KSA Country Analysis  
2011-2015  
United Nations Country Team

Development Status
• High human development: 55th out of 169  
• On track for all MDG targets  
• Welfare state, fueled by oil revenues  
• NCC, but demand for international advisory support remains high

Continuing Challenges
• High population growth  
• Sustainability of development results  
• Equity and lack of social inclusion  
• Low institutional and human resource capacities

Root Causes of Development Challenges
• Overdependence on oil  
• Inequities in socioeconomic indicators  
• Shortage of qualified domestic human resources  
• Underdeveloped human rights culture  
• Socio-cultural traditions  
• Culture of unsustainable resource use

Overall Ninth Plan Priorities
• Improve standard of living and quality of life  
• Diversified national economic base  
• Balanced development among regions  
• Toward a knowledge-based economy  
• Enhancement of competitive capacities  
• Human resources development

UNCT Priority Areas for Cooperation
• Inclusive Growth and Employment  
• Governance and Human Rights  
• Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment  
• Quality Social Services  
• Energy, Environment and Climate Change
### Crosscutting Themes
- South-South cooperation
- Capacity development
- Youth and adolescents

### National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Inclusive Growth
- Diversification and Liberalization
  - Move beyond oil
  - More competitiveness, especially for SMEs
- Generating National Employment
  - Saudis still less than half the labour force
  - Women’s participation very low
  - Female and youth unemployment

### Governance and Human Rights
- Increasingly open to addressing some specific socio-political issues
- Progress in other areas requires additional strengthening
- Balance need for continued reform with security imperatives

### National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Governance
- Democratization and Civil Society Participation
- Effective Government
- Human Rights and Justice

### Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
- “Equivalence” vs. “equality”
- Some changes are occurring
- Women still disproportionately affected by poverty in its broadest sense
- CEDAW Committee recommendations

### National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Gender Equality
- Women’s Political Empowerment
- Women’s Achievements in Education
- Economic Participation of Women
Quality Social Services

- Sustainability of welfare state
- Strengthened quality education
- Health sector also requires improved quality

National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Quality Social Services

- Poverty
- Education and Training
- Health Care
- HIV/AIDS

Energy, Environment and Climate Change

- Highly vulnerable to issues of sustainable development, climate change
- Steady increase in demand for limited natural resources

National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Environment

- Climate Change and Energy
- Water Resources and Agriculture
- Air Pollution and Solid Waste Management
- Biodiversity Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment

The Way Forward: The UNCCSF

- UNCT must maintain relevance in dynamic environment
- Focus on development of human capital
- From “training” to institutional/systems strengthening