Ethiopia: 2010 MDGs Report
Trends and Prospects for Meeting MDGs by 2015

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED)

September 2010
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The Vision of Ethiopia

“To see Ethiopia become a country where democratic rule, good-governance and social justice reigns, upon the involvement and free will of its peoples; and once extricating itself from poverty becomes a middle-income economy.”
Goal 1 – Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Goal 2 – Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Goal 4 – Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 5 – Improve Maternal Health

Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases

Goal 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 8 – Develop a Global Partnership for Development
Acknowledgment

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I. Executive Summary

II. MDGs at the National Development Framework

III. Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

IV. Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

V. Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

VI. Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

VII. Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

VIII. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS Pandemic, Malaria and Other Diseases

IX. Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

X. Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

XI. Conclusions

List Tables

Table 3.1: Macroeconomic Indicators 5
Table 3.2: Trends of Poverty and Inequality 6
Table 4.1: Primary School (1-8) Trend of GER by Gender and Year 13
Table 4.2: Primary School (1-8) Trend of NER by Gender and Year 13
Table 4.3: Other Indicators of Goal 2 14
Table 11.1: MDGs and their Likely Course 46

List of Figures

Figure 3.1: Proportion (%) of population below the Poverty line (1990 -2010) Actual and Desired Trends 5
Figure 3.2: Income of the poorest quartile (income share
Figure 4.1: Net enrolment ratio in primary education of the year 1990-2015 Actual and Desired Trends

Figure 5.1: Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary Education (1-8) 1990-2015 actual and desired Trend

Figure 6.1: Under-five Mortality Rate (1990-2015 Actual and Desired Trends)

Figure 6.2: Under-five Mortality Rate (1990-2015 Actual and Desired Trends)

Figure 7.1: Maternal Mortality Ratio Per 100,000 Live Birth (Actual and Desired Trends for the year 1990-2015)

Figure 8.1: Estimated and Projected HIV Prevalence by Adult Population (15-49) of Urban, Rural and Ethiopia

Figure 8.2: Estimated and Projected HIV Incidence by Year, Rural, Urban and National (Population Aged 15-49)

Figure 10.1: Trends of ODA to Ethiopia

Figure 10.2: Components of ODA to Ethiopia

List of Annexes

Annex Table 1: Summary of Progress towards the MDGs

Annex Table 2: Primary School (1-8) Trend of (GER) by Gender and Year

Annex Table 3: First Cycle and Second Cycle primary school average Completion rate (%)

Annex Table 4: Share of Poverty Targeted Sector Expenditure from Total Government Expenditure
Acronyms

ABE Alternative Basic Education
ADLI Agriculture Development Led Industrialization
ANC Anti Natal Care
AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APR Annual Progress Report
ART Anti Retroviral Treatment
CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSOs Civil Society Organizations
DAG Development Assistance Group
DHS Demographic and Health Survey
ESDP Education Sector Development Program
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GEQIP General Education Quality Improvement Program
GER Gross Enrollment Rate
GoE Government of Ethiopia
GPI Gender Parity Index
GTP Growth and Transformation Plan (2010/11 – 2014/15)
HEP Health Extension Program
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HoPR House of People’s Representatives
IMF International Monetary Fund
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MoE Ministry of Education
MoFED Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MoH Ministry of Health
MoWA Ministry of Women’s Affairs
MoWR Ministry of Water Resource
NER Net Enrollment Rate
NNP National Nutrition Program
NNS National Nutrition Strategy
ODA Official Development Assistance
OVC Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PASDEP Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
PMTCT Prevent of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PLWHA People Living With HIV AIDS
PSNP Productive Safety Net Programme
PRSP Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SDPRP Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program
SNNPR Southern Nation Nationalities People’s Region
TB Tuberculosis
TSF Targeted Supplementary Feeding
UNCT United Nation Country Team
UNDP United Nations Development Program
UNESCO United Nations Education Social Culture Organization
I. Executive Summary

During the last seven years, Ethiopia has made substantive economic progress. Since 2003/04 growth has been sustained, recording more than 11% average growth. This growth is complemented by a strong performance in the Agriculture, Industry (construction and manufacturing) and service sectors with an average growth rate of 10%, 10% and 13.2%, respectively. The construction sector has been stimulated by public sector investment in infrastructure. During this period, across the country, health service coverage and school enrollment at all levels improved remarkably as human capital development also received significant consideration from the government. With reference to infrastructural expansion, high quality asphalt roads and rural community roads have been constructed all over the country and access to potable water has improved. The hydroelectric power generation capacity of the country has increased the coverage to 41% in 2009/10 from 16% in 2004/05, telecommunication service coverage has reached 50% within a 5 km radius. The expansion of road network has increased the road density from 29km/1000 km2 in 2000/01 to 44.5km/1000km2 in 2009/10. The average time taken to reach all weather roads has also been reduced to 3.7 hours in 2009/10 from about 7 hours in early 2000. The population living below the poverty line has declined to 29% as of 2009/10.

By spending more than 60 percent of its total expenditure on poverty oriented sectors, such as agriculture, education, health, water and road development during the last seven years, the government has maximized its efforts and shown the highest level of dedication to bring about pro-poor economic growth.

Despite the impressive growth record in recent years, low levels of income and savings and productivity in the agricultural sector, limited implementation capacity, unemployment and a narrow modern industrial sector base are the major challenges faced during this period. Besides the aforementioned challenges, the growth efforts have also been threatened by the twin challenges of inflation and the pressure on the balance of payments (BOP). Development finance had also been a critical constraint on the implementation of programs articulated in the country’s development plan. As the result of monitoring and physical policies and administrative measures, the macroeconomic situation has been stabilizing. However, sustaining the macroeconomic stability requires close monitoring and prudent management.
Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report

Ethiopia has also been exposed to weather induced challenges. Climate change is a key emerging factor with adverse effects on the ecological, social and economic fabric of society. Therefore, addressing climate change has important, poverty reduction, equality and human rights dimensions. The various impacts of climate change will have a dampening effect on Ethiopia’s economic growth rates and adversely affect the prospects for achieving the national development plan and MDG targets.

The global financial and economic slowdown and climate change are seen as threats that may hinder progress and reverse the development gains registered. The current status of the MDGs and their prospect until the year 2015, discussed at length in this document, need therefore to be understood in this broader context. The rest of the document will examine the trends in the last decade and their likely trajectory until 2015 based on research and information conducted by the government, developmental institutions and academia.

II. MDGs and the National Development Framework

Since the 1990s, reducing pervasive poverty and ensuring human development in Ethiopia have been the objectives of the Ethiopian government. This vision is explicitly incorporated in various government development policy documents. It is easy to see the central role of MDGs in informing such government policy documents, and several national and sectoral policy documents are very much aligned with the MDGs.

The country’s medium term development plans such as the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP - 2005/06-2009/10) and its successor Growth and Transformation Plan (2010/11-2014/15) are MDG based development plans that were conceived to be implemented in the medium term. The integration of the MDGs in the national development policy context reached its height following the ‘MDGs Needs Assessment’ exercise conducted by the government, UNCT and other development partners in 2005. This allowed the explicit incorporation of the MDGs and their explicit cost in important policy documents for the country.

MDGs are therefore well placed in the national development context of the country. In line with the objective of poverty eradication and bringing about social development, the Government of Ethiopia has invested in both physical and human capital formation which could be considered as best practice to address the challenges of achieving the MDGs.
3.1 Poverty and Inequality

Economic growth and distribution of income are the major instruments for reducing poverty. Hence, the challenge to grow and the nature of growth have the most significant effect in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

During the past seven years, progress towards achieving Goal 1, as measured by macroeconomic parameters and strong growth averaging over 11% per annum, has been registered. This growth has emanated from the growth of small holder private agriculture, resulting in significant reductions of poverty, particularly in rural areas. Even though the agricultural sector has continued to be the major driver of the economy, the growth contribution of the non-agricultural sectors (particularly the service sector), has also been significant. Together, the agricultural and service sectors, have contributed the lion’s share of GDP. During the last seven years, the agriculture (including allied activities) and service sectors have respectively contributed 41% and 46% on average to total GDP. Moreover, this expansion has also been broad based with significant contributions from the manufacturing and construction sectors.

The aforementioned growth within the agricultural sector has emerged from improvements in crop production and productivity; livestock productivity; diversification of agricultural production; agricultural research and extension services; supply of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and improved seed; expansion of small and medium scale irrigation schemes and the management & utilization of natural resources.
Table 3.1: Macroeconomic Indicators

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<tr>
<td>GDP Growth in %</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<td>• Agriculture and allied activities</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Industry</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita growth</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoFED, National Accounts Data (1999/00 – 2008/09)

Trends of Poverty: Ethiopia started the fight against poverty from very high levels with close to 49.5% of the total population under the poverty line in 1994/95. Following the implementation of the comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, poverty levels have declined steadily reaching 38.7 percent in 2004/05, and are estimated to further decline to 29.2 percent in 2009/10. The five year Growth and Transformation Plan 2010/11-14/15 indicates that Ethiopia would achieve halving poverty by 2015 and projects that both income and food poverty reach 22.2% and 21.22% in 2014/15 from 29.2% and 28.2% in 2009/10, respectively.

The decline in rural poverty since 1995/96 is substantial compared to the rising poverty levels in the urban areas. The headcount, poverty gap and poverty severity indices in 2004/05 for rural areas were lower than the lev-

The poverty data and analysis is based on MOFED (2008a) ‘Dynamics of Growth and Poverty’
els five years ago, by 13%, 31%, and 41%, respectively. The urban poverty headcount index increased by 11 percent between 1995/96 and 1999/2000 but declined slightly (by 5% only) between 1999/2000 and 2004/05. Income Poverty is slightly higher in the rural areas (39.3 percent) than in the urban areas (35.1 percent). The poverty gap index was 8.3% in 2004/05 and was slightly higher (8.5%) in rural than in urban areas (7.7%).

Table 3.2: Trends of Poverty and Inequality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poverty Head Count Ratio, P0 (%)</th>
<th>Poverty Head Count Ratio If Inequality is Not a problem</th>
<th>Trends of Inequality (Gini Coefficient)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994/95</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995/96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999/00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000/01</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001/02</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002/03</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>47.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003/04</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>0.304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006/07</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Trend projection based on MoFED data

Trends of Inequality:
Trends in inequality, as measured by the Gini Coefficient, show a moderate rise at national level while sharply rising in urban areas (Table 3.2). For rural areas, the poverty reduction is fully accounted for by growth (inequality not being important). For urban areas, however, the gain on poverty reduction obtained due to growth (about a 12 percentage point reduction) was accompanied by inequality (which raised it by about 14 percentage points), leading to a rise in poverty. The above evidence underscores the importance of addressing the challenges of growth and inequality to attain Goal 1.
Food poverty: is an important issue related to Goal 1. Through its long term strategy of Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) and its medium term development framework, the government is attempting to address this issue. This is complemented by the national food security program that includes a productive safety net program, voluntary resettlement program, household asset building and others. The food poverty head count index declined from 38% to 28.2% between 2004/2005 and 2009/2010.\textsuperscript{2} Other dimensions of poverty and welfare have also seen significant improvements.

Given the strong performance in growth and assuming that the government vigorously works on addressing issues of inequality that could accompany growth and hunger, Ethiopia’s chance of meeting Goal 1 is substantial, as indicated in Table 3.2. The sustainability of overall growth, on the other hand, hinges upon how Ethiopia continues to address the issue of vulnerability to shocks, ensuring macroeconomic stability and accelerating the structural transformation process that has already begun in the economy. Some of the challenges that need to be addressed to achieve Goal 1 are detailed below.

3.2 Challenges and Ways Forward: Challenge of Growth, Inequality and Vulnerability

Growth and distribution are found to be important determinants of poverty eradication in Ethiopia. Achieving Goal 1 entails, in addition to keeping up the current momentum for growth and prudently managing the macroeco-
3.2.1 The Challenge of Malnutrition and hunger: The percentage of Stunted Children declined from the 2004/05 level of 47 percent to 40.5 percent in 2005/06. Similarly, the percentage of wasted children declined from 8% to 5.9% in the same period (APR 2007/08). Despite improvements, significant reductions in the current levels of under-weight children under five years old are required. Aiming to achieve this goal, the Government has developed a National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) and it is implementing a National Nutrition Program (NNP) to accelerate progress and address malnutrition with a comprehensive and harmonized approach. The NNP focuses on the immediate causes of malnutrition by supporting a basic package of high impact interventions such as Vitamin A supplementation, de-worming, screening and Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF), delivered in a campaign mode. It also addresses the underlying and basic causes through a comprehensive, preventive community-based nutrition intervention package, linking humanitarian food security interventions and the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). The government has also taken the innovative step of addressing acute malnutrition at community level using the infrastructure in place through the Health Extension Programme.

The increasing urban poverty and population growth are also emerging challenges requiring policy responses and some form of urban social safety net programme. To reach the target of reducing malnourishment and hunger by 2015 will also require more aggressive and concerted action in this direction.

3.2.2 Challenge of Growth and Vulnerability: The Ethiopian economy and the poor in Ethiopia are extremely vulnerable to external shocks that may include climate change and the global price of exports and imports. These could be taken as challenges on the sustainability of growth. Sustainability at a macro level could be attained by the structural transformation of the economy and greater participation of the private sector. This could be done in the medium-term by tackling the dependence on rain-fed agriculture through the expansion of small and large scale irrigation and strengthening public-private partnership. Structural transformation could also be addressed through raising the competitiveness of the industrial and export sectors, through the provision of physical infrastructure and human capital formation.

Sustainability of growth is dependent on high growth in exports, on raising
domestic resource mobilization and prudent macroeconomic management of the economy. Increasing foreign currency reserves and limiting high import growth and rising domestic savings are major issues that the government needs to address to achieve Goal 1. To this effect, the Government of Ethiopia is taking encouraging policy measures and responding to the situation.

The challenge of vulnerability also has a micro dimension. Poverty studies in the country show that even if the poor are able to escape poverty for a substantial period of time, they are extremely vulnerable to slip back into poverty. This is especially true after shocks, such as drought and the death of the head of the household. Such persistence in poverty is related to a lack of structural transformation in agriculture and institutions, as well as inadequate asset accumulation.

3.3 New Global Challenges with Consequence for Goal 1
Ethiopia like many other developing countries continues to be affected by global challenges. The global economic crisis and climate change are among the many global challenges, in addition to the rise in food and oil prices, which have affected the poverty reduction efforts of the country. IMF calculations on the effects of the changing global economic environment on Ethiopia’s balance of payments in 2009/10 yield an estimated adverse impact in the range of $260–300 million.\(^3\)

Using a simulated global African model, an estimate of the combined effect of the crisis accounted for through the various channels is that it reduces the growth rate in Ethiopia by -1.71 and -1.55 percentage points from the base case scenario in 2009 and 2010. Applying elasticity of poverty with respect to growth and inequality, we have noted the poverty implication of this decline in growth on Goal 1 and seen how the global financial and economic slowdown has undermined the poverty reduction efforts in Ethiopia.

Similarly, although the impacts of climate-variability related hazards are not well researched and documented and are difficult to quantify on a case by case basis, climate variability in Ethiopia, especially those related to floods and drought could be potential threats to the achievement of Goal 1.

Agriculture whether subsistence or commercial farming, is the foundation

\(^3\) These estimates are based on comparisons of projected outturns in 2009/10 (on unchanged policies and a constant real exchange rate) with the 2008/09 outcome.
of the Ethiopia’s economy. It is extremely sensitive to unpredictable climate variations. Therefore, in terms of livelihoods, small-scale and subsistence farmers and pastoralists are the most vulnerable groups. Adverse climate change with its effect on drought, disease and conflict could potentially reduce school enrollment (Goal 2), not to mention its impacts on agricultural productivity that depends heavily on rain-fed agriculture and therefore has serious consequences for poverty reduction. Moreover, unforeseen weather changes often cause outbreaks of disease and recurring climate-induced hazards which could pose serious constraints on the achievement of health related MDG targets.

Ethiopia’s vision of a Climate Neutral and Climate Resilience development direction is encouraging, but requires substantial programmatic and policy support towards a low carbon development path. Bearing in mind the challenges, this will require a flexible framework that puts in place the means to continuously scan policy instruments and mainstream climate change as needed.

In conclusion, if the current strong growth continues and the growth path is broad-based and pro-poor, it is possible to conceive poverty declining by up to 22.2% by 2015. The need to look at the link between economic growth, inequality and poverty reduction therefore has paramount significance. Safeguarding the economy and households from vulnerability to shocks and addressing issues of hunger and malnutrition should be taken as important instruments to achieve Goal 1. In addition, the non-income targets of Goal 1 continue to require aggressive action to get on track. Thus, achieving Goal 1 will depend on directly tackling the challenges noted here.
4.1 Trends and Prospects of Goal 2

Ethiopia is well on track to achieve universal primary education, given the trend from the 1990s and the recent excellent performances as seen below in Figure 2. The achievements of the Government of Ethiopia in terms of higher gross enrolment ratios, as well as increases in the total number of primary and secondary schools in the country are noted by both the PASDEP progress report and UNESCO’s Education for All Global Monitoring Report (2009). These impressive results have been achieved through a massive nationwide effort of providing education. The Government of Ethiopia has made achieving universal primary education a central aspect of public policy and public spending on education has increased over the decades. Successive five year nationwide Education sector Development Programs (ESDP I, ESDP II and ESDP III) have already been implemented. Ethiopia realizes that increasing the coverage of education is only part of the battle and the push to increase coverage has been accompanied, in recent years, by a national program to improve the quality of education delivered, to keep children in school and reduce drop out rates.

During 2009/10 the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for primary school (grades 1-8) reached 95.9 per cent (93.7 per cent for female and 98.7 per cent for male). During the same year (2009/10) the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) stood at 89.3 per cent (87.9 for male and 86.5 percent for female).
Table 4.1: Primary School (1-8) Trend of Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) by Gender and Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
<th>2005/06</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>100.5</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>98.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>93.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>95.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoE (2008/09) and Draft input for the Five Years Growth and Transformation Plan

Table 4.2: Primary School (1-8) Trend of Net Enrolment Rate (NER) by Gender and Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
<th>2005/06</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>89.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>87.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoE (2008/09) and input for the Draft Five Years Growth and Transformation Plan

Figure 4.1: Net enrolment ratio in primary education for the year 1990-2015 (Actual and Projected Trends)


There has been a steady improvement in the participation of girls at primary level as expressed by the Gender Parity Index (GPI) which shows a progressive trend over the years. GPI in the first cycle (grades 1-4) increased to 0.93 in 2009/10 from 0.87 in 2004/05. At upper primary level (grade 5-8), GPI has
substantially improved as well to 0.97 in 2009/10 from 0.69 in 2004/05. In general, the GPI improved from 0.87 during 2004/05 to 0.93 during 2009/10. Likewise, for the same years under consideration, GPI increased in the first years of secondary level (grades 9 and 10) to 0.80 from 0.57.

The overall success in access to primary education is mainly related to the increase in the number of primary schools from 16,000 in 2004/05, to more than 25,000 in 2008/09 (MoE, 2008/09). This is complemented by constructing more than 80% of the schools in rural areas. Moreover, the government has also progressively increased the share of education in the national budget from 19.8% in 2004/05 to close to 22.8% in 2009/10.

The general literacy rate remains very low, pointing out the need to focus on this aspect of education development (see Table 4.3). Heterogeneity in the gender disparity of adult literacy rates is widespread across Ethiopia. In addition, the urban-rural disparities in literacy are pronounced with literacy rates often significantly lower in rural areas.

Table 4.3: Other Indicators of Goal 2.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary school GER</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>91.3</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>95.6</td>
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<td>Primary school Completion Rate</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School girls/boys ratio</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>26 (1996)</td>
<td>29.2(2000)</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoE (2008/09) and Draft input for the Second Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan

4.2 Challenges and Ways Forward

Despite the impressive progress and achievement in the education sector, addressing a 100% enrollment rate across all parts of the regions remains a challenge. This is particularly true for pastoral and semi-pastoral areas such as Afar and Somali regions. The GER in Afar has increased from 26.2% in 2007/08 to 58.0% in 2009/10. Similarly, the GER of Somali region has increased from 32.7% in 2007/08 to 63.8% in 2009/10. This increase is attributable to the continued focus given by the government on the regions under the government’s development plan (PASDEP), as well as the development of informal education programs for out-of-school youth, mobile and community schools for pastoral areas and national programs of Alternative Basic Education (ABE).

The overall increase in the enrollment ratios though seems to come at the
expense of educational quality. Given the importance of education in indirectly addressing the other development goals, the issue of quality is of paramount importance. The completion rate for first cycle and second cycle primary education is currently at 74% and 46% respectively during 2009/10. Towards this end, the GoE initiated a General Education Quality Improvement Program (GEQIP) which began implementation in 2009. This included upgrading teacher’s quality and increasing the number of teachers through on the job training and summer training, as well as reducing the pupil to teacher and pupil to textbook ratios. Hence, the percentage of certified teachers in primary education has shown commendable improvement reaching 89.4% in first cycle (grades 1-4), 71.6% in second cycle (grades 5-8) and 38.4% (for grade 1-8). The share of female teachers is higher than male teachers in both cases. In addition it is also important to balance the rural-urban enrollment difference.

The other challenge is related to the nutritional status of children. Malnutrition has a negative impact on the children’s educational achievement. Hence the government has implemented a program to support those food insecure households with food security and productive safety net programs. This in turn helps those children in food insecure areas and vulnerable households secure access to education, where malnutrition no longer affects their performance, and to ensure the achievement of universal access to education. Climate variability in Ethiopia has increasingly been the source of droughts and floods. Impacts of climate change could potentially limit progress, such as full education enrollment. The Humanitarian Requirement Document (2010), for instance, stresses that relief responses should be multifaceted and should also entail responses in the education sector, among others. Interventions in education primarily focus on the provision of emergency education support for students that have dropped out of school, due to drought and disease.
5.1 Trends and Prospects of Goal 3

This goal is central to address the majority of the MDGs. The GOE has declared its commitment to gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women by stipulating the rights of women in its Constitution, by issuing the Women’s Policy of Ethiopia and by revising the Family Law and the Criminal Law. In 2005, the Government upgraded the Office of Women’s Affairs in the Prime Minister’s office to the level of a full Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) with the mandate to ensure that due consideration was given to gender issues across all sectoral policies. Efforts continued to firmly establish gender as a cross-cutting issue through joint planning sessions between sectoral line ministries and MoWA. The Government has also incorporated gender issues in different national policies including health, education and training, HIV/AIDS, population and other sector policies. The formulation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Gender and Development ensures that gender is fully considered and incorporated in all the annual work plans; and the establishment of a gender focal person in each of the regional bureaus is evidence of the Government’s commitment to gender equality.

PASDEP has also recognized addressing gender issues as one of its eight pillars. To this effect, PASDEP outlines the following strategic measures: increasing girl’s and women’s access to education, improving water supply and sanitation as well as health services and adapting agricultural training to the needs of women. Furthermore, safeguarding rights such as access to land, credit, and increasing the number of women that benefit from government programs such as the construction of low cost houses in urban areas and the
encouragement of micro and small scale enterprises which are essential parts of the PASDEP strategy. Measures are also taken to reduce violence against women, including the enactment of protective legislation. A new Penal Code has been adopted which contains strong measures in support of women’s rights and curbing gender based violence.

One of the targets under Goal 3 involves eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. Although gender parity was not achieved by 2005, Ethiopia appears to be on track to achieve it in primary school enrolment by 2015. Gross enrolment rate (GER) for girls at primary level increased from 53.8% in 2002/03 to 93% in 2009/10 while GER for boys increased from 74.6 to 98.7 during the same period (Annex Table 2). The recent PASDEP implementation review indicates an impressive achievement in increasing the gender parity to 0.93 for primary education in 2009/10. However, the gender disparity gets wider at higher levels of the educational system because of the prior history of structural problems. Achieving gender parity at the primary level, results in many more girls enrolling at secondary and tertiary education levels. Educational gender gaps are larger in rural areas than in urban areas and have spatial variation.

**Figure 5.1 Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary Education (1-8) 1990-2015 actual and desired Trend**

**This ratio is a calculation of the total number of girls divided by the total number of boys and multiplied by 100**

Although the level of women’s representation in the federal parliament is low, significant improvements were observed when compared with the previ-
ous two elections (1995 and 2000). In the first parliament (1995 election), 13 women (2.74%) were represented out of 547 seats while in the second parliament (2000 election) around 42 (7.7%) of the elected MPs were women. In the third parliament (2005-2010), the number of women holding seats rose to 117 (22%). During the third election, the government had strived to increase the number of women legislators to 30-50% of the house, through different measures. The number of seats held by women in the House of Federation has now reached 21 (18.75%). Apart from the political empowerment of women, training women on leadership is the major mechanism undertaken to strengthen women’s capacity in decision making. It is believed that women’s education and economic empowerment play a vital role in empowering and enhancing the decision-making capacity of women.\(^4\)

According to the 2009 Urban Employment and Unemployment Survey, out of the total unemployed people 68.5% were females and 31.5% were males. This shows a decline from 2005 which stood 74.1% for female and 25.8% for male. The rate of unemployment for urban areas in the same year was 20.4%, which is 12.2% and 29.6% for male and female respectively.\(^5\)

### 5.2 Challenges and Ways Forward

While much progress has been made, addressing gender equality and empowering women remain the most challenging. This is because of the deep-rooted nature of the challenge, which depends not only on the actions of government, but also on changing attitudes and cultural values of the society. These types of changes take a significant amount of time to evolve and bring society’s consciousness to one level of understanding.

Addressing these socio-culturally and psychologically embedded root causes requires a process of social change and transformation. PASDEP as well as some of the government’s flagship programs, including the imminent Gender Joint Program, mark steps in the right direction in that they are based on a root cause and gap analysis. Similarly, there is a growing understanding that there is a disconnect between the existence of legal prerogatives and entitlements in favor of women’s rights and the latter being enforced, implemented and claimed.

\(^4\) Country CEDAW Report 2009
\(^5\) Ethiopian Women’s and Children’s Development Plan (Draft), MoWA, March 2010
Climate change may exacerbate the precarious position of many Ethiopian women, particularly rural women by making them walk longer distances to fetch water, collect fuel wood, and by creating greater threats of gender-based violence on the way to water points, as well as reducing their choices about the amounts and quality of nutrition they can consume and type of crops they can cultivate.

Seeing through the empowerment of Ethiopian women would not only go a long way to bring about socio-economic development, but is in fact the precondition and indispensable catalyst for sustainable development and achieving the MDG agenda. The continued and enhanced implementation of the policies and strategies of the GoE will therefore make a significant difference over the coming years.