least one visit) of the total pregnant.
4. Antenatal Care coverage (& at least four visits) of the total pregnant.
5. Unmet need for birth spacing.

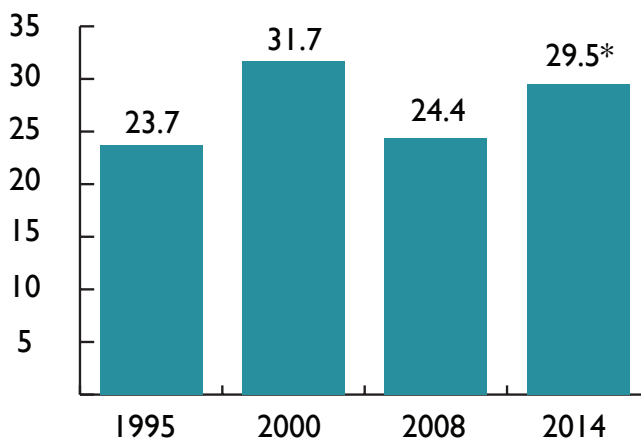
**Achieved**



## I. Contraceptives prevalence rate

Unlike the rest of the indicators, the statistics indicate that rate of contraceptives prevalence among women in the age group (15-49) years had been increased. Whereas, the rate was 23.7% in 1995, a low rate, the rate reached to 29.5% in 2014, with annual average of 0.3%, with a note that the rate rise and decline in irregular basis<sup>19</sup>.

Figure 5.3  
Contraceptives prevalence rate in the Sultanate (%)



Sources: Ministry of Health, 2013, Annual Health Report.

\* National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).

Statistics of mothers' visits to health centers after maternity indicate the high percentage of Omani mothers visiting birth spacing clinics, and according to the annual health report of the Ministry of Health of 2014, the percentage of women attending birth spacing clinics between 2000 and 2014 increased to about 46%. However, that does not mean the increase in their motivation to use the means of spacing between the deliveries, but this was due to the program of raising awareness of the need for spacing. It aimed at women to raise their awareness of the serious problematic consequences of the short time between one birth and another, both in terms of its effect on the child's portion of care on one hand, and its impact on the health of the mother on the other hand. Women are referred to it after giving birth spontaneously and smoothly in health centers affiliated to the Ministry of Health. According «Future Outlook Health Systems (Health 2050)» of the Ministry of Health, in 2012 the percentage of mothers who practiced birth spacing of 3 years and above reached about 34%, and the percentage of women who practiced birth spacing between (2-3 years) reached about 42.5 %

<sup>19</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, MICS

Table 5.1  
Number of Omani women attending spacing clinics

Year	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
Number	13,982	15,992	18,206	19,707	20,467

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health report

Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average Arab countries

The use of contraceptives methods increased at level of Arab countries by married women in the age group (15-49) from 37% in 1990 to 46% in 2010, and the rate had declined in the GCC countries from 31% in 1990 to 24% in 2010, while Oman registered 23.7% in 1995 and 24.4% in 2008 and made progress upon reaching 29.5% in 2014.

Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2013, Annual Health Report, the National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, MICS.

At the governorates level, the largest number of Omani women attending spacing clinics in 2014 was from Al-Batinah North Governorate at 21% of the total Omani women attending, followed by Muscat at 18%, while the least number was in registered in Al-Buraimi at 1.5% <sup>20</sup>.

## 2. Adolescent birth rate (per 1000 women aged 15-19 years)

Oman has worked to reduce the birth rate among adolescents (15-19 years) by focusing on raising the age of marriage, and empowering girls to pursue their education, which will be reflected positively on the development of the structure of society in general, and to achieve gender equality.

Statistics show decline in birth rate among women in this age group, from 61.8 per 1,000 women in 1993, to 11 in 2014, at an average of 82%.

Table 5.2  
Adolescent births Rate per 1,000 women during 1993 to 2014

Year	1993	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014*
Rate	61.8	59.6	31.9	14.1	11.1	11

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

\* National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, MICS.

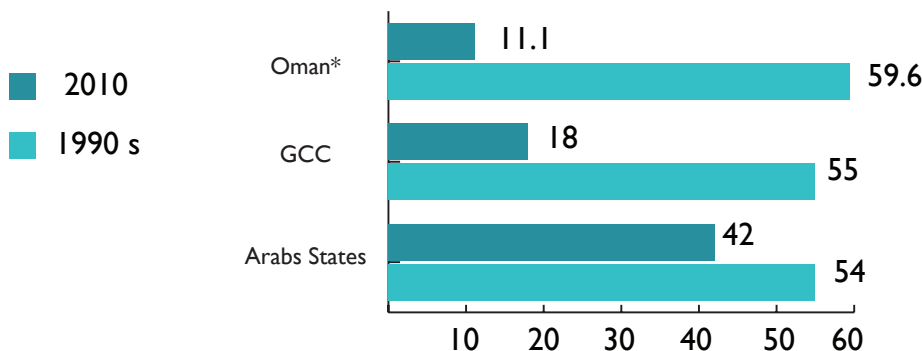
Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average Arab countries

At the level of Arab countries, pregnancy rate in the early age had declined from 54 per 1,000 women in 1990 to 42 in 2010, while the rate had declined in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) from 55 per thousand women to 18, while in Oman the rate declined from 59.6 per 1,000 women in 1995 to 11.1 in 2010, which is a remarkable development in comparison to the period where reaching an advanced rate compared to all the countries in the region.

Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2013, Annual Health Report, the National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, MICS.

Figure 5.4

Rate of early pregnancies per 1,000 women - a comparison between the Sultanate of Oman and the rate of Arab Cooperation Council (GCC) countries



Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

\* Rate of early pregnancy – 1995, Oman.

### 3-4 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit) & (at least four visits) of the total pregnant

The provision of mothers' care during pregnancy, is the most important reproductive health goals in the Sultanate, due to its impact on the health of the fetus and mother's life, and therefore to reduce newborn mortality, and maternal mortality during childbirth, in addition to remedy diseases during pregnancy, for the mother and child.

According to the administrative records of the Ministry of Health, 99.3% of pregnant women have had health care for once at least during pregnancy during the period 2000-2014, where the proportion of women who had undergone care during pregnancy at least four times increased from 75.7% in 2000 to 93.8% in 2014.

Table 5.3

Proportion of pregnant women who have received health care of the total registered number of pregnant women

Year	2000	2005	2010	2014
Percentage (one visit) %	99.1	99.4	99.4	99.3
Percentage (four visits) %	75.7	86.2	85.3	93.8*

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

\* National Center for Statistics and Information, MICS.

At the governorates level, and according to the Ministry of Health records for 2014 Ash-Sharqiyah North has recorded the highest percentage of the number of pregnant women attended clinics for more than four times which is 96.8% of the number of registered pregnant women, while the least percentage was recorded in Muscat governorate, at 32.7% followed by Al-Batinah South by 58.6% of the registered cases, while Ad-Dhahirah governorate recorded the highest percentage of pregnant women visits to the clinics at 10.2 times per a pregnant case, while the least ratio was at the governorate of Muscat, followed at 3.0 by Al-Buraimi at 5.5. The low ratio recorded in the governorate of Muscat may not necessarily reflect the decline in awareness of the pregnant to attend the health institutions, but may be due to their attendance to the private health care centers, taking into account the spread of these centers in the governorate.

Table 5.4

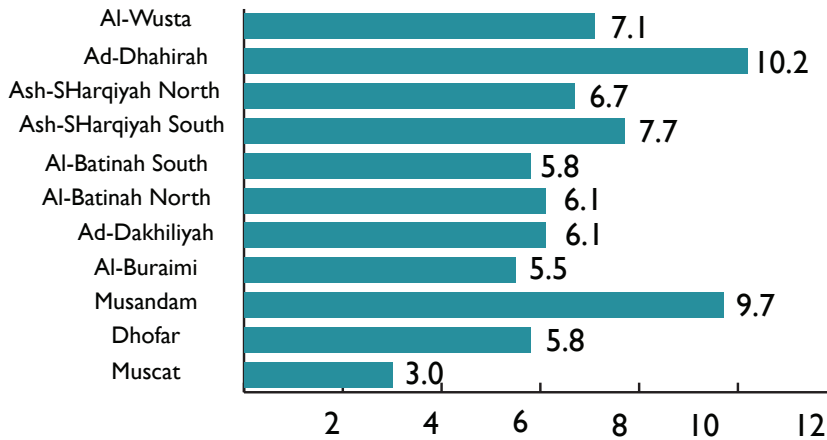
Percentage of antenatal care coverage (at least 4 visits or more), and average visits per pregnancy in governorates - 2014

Governorates	Muscat	Dhofar	Musandam	Al-Buraimi	Ad-Dakhiliyah	Al-Batinah North	Al-Batinah South	Ash-SHarqiyah South	Ash-SHarqiyah North	Ad-Dhahirah	Al-Wusta
Percentage %	32.7 %	79.2 %	90.7 %	80.5 %	86.8 %	77.2 %	58.6 %	93.6 %	96.8 %	85.8 %	86.2 %
Average of visits per pergenancy	3.0	5.8	9.7	5.5	6.1	6.1	5.8	7.7	6.7	10.2	7.1

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

Figure 5.5

Average Visits to government health institutions per pregnant in the governorates - 2014



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

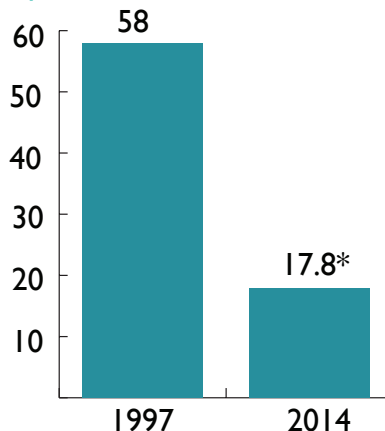
## 5. Unmet need in the field of spacing

National Health Survey results showed that the rate of unmet need among Omani married women within the age group (15-49) had reached 58% in 1997, while the rate declined to 17.8% in 2014.

The records indicate a high satisfaction rate among clients at spacing clinics, with regard to the used method, which is 93.38% of the total visits in 2013, while the percentage of dissatisfaction and attending in order to change the means was 7.91%, while the World Health Survey Results in 2008 in the Sultanate that has been carried out by the Ministry of Health has indicated that the rate of unmet need in the field of spacing among Omani married women was 56% and 31.8% of the surveyed women wished to postpone their last pregnancy, and 24.1% they don't want it.

Figure 5.6

Change of proportion of unmet needs in the Sultanate



Sources: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

## Towards a post 2015

Oman has achieved significant progress in the way of achieving the fifth goal of the millennium development, by reducing maternal mortality rate through the efforts made in antenatal care, during and after pregnancy, and in reducing the mortality rate under the age of nineteen by raising the age of marriage whereas the Omani Personal Status law has set in Article No. (7) The official age of marriage in the Sultanate is achieved by maturity attaining the age of 18 years. The remarkable development in the educational status of the Omani women has led to a clear rise in the average age of female marriage whereas the index increased from about 20.7 in 1993 to about 26.1 in 2010<sup>21</sup>, taking into account the fact that females' educational situation is one of the important factors that clearly affect the delayed age of marriage. All these efforts and developments has developed an advanced position for the Sultanate among Arab countries in reducing maternal mortality. However, it is possible to achieve better progress through implementation of more awareness at the level spacing. It is also necessary to deal with the issue of the current situation of maternity leave in the Oman Labour Law (promulgated by Royal Decree No. 35/2003) as one of the challenges faced by Omani working women. where Article 83 of this law has determined the maternity leave by only 50 days to cover the period of pre-and post-birth, which is inadequate from the perspective of maternal health care and post-natal and infant care.

<sup>21</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015, the Population Studies series, Issue (8th issue) , Marital Status study based on the reality of the 2010 census.



# 6

## Sixth Goal:



# Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

Oman has considered the combat of sexually transmitted diseases, within its most important priorities, and has developed awareness-raising programs aimed to educate the young men and women, as the more susceptible to these diseases as.

### Target:

#### 6-A

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

1. Estimated of HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years per 1000 of the population.
2. Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

**Achieved**



In 1987 the Sultanate adopted the national program to combat HIV and since 1991 it was considered as one of the Five-Year Health Development Programs, starting with the fourth plan, so as AIDS a serious factor threatening the public health.

The program based on the following objectives:

- Reduction of the prevalence of STIs and decrease its spread in the community.
- Improve the health, environmental, psychological and social conditions of the people living with AIDS, and reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with HIV infection and AIDS, and treating patients with sexually transmitted symptoms.
- Encourage and support the efforts of NGOs working in the field of combating behaviors that lead to HIV infection.

## I. Proportion of HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years per 1000

The age group (15-24 years) is the most vulnerable category, due to the sensitivity of this age and the promise of non-conscious behavior. This category form 15.8% of the total population in the Sultanate in 2014 (and 20.9% of the Omani population)<sup>22</sup>, which requires more effort into this category, to raise awareness against sexually transmitted diseases in general and AIDS in particular.

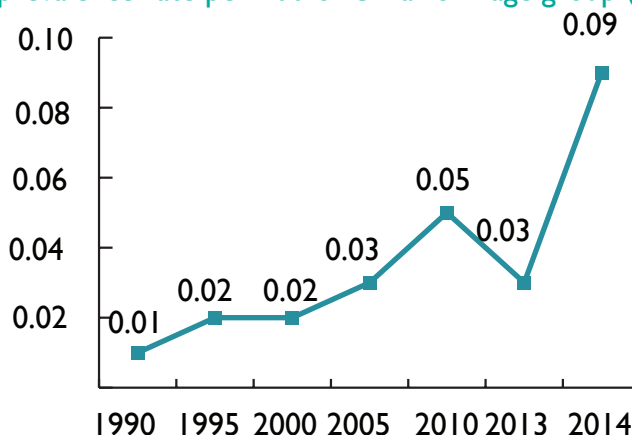
According to Ministry of Health statistics, the highest rate of new infections within the targeted age group, was in 2010, whereas 32 new cases were recorded and the number of females is higher than the number of males (18 cases for females compared to 14 cases for males) unlike other years. The number of new infections has never seen a marked decrease between 1995 and 2014, that due to several reasons including the lack of disclosure about the disease in the early years. The estimated prevalence rate per 1,000 of the population in the age group (15-24) increased from 0.01 per thousand in 1990 to 0.09 in 2014. Even so, this rate remains very low compared to the population of the Sultanate and in comparison with other countries in terms of the spread of the disease. This is due in particular to the prevailing social and family preservation in the Sultanate of Oman.

Table 6.1  
AIDS prevalence rate per 1000 of Omanis in age group (15-24)

Year	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
New cases	6	21	18	18	32	18	29
Rate %	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.09

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

Figure 6.1  
AIDS prevalence rate per 100 of Omanis in age group (15-24)



Resourse: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

22 National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, Population Statistics Bulletin (Issue 4).

## 2. Proportion of population in age group 15-24 who have an accurate and comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

The latest statistics being implemented in 2005 indicated that 65% of young people have accurate information about AIDS. The national strategy for school health of the Sultanate (2008-2015) has indicated the general challenges in the field of health awareness and information-oriented towards students, especially adolescents and young people, thus the strategy involved greater focus on health education and awareness for students to give the Omani students, especially teenagers and young people the required skills to follow sound healthy patterns through the implementation of awareness programs and projects such as «facts of life», the program «I grew up» and peer education project on HIV / AIDS.

## Target: 6-B

Achieve, by 2010,  
universal access to  
treatment for HIV/  
AIDS for all those who  
need it

### I. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs.

**Achieved**



### I. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs.

Awareness-raising activities carried out by the Ministry of Health contributed to the decline of the social stigma associated with this disease, which lead to increasing the proportion of patients who have reported their cases. This explains the reason for the high number of infected, where the previous information was not accurate. The Ministry of Health is committed to ensure that all patients receiving the necessary treatment and care, with the application of protocols relating to the confidentiality of medical tests and keep them under wraps, and used for medical uses only, in addition to provide the necessary medicines, which lead to the deterioration of the cases. All these procedures have encouraged more patients to attend the health institutions for treatment. In this regard, we find that the percentage of those who have received treatment in 2013 is 58% compared to 53% in 2012, and 49% in 2011. Despite the improvement in the proportion of those who have received treatment, additional efforts must be made so that all patients receive the necessary treatment. Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection and who were treated with antiretroviral drugs increased from 78.4% in 2005, to 95% in 2010.

Table 6.2

Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs.

Year	2005	2010
Rate	78.4 %	95 %

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

## Target: 6-C

Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

1. Incidence rates associated with malaria per 100,000 of population.
2. Death rate associated with malaria (number of cases).
3. Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets and Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with anti-malarial drugs. Not applicable.
4. Tuberculosis ratio of per 100,000 of population.
5. Death rates associated with Tuberculosis per 100,000 of population.
6. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course.

**Achieved**



## I-2 Incidence rates associated with malaria per 100,000 of population and Malaria-related mortality rates (number of cases).

Oman has worked to achieve an epidemiological alert system to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to maintain them at the lowest rates. Malaria has been considered as one of the most important challenges and health problems that were faced by the Sultanate until the 1990s. However, as of 1991, the National Malaria Eradication Programme launched as a pilot project in some governorates (Ash-SHarqiyah North and South). Then after the success of the program, it has been circulated to all governorates.

The spread of local infections has been stopped in 2004. However, the problem has always embodied in the presence of malaria cases among expats leading to epidemic local cases, as occurred in 2010, 2011, 2012. Where the total cases reached 1001 cases in 2014, all are imported from outside the Sultanate except 15 local infection cases. Despite that, there have been no deaths cases occurred as a result of malaria since 2005.

**Table 6.3**  
Spread of malaria per 100,000 population rate (local) \*

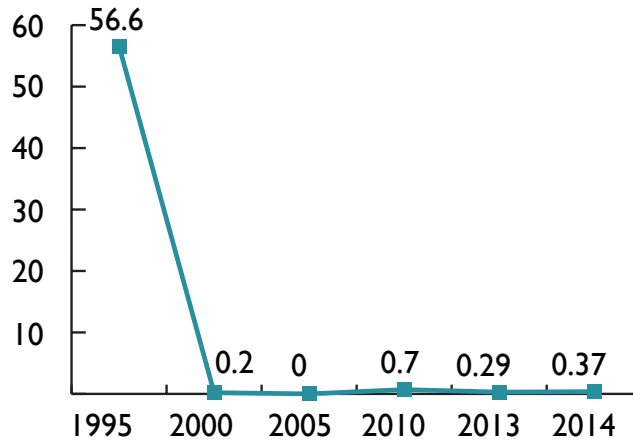
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
Total cases	32720	1801	694	544	1193	1451	1001
Local infection cases	-	1184	6	0	24	11	15
Incidence of malaria (local)	-	56.6	0.2	0	0.70	0.29	0.37
Mortality rates	-	-	-	0	0	0	0

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

\* Rates given for an annual parasite incidence.

(-) not available

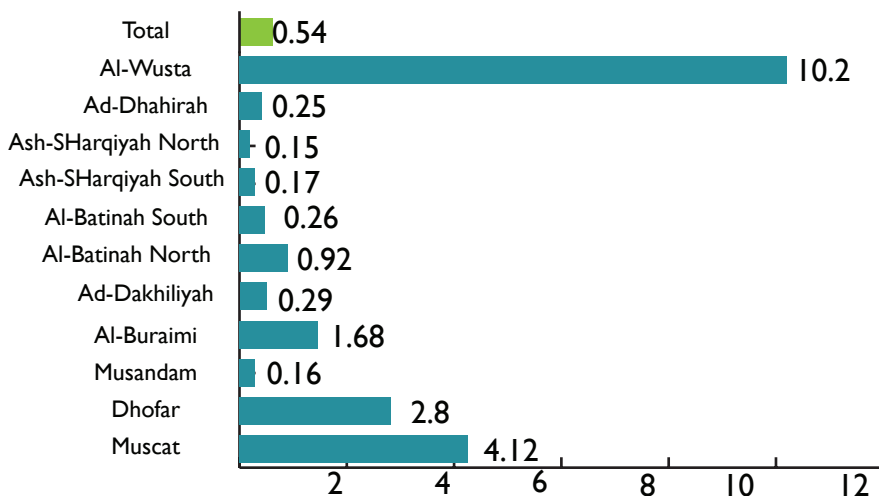
Figure 6.2  
Change in malaria infection rate per 100,000 of the population in the Sultanate



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

With regard to the governorates, 2014 statistics indicate that Al-Wusta governorate showed the highest rate of malaria cases which is 10.2% of the blood samples that have been collected, while Ash-Sharqiyah North recorded the lowest rate at 0.15%.

Figure 6.3  
Malaria Incidence rate (sputum positive) in various governorates of the Sultanate (2014)



Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report

#### 4. Tuberculosis rates per 100,000 of population

National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) in Oman was initiated in 1981, with the introduction of a vaccine, and then medications for the treatment of drug-resistant TB, in addition to the adoption of short-term treatment strategy under the supervision of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1996. The Sultanate, in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council, has taken a number of measures aimed at reducing the incidence of sputum positive pulmonary TB among citizens to 1/100,000 of the population by 2015, with the following steps: Start tuberculosis hidden in homes in 2005, and examine the sensitivity and the cultivation of a FPI treatment (Acid-Fast Bacilli) for all Omani and non-Omani patients and take appropriate measures for infection control in clinics and hospitals as well as training of doctors on early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis within continuing medical education programs in the country<sup>23</sup>. These actions have resulted in the decline of TB infection rate among Omani from 8.33 per 100,000 of the Omani population in 1990 to 4.80 in 2014.

#### 5. Death rates associated with Tuberculosis per 100,000 of population.

Mortality rates associated with Tuberculosis has a significant decline, where the rate was 1.25 per 100,000 of the population in 1990, and declined to 0.35 in 2014.

Mortality rates increased during the years 2006- 2007, where 37 cases recorded in each year<sup>24</sup>.

#### 6. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course

Actions taken have proven successful treatment of cases that have been discovered, where the proportion of detected and cured under directly observed treatment short courses declined from 76 per 100,000 population in 1990 to 92 per 100,000 population in 2014.

Table 6.4  
Incidence rate per 100,000 population in the Sultanate of Oman

Year	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2012	2013	2014
Rate	8.33	6.89	6.52	5.21	4.0	5	4.82	4.80
Cure rate	76	-	-	87	97.2	91.5	92	92

Source: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health report.

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health report.

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health report.

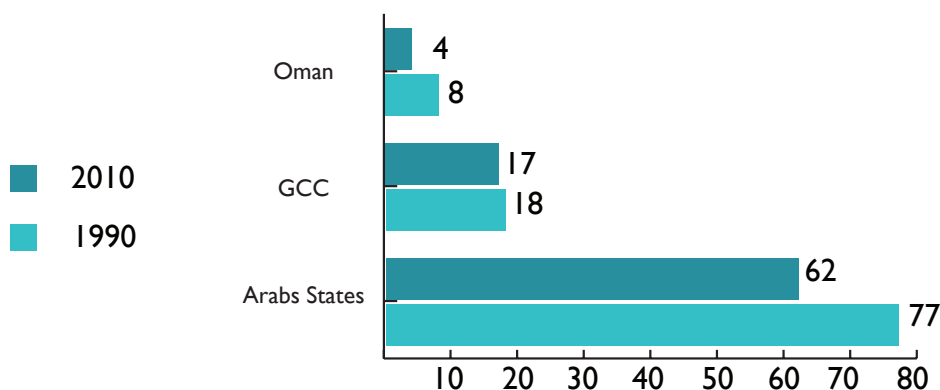
Progress made by the Sultanate of Oman, compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average Arab countries

Incidence rate of Tuberculosis at the Arab countries level continued slowly decline, where the rate of infection dropped from 77 cases per 100,000 population in 1990 to 62 per 100,000 in 2010, and incidence rate at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have declined from 18 cases per 100,000 in 1990 to 17 in 2010. While in the Sultanate of Oman incidence rate was 8 cases per 100,000 population in 1990 and then declined to 4.80 in 2014.

Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.

Figure 6.4

Incidence rate of Tuberculosis per 100,000 - a comparison between the rate of the Sultanate of Oman, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab States



Source: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
Oman: Ministry of Health, 2014, Annual Health Report.



Despite the progress made by the Sultanate in the combat of infectious or communicable diseases including malaria, the Ministry of Health still monitor these diseases and monitor them as utmost importance, especially among expats and gaps spread of local cases in some governorates such as Al-Wusta, Al-Buraimi and Muscat. The Sultanate's Future Outlook Health Systems (Health 2050), Ministry of Health stipulates «special attention to these diseases, including tuberculosis and malaria to prevent their increase again.» As well as the sexually transmitted infections are one of the challenges that require special attention. In addition, global risks such as acute respiratory disease syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza (H5N1) and swine flu (H1N1) are considered as serious challenges that need to strengthen preparations and preparedness methods to combat them. In this regard the health strategic vision pointed out the need to develop numbers of human resources in the health sector, where the current numbers relative to the population, does not meet the necessary requirements to develop the health system and confront these patterns and current and future expected epidemiological challenges, according to the Annual Health Report 2014, 21.7 doctors, 2.6 dentist, 4.9 pharmacist and 47.1 nurses are available per ten thousand of the population.<sup>25</sup>

In addition, we must take into account the fact that the Sultanate of Oman is witnessing a shift to the epidemic of non-communicable diseases due to changes in lifestyles as well as the demographic changes of increasing average of life expectancy at birth and thus extend life of population. Heart and circulatory system disease and cancers have become a major cause of death, while high blood pressure, high blood lipids, obesity and diabetes continues to increase. This requires a focus on raising awareness about healthy lifestyles as well as the development of health system to deal with these changes.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Health, 2014, Future Outlook Health Systems (Health 2050), Executive Summary

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

# 7

## Seventh Goal:



# Ensure Environmental Sustainability

### Target: 7-A

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources

1. Proportion of land area covered by forests.
2. Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (metric tons).
3. Percentage of fisheries stock within safe biological limits.
4. Proportion of total water resources used (Mn m3 annually).

**Achieved with challenges**



### 1. Proportion of land area covered by forests

Land area covered by forests in the Sultanate amounted to one million three hundred and fifty thousand hectares, including 850,000 hectares of grasslands in the north of the Sultanate and 500,000 hectares of grasslands in the south of the Sultanate<sup>27</sup>. There is an integrated project for the development of natural pastures aimed for the management of pastoral spaces and reconstruction of degraded land and protection of its natural environmental components. This project depends on the spatial data base, information techniques and remote-sensing systems. The project also includes (7) pastoral nurseries where different types of plants and trees are cultivated and re-farming part of them in pastoral areas, while the other part is distributed to citizens and government and private institutions.

### 2. Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (metric tons)

Consumption of ozone-depleting substances increased from 540 thousand metric tons in 1995 to 718 thousand metric tons in 2013 as a result of expansion in industrial projects and extraction of oil. Work is under way on a range of programs and projects aimed at protecting the ozone layer, including an integrated strategy to dispose of ozone-depleting substances and the gradual replacement of ozone-depleting substances with safe materials. This strategy consists of three sub-strategies which should be implemented over three

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 2015

years ending in 2016, institutional effectiveness or efficiency strategy, adaptation with climate change strategy and climate change mitigation strategy. The Ministerial Decree No. (18/2012) issued on 4th March 2012 upon which the Directorate-General for Climate Affairs in the Ministry of Environment shall prepare the National inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and to take measures and procedures to facilitate adaptation adequately with climate change as well as to license of climatic affairs projects contained in this Regulation, which shall be valid for two-year and subject to renewal. It should also be mentioned that study of climate change effects in Muscat and determine the risks of climate change was implemented, especially on infrastructure and biodiversity level, and economic and social impacts and develop a plan to manage and mitigate the effects of climate change on the said sectors.

**Table 7.1**  
**Evolution of Consumption of ozone-depleting substances**

1995	2000	2005	2010	2013
540.45	702.41	411.85	565.6	717.79

Source: Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs

### 3. Percentage of fisheries stock within safe biological limits (ton)

Fisheries is a key pillar of the Omani economy and GDP. So development of the fishing laws, Fish stock databases and tightening control have been developed for the optimized utilization. This was reflected in the large growing stock in the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea, especially at the level of small pelagic fish in general and Fanar Fish in the Arabian Sea between 1990 and 2008.

**Table 7.2**  
**Percentage of fisheries stock within safe biological limits (ton)**

Fish stocks (tons)	1990	2008
Small pelagic fish	252,000	1,926,198
Benthic fish	342,903	327,390
Fanar in the Arabian Sea fish	490,000	1,310,000

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 2015, Report on the status of fish stocks

The Sultanate is working continuously, through the Marine Science and Fisheries Center to carry out research projects to monitor and study fish stocks, in order to assess fish stock status. The most important research projects that have been implemented are benthic fish Project 1 (2000-2003), benthic fish Project 2 (2004-2008), fishery resources in the Arabian Sea project (2007-2008) and the Small pelagic fish (2007-2011). Many of the surveys carried out in the Omani deep waters indicated the presence of a large amount of small pelagic fish stocks in the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The surveys identified that the Omani

waters deep, specifically the Arabian Sea water contains a huge mass of small pelagic fish, one of the most productive of these fish in the Indian Ocean regions that many of them are still unused<sup>28</sup>.

#### 4. Proportion of total water resources used (Million cubic meters per year)

The amount of used water resources (1634) million cubic meters in 2013 compared with (1430) million cubic meters in 2010 and (1217) million cubic meters in 2000. The agricultural use occupies a vast space of the used water resources (1546 million cubic meters of 1634 million cubic meters in 2013), which is a ratio 94.6%. While domestic and industrial use constitutes 5.4% of the total water resources used in 2013. In view of limited rainfall, the Sultanate has implemented a number of projects aimed at rainwater harvesting and conservation. Whereas the Sultanate has established a number of dams on the valleys to harvest rainwater and use them in groundwater recharge. The total number of dams has reached (156) dam until mid-2015, of which (44) underground recharge dams and (13) protection dams and (99) storage dams including Wadi Daygah Dam in Muscat governorate, the largest storage dam in the Sultanate.

Table 7.3  
Total water resources used (million cubic meters per year)

2000	2005	2010	2013
1,217	1,228	1,430	1,634

Source: Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources

Al-Batinah North Governorate is the largest consumer of water resources as a result of agricultural use, followed by Ad-Dakhiliyah and Ash-Sharqiyah North. While Ad-Dakhiliyah is the largest consumer of water resources for domestic and industrial purposes, followed by Al-Batinah North.

Table 7.4  
Total water resources used by the governorate (average uses) 2013\*  
Million cubic meters / year

Governorates	Agricultural use	Domestic/ Industrial use	Total
Muscat	72	8	80
Dhofar	126	8	134
Musandam	30	1	31
Al-Buraimi	58	3	61
Ad-Dakhiliyah	249	27	276
Al-Batinah North	515	20	535
Al-Batinah South	138	5	143

28 Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 2015, the report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the status of fish stocks

Ash-Sharqiyah South	28	3	31
Ash-Sharqiyah North	172	5	177
Ad-Dhahirah	158	5	163
Al-Wusta	0.1	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,634</b>

Source: Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, 2013, according to the water balance renovation study in the Sultanate for 2013

\* Does not include desalination of saline and brackish water and wastewater treatment data

Updating water balance in the Sultanate for 2013 data indicate that water resources consist of (1,318) million m<sup>3</sup> as a traditional water resources, (1532) million m<sup>3</sup> of traditional underground water resources, (102) million m<sup>3</sup> of superficial water resources, (196) million m<sup>3</sup> of desalination of saline and brackish water in addition to the (42) million m<sup>3</sup> of treated wastewater. Where the Sultanate follows an integrated approach of water resources management in order to meet the current and future water challenges and variables. From this perspective, the Sultanate is keen to balance water uses and renewable resources and the preservation of water resources from depletion and pollution, as well as to provide safe drinking water and ways to collect and re-use of treated sewage water to ensure water security requirements, especially in drought times in addition to the provision of water for industrial, commercial and Agricultural uses within the limits of available water resources. The integrated management of water resources in the Sultanate also focuses on restoring balance between supply and demand through the promotion of those water resources whether by discovering more of them or by using industrial methods such as groundwater feeding projects and surface dams or using water resources resulted from desalination or wastewater treatment. Within this approach the Sultanate has developed the National Water Resources Master Plan (2000-2010), which lays out the strategic directions, policies and the themes to be followed in order to ensure the most effective management of water resources and achieve balance between water uses and resources available<sup>29</sup>.

**Table 7.5**  
**Formation of water resources of the Sultanate - 2013**

Element	Quantity (million m <sup>3</sup> /year)	Comments
Available total conventional water resources	1,318	Ground and surface water
Conventional underground water resources	1,532	Used

<sup>29</sup> The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, 2012, the National Report on Sustainable Development of the Sultanate of Oman

Conventional surface water resources	102	Used
Desalinated water (saline and semi-saline water)	196	Used (According to census 2011)
Treated Sewage Water	42	Mostly used for landscaping and irrigation of parks

Source: Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources

### Target: 7-B

Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

1. Proportion of terrestrial and marine protected areas.
2. Proportion of species threatened with extinction.

**Achieved**

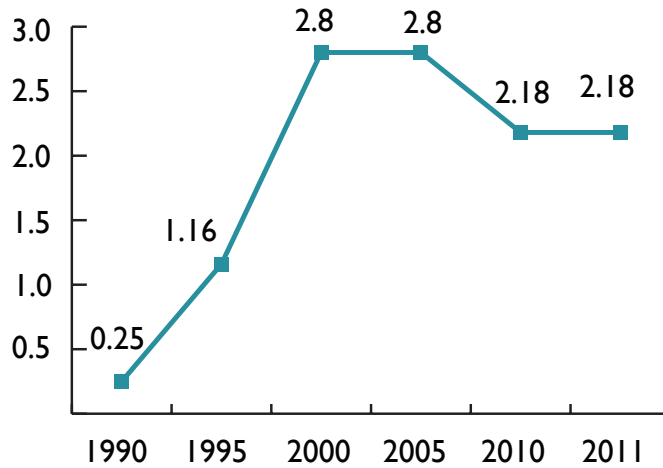


### 1. Proportion of terrestrial and marine protected areas

Natural protectorates form 2.18% of the total area of the Sultanate. These protectorates, which are 16 in 2012, include a large amount of Wildlife, plants and marine organisms. Proportion of protected areas figure indicates an increase in the these protected areas by more than eight-fold between 1990 and 2011, although the decline that has been occurred between 2005 and 2010.

Figure 7.1

Change in the proportion of terrestrial and marine protected areas in the Sultanate%



Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

## Oman indicators compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average of Arab States

Proportion of protected areas	1990	2010
Arab States Rate	3.3	7.6
GCC Rate	6.1	26.3
Oman	0.25	2.18

Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
National Center for Statistics and Information

## 2. Proportion of endangered species

Studies that have been carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs in 2008 indicated that the number of plant species in Oman is (1208) types, of which 59 species are endangered, which represents (4.88%) of the total plant species. The endangered animal species constitute (24.08%) of the total animal species in the Sultanate. Where animal species in Oman includes (89) reptiles, where percentage of endangered reptiles reached (8.99%) while the percentage of percentage mammals reached (6.52%) of the total (92) species.

## Target: 7-C

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

1. Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source.
2. Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility.

**Achieved**



### 1. Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source

Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source (connected to water networks, governmental water points, bottled water) reached 94.9% for 2014 compared to 93% in 2010 and 75% in 2003.

### Oman indicators compared with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the average of Arab States

Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	1990	2010
Arab States Rate	80	81
GCC Rate	94	98
Oman	75 ( 2013)	93

Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo National Center for Statistics and Information

### 2. Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

Oman has achieved significant progress on this regard in terms of overall improved sanitation coverage for the entire population. The percentage increased from 95% in 1993 to 100% in 2010.



**Table 7.6**  
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

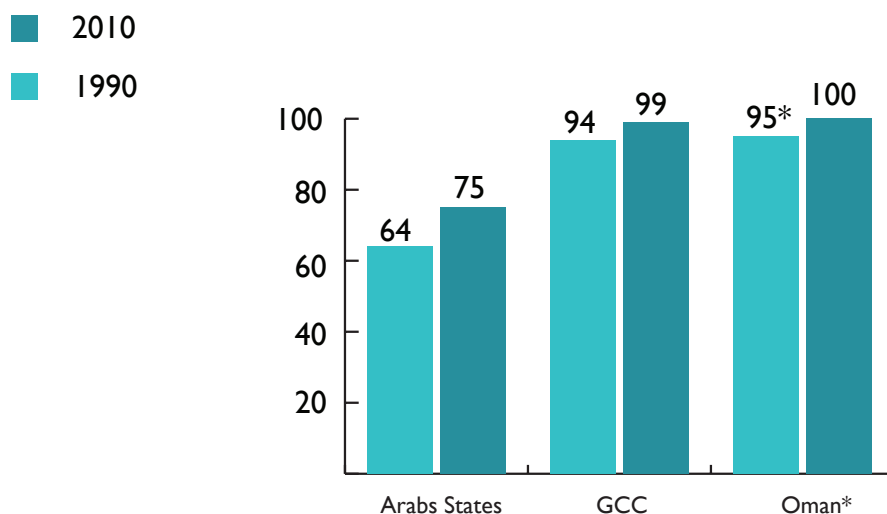
1993	2010	2014 *
95 %	100 %	99 %

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, population censuses 1993,2010.

\* National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, MICS

**Figure 7.2**

Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation - a comparison between the rate of the Sultanate of Oman and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab States



Sources: UN / League of Arab States, 2013, the Arab report of the Millennium Development Goals, New York / Cairo  
National Center for Statistics and Information

\* Data for 1993

# 8

## Eighth Goal:



# Develop a global partnership for development

### Target: 8-A

Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

**Continuation of the Sultanate's contribution in providing assistance** ✓

The Omani economy continued its steady growth over the past years, where the GDP growth rates at current prices reached to 25%.

Table 8.1  
Oman's GDP growth rates

Year	1999	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014
GDP growth rates at current prices	11.4	25.1	25.5	21.2	2.4	4.6

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

There is no doubt that the steady growth was based on the oil and gas sector, but the Sultanate has pursued economic diversification policy and the advancement of other economic sectors and the gradual reduction of dependence on oil and gas resources. In this regard, the Sultanate has pursued a policy based on improving the investment and attract foreign investment as well as the promotion of small and medium enterprises and raise the contribution of many vital sectors in the gross domestic products, such as agricultural, fisheries and tourism sectors. For example, the added value of non-oil activities achieved an increased by 10.1% until the end of December 2014. This increasement is attributed to

high value-added service activities by 13.1% and industrial activities by 3.8% and agriculture and fisheries activities increased by 9.4% during that period<sup>30</sup>. Economic diversification policy has proven its usefulness in 2008 by sparing the Sultanate from direct effects of the global financial and economic crisis occurred at that time.

**Table 8.2**  
**The evolution of the oil activities share in the GDP**

Year	2000	2003	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Percentage of oil activities share in the GDP	50	42	50	46	53	52	51	47

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, Statistical Year Book 2015

Foreign investment policy and a free open economy approach followed by the Omani economy has led to steadily growth in size of these foreign investments that amounted 13.9 billion Omani rials in 2012, at uncrease rate of 9.3% in 2011. The manufacturing activity, especially at the level of basic chemicals industry and petroleum products industry acquired 29.5% of the total foreign investments, followed by oil and gas activity by 27.3% and financial intermediation activity by 27.3%, and then transport, storage and communications activity by 4.4%, electricity and water 2.3%, real estate and business activities 3.4%<sup>31</sup>.

There are various internal factors led to stimulate private sector investment, such as increases in oil prices during since 1990, and the acceleration of national economic growth rates, high public expenditure and improvement in the legal and regulatory frameworks for the private sector and relating to the investment and land Laws and establishment of public authority for small and medium-sized enterprises and increase credit facilities, in addition to the support provided by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Oman in various branches in the governorates. This was reflected in improved creditworthiness of the Sultanate and the promotion of local and foreign investors' confidence in the Omani national economy.

The Omani economy is a free open economy based on freedom of trade. The Sultanate has joined the World Trade Organization on 10/10/2000, and achieved advanced degrees in many categories and reports issued form international institutions in the past years. For example, the Sultanate of Oman has ranked at (31) at world level due to Enabling World Trade Index 2014, and in Third position at both Arab and GCC States levels. The Sultanate came in (62) place at World level in World Competitiveness Index 2015, and in 6th place among both Arab Countries and GCC States. The Sultanate ranked (56) at World Level in in Economic Freedom Index 2015, and it came in 5th place among Arab Countries and 4th place among GCC States. As well as it came in (57) at World Level in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2015, and ranked 4th place among both Arab Countnd GCC States.

<sup>30</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, Oman's economy features report in 2014 (the fourth quarter)

<sup>31</sup> National Center for Statistics and Information, 2013, foreign investment in the Sultanate of Oman and Omani investment abroad

This openness also reflect the development of exports and imports of GDP rates over the previous years.

**Table 8.3**  
Evolution of exports and imports of GDP ratios

Year	1998	2000	2005	2010	2013	2014*
Proportion of imports of GDP	40.8	25.6	30.4	32	49.7	37.8
Proportion of export of GDP	33	53	57	56	70.4	55.7

Source: National Bureau of Statistics and Information, 2015, National Accounts Bulletin (April).

National Center for Statistics and Information, 2014, National Accounts Bulletin (April).

\* 2014 data is calculated from the Statistical Yearbook 2015

This openness also reflect the number of Joint Economic Committees and Bilateral Trade Agreements that have been concluded with several countries as well as agreements to avoid double taxation and mutual protection of investments, which numbered (33) avoidance of double taxation agreements until 2013 and (34) protection of mutual investments conventions.

### **Target: 8-B**

Address the Special Needs of the Least Development Countries (LDCs) includes tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA (Official Development Assistance) for countries committed to poverty reduction.

**Continuation of  
the Sultanate's  
contribution in  
providing assistance**



**Target:**  
**8-C**

Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.

**Continuation of  
the Sultanate's  
contribution in  
providing assistance**



**Target:**  
**8-D**

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

**Continuation of  
the Sultanate's  
contribution in  
providing assistance**



The Sultanate of Oman is providing direct development assistance and implementing development projects in a number of the world's poorest countries, also provide humanitarian assistance for countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts. The Oman Charitable Organization is providing external aid, where the total development and humanitarian aid reconstruction and provided by the Sultanate through Oman Charitable Organization during the period from 1999 - 2014 about (RO 103,223,000). Relief programs made during the 2014 included countries such as Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Indonesia, Somalia, Djibouti and the Philippines. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate also conducting external aid at the developmental, relief and reconstruction activities level.

**Target:  
8-E**

In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.

1. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.

**Achieved**



**1. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis**

Oman approved the provision of health services free of charge to all citizens. This also includes the provision of all drugs free of charge at 100%. That is the case and since the start of the Millennium Development Goals in 1990 until today. The Omani Labour Law in its Article (33) obliged each employer shall provide medical treatment and medicine for employees and workers in the company. The national drug policy that is working out since 2000, based on the provision of high quality medicines and drugs from foreign and domestic sources within the framework of strict drug control by the Ministry of Health as well as ensuring their availability in all governorates of the Sultanate.

**Target:  
8-G**

In cooperation with private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially Information and Communication Technology

1. Fixed Telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.
2. Cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants.
3. Internet users per 100 inhabitants.

**Achieved**



## I. Telephone lines per 100 population

After the growth witnessed during 1990 and 2005, the rate of fixed telephone lines per 100 population was stable with partial decline in the Sultanate. It has reached 9.4 per 100 population in 2014 where the indicator value is considered low in 2010, which is the same rate of 2000. This is due to the increase in mobile and smart phones over the past years.

Table 8.4  
Fixed telephone lines per 100 population

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Fixed telephone lines per 100 population	6.6	8	9.4	10.6	10.2	9.4

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

Greater part of the number of fixed lines is concentrated in the governorate of Muscat at 58%, followed by Dhofar at a large margin of 8.7% and then Ad-Dhakiliyah at 6.9%. While Al-Wusta is considered the least governorate in terms of the number of fixed telephone lines, which is normal due to limited number of population and the vast open spaces that led to rely more on mobile phones.

Table 8.5  
Distribution of Fixedlines Telephone by Governorates 2014

Governorates	Muscat	Dhofar	Musandam	Al-Buraimi	Ad-Dakhiliyah	Al-Batinah North	Al-Batinah South	Ash-SHarqiyah South	Ash-SHarqiyah North	Ad-Dhahirah	Al-Wusta	Total
Number of fixed telephone lines	186,326	27,827	3,484	7,449	22,122	21,770	22,034	5,356	14,934	8,631	1,146	321,061
Percentage from the total number	58	8.7	1.1	2.3	6.9	6.8	6.9	1.7	4.7	2.7	0.4	100

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information, 2015 Statistical Yearbook.

## 2. Cellular phone subscribers per 100 population.

Use of mobile and smart phones in Oman witnessed a significant growth . where number of subscribers reached approximately four million in 2009, this number has grown up to nearly five million in 2011, and then five million and six hundred thousand in 2013, which an average of 155.1 subscription in mobile networks per 100 population in 2014, compared to a rate of 53.1 in 2005 and 6.7 in 2000.

Table 8.6  
Cellular phone subscribers per 100 population

2000	2005	2010	2014
6.7	53.1	166	155.1

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

## 3. Internet users per 100 population

The proportion of users of the World Wide Web (Internet) has witnessed significant growing and significant compared to the rate achieved in 2003 (6.1 per 100 population) to reach (67) in 2013, where it was about (65.8) in 2011, which is relative increase during 2011 and 2013.

Table 8.7  
Internet users per 100 population

2003	2010	2011	2013*
6.1	35.8	65.8	67

Source: National Center for Statistics and Information

\* Information Technology Authority, 2013, Survey on Access to and Use of ICT



## An overview of the governorates with low rates in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Goal and Target	Extent of Achievement	Governorates with lower rates
<b>First Goal: Eradication extreme poverty and hunger</b>		
Target 1 - A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.	Achieved	Al-Batina North
Target 1 - B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.	Achieved with challenges	Dhofar, Ash-Sharqiyah South and Al-Batina North
Target 1 - C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of population who suffer from hunger.	Achieved	Al-Wusta, Ad-Khiliyah and Ash-Sharqiyah North
<b>Second Goal: Achieve universal primary education</b>		
Target 2: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.	Achieved	Al-Wusta
<b>Third Goal: Promote gender equality and empower women</b>		
Target 3: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015.	Achieved	Al-Wusta
<b>Fourth Goal: Reduce child mortality rates</b>		
Target 4 - A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.	Achieved	
<b>Fifth Goal: Improve maternal health</b>		
Target 5 - A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate.	Achieved with challenges	
Target 5-B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.	Achieved	Muscat
<b>Sixth Goal: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases</b>		
Target 6 - A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS.	Achieved	

Target 6 - B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.	Achieved	
Target 6 - C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.	Achieved	Al-Wusta and then Muscat
Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental sustainability		
Target 7 - A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	Achieved with challenges	
Target 7 - B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.	Achieved	
Target 7 - C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.	Achieved	
Eighth Goal: Develop a global partnership for development		
Target 8 - A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally.	Continued progress, opening up and economic diversification	
Target 8 - B: Address the Special Needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA (Official Development Assistance) for countries committed to poverty reduction	Continuation of the Sultanate's contribution in providing assistance	

Target 8 - C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States Through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly	Continuation of the Sultanate's contribution in providing assistance	
Target 8 - D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.	Continuation of the Sultanate's contribution in providing assistance	
Target 8 - E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.	Achieved	
Target 8 - G: In cooperation with private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially Information and Communication Technology.	Achieved	

Development management in the Sultanate of Oman had a dynamic orientation since 1970, within the framework of the five-year plans, where the Ninth Five-Year Plan, which ends in 2015, is the most recent one. Preparation for the Ninth Five-Year Development Plan is under progress. In order to develop the five-year planning within a strategic turn, the Sultanate in 1995, has prepared a long-term development strategy 2006 -2020: the Vision for Oman's Economy 2020, in order to determine the strategic objectives to be achieved and the trend to be followed by the various economic and development sectors and utilize all possibilities and means to reach those goals. This vision has been prepared within the mechanism in which all state institutions were involved and based on the studies and comprehensive evaluation of the various productive and service sectors. This overall assessment is particularly aimed to identify sectors that can assume a leading role in order to expand and develop economic and productive base of the country and bring their revenues to replace oil revenues in the future. Whereas the evaluation also focused on the identification of finding developed and skilled Omani Human Resources that can keep pace with the technical and technological development and confront the challenges of global competition and management of changes efficiently.

Therefore, vision's themes and policies have been developed as well as indicators for monitoring and evaluation. The vision included the following policy areas:

- 1 - To develop and upgrade Omani human resources in order to cope with technological progress and attain international competitiveness.
- 2 - Creation of a stable economic environment with a view to develop the private sector that capable of optimum use of human and natural resources of the Sultanate, through efficient methods and preserve the environmental integrity.
- 3 - To develop a private sector capable of optimum use of human and natural resources in an efficient and ecologically – sound way, in close collaboration with the government.
- 4 - To utilize the geo-strategic location of the Sultanate, optimize the use of its natural resources and promote economic diversification.
- 5 - To enhance citizens' standard of living and alleviate the variance among regions and different income groups and to distribute the fruits of development among all regions and all citizens.
- 6 - To preserve, safeguard and develop the achievements that have been accomplished and complete the necessary basic services.

This vision is the framework through which the five-year plans being developed, starting from the sixth until the ninth five-year plans carried out between the years 1995-2015. Whereas the Tenth Five-Year Plan 2016-2020 will follow the same approach.

Oman embarked on strategic planning towards the future prospects for the next twenty years, the post-2020, starting from 2014 until issuance of this report, and although the duration of the Vision 2020 is not over yet, by starting to prepare the future vision (Oman 2040) with the participation of various ministries and state institutions. Where sectoral working groups have been formed in this regard, with preparation and implementation of

comprehensive studies and assessments of the performance of the various sectors in order to identify priorities.

So as, the different ministries have prepared sectoral strategy visions for the coming epochs, whereas Ministry of Health has prepared Future Outlook Health Systems (Health 2050), and the Education Council has prepared the National Strategy for Education 2040, while the Ministry of Social Development is currently preparing the National Strategy on Social Work 2040.

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target I - A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.	I.1 Proportion of population below US\$1 (purchasing power parity (PPP)) per day.	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero
	I.2 Poverty gap ratio.								
	I.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption.			5.1			6.1		
Target I - B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.	I.4 Growth rate of GDP per employed person.			3.0	1.5	-3.2	-9.7	-8.9	1.8
	I.5 Employment-to-population action (1).	56.4 % (1993)			48 % (2003)	55%		63.6%	62.4%
	I.6 Proportion of employed people living below US\$1 (PPP) per day.	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero	Zero
	I.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing household workers in total employment.				4%	2.5%			
			4.5% (1993)						

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target 1-C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of population who suffer from hunger.	1.8 Proportion of underweight children under-five years of age.		23%	17.8 %		8.6% (2009)			9.7 %
	1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.								
Target 2- A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.	2.1 Net enrollment ratio in primary education (Grades 1-6).		85.4	91.7	92.3	97.8	98.1	98.2 (2012/2013)	99.4
	2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary education.	89.8	91.7	96.5	98.1	98.4	98.5	99.1 (2013/2014)	
	2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds.	92% (1993)		98 % (2003)		98.9 %			

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target 3-A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015.	3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary education.	89 %	92 %	93 %	95 %	96 %	97 %	96 %	96 %
	3.2 Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education.	83 %	94 %	96 %	92 %	95 %	96 %	95 %	95 %
	3.3 Ratio of girls to boys in higher education.	83 %			103 %	104 %	107 %	124 %	138 %
	3.4 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.	8.2 % (1993)		17.1 2003		22 %			
	3.5 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments.								
	Majlis Ash Shura		2.4	2.4	2.4		1.2 (2011 / 2015)	1.2 (2011 / 2015)	1.2 (2011 / 2015)
	Council of State (Majlis al-Dawla)		9.8	9.1	15.5	18.4	17.9 (2011 / 2015)	17.9 (2011 / 2015)	17.9 (2011 / 2015)
	Oman Council (Majlis Ash Shura and Majlis al-Dawla).		4.9	5.1	7.8	8.8	9.5 (2011 / 2015)	9.5 (2011 / 2015)	9.5 (2011 / 2015)



Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target 4 - A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.	4.1 Under-five Mortality rate per 1,000 births.	35	25	21.7	11.1	12.3	11.9	11.8	9.7
	4.2 Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births.	29	20	16.7	10.3	10.2	9.5	9.8	7.9
	4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles.	98 %	97.9 %	99.8 %	98.7 %	99.9 %	99 %	100 %	100 %
Target 5 - A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality rate	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio per (100,000) live births.	27.3	22	16.1	15.4	26.4	15.9	12.3	18.3
	5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.		95 %	96.8 %	98 %	98.6 %	98.6 %	98.6 %	99.7 %
	5.3 Contraceptives prevalence rate.		23.7 %	31.7 %		24.4 % (2008)			29.7 %
Target 5 - B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.	5.4 Adolescent birth rate (per thousand women aged 15-19 years).	61.8 (1993)	59.6	31.9	14.1	11.1	10.7	15.0	11
	5.5 Antenatal Care coverage (at least one visit) of the total pregnant.			99.1 %	99.4 %	99.4 %	99 %	99.1 %	99.3 %

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target 6 - A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.	6.1 Proportion of HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years per 1000 of the population in the same age group (No. of new cases).	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.09
	6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex (as birth-spacing method).			3.3 %					
	6.3 Proportion of population in age group 15-24 who have an accurate and comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS.			65 %					
	6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years.								
	6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs.				78.4 %	95 %			
Target 6 - B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.									

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target 6 - C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	6.6 Incidence rates associated with malaria per 100,000 of population.		56.6	0.2	0	0.7	0.37	0.29	0.37
	6.7 Malaria-related mortality rates (number of cases).				0	0	0	0	0
	6.8 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets and Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with anti-malarial drugs.								
	6.9 Tuberculosis rates per 100,000 of population.	8.33	6.89	6.25	5.21	4	4.9	4.82	4.80
	6.10 Death rates associated with Tuberculosis per 100,000 of population.	1.25	0.89	0.58	0.56	0.32	0.24	0.31	0.35
	6.11 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course.	76 %	0		87 %	97 %	89 %	92 %	92 %

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
Target 7 - A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forests.								
	7.2 CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP).								
	7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (metric tons).		540.45	702.41	411.85	565.6	615.78	717.79	
	7.4 Percentage of fisheries stock within safe biological limits.								
	7.5 Proportion of total water resources used (Million cubic meters per year).			1217	1228	1430	1430	1634	
Target 7 - B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.	7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine protected areas.	0.25 %	1.16 %	2.8 %	2.8 %	2.18 %	2.18 %		
	7.7 Proportion of endangered species.								
	Plants						4.9 % (2008)		
	Animal						24.08 % (2008)		

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
7 - C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.	7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source.				75 % (2003)	93 %			94.9 %
	7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility.				95 % (1993)	100 %			99 %
7 - D: Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.									
8 - E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.	8.1 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis.	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Targets	Indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2013	2014
8 - G: In cooperation with private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially Information and Communication Technology.	8.2 Telephone lines per 100 population.	6.58	7.98	9.39	10.57	10.16	8.72	9.1	9.4
	8.3 Cellular phone subscribers per 100 population.			6.7	53.14	166.1	145.9	145.7	155.13
	8.4 Internet users per 100 population.				6.1 (2003)	35.8	65.8	67	

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