**Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission**

**Preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights cocern, HRC Resolution 24/11**

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) regularly monitor the situation of economic and social rights and releases biannually report of finding, and provides the government and international aid agencies with appropriate recommendations.

AIHRC generally focuses on right to health, access to food, water, sanitation, adequate housing, right to education, right to employment and living in healthy environment. Monitoring economic and social rights is only a tool for advocacy purpose. AIHRC has not been able so far to conduct a national inquiry on issues of mortality under 5, while it has conducted research studies on different issues of child rights such as child labour , children in trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

Fortunately the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan (MoPH) has developed the **National Public Nutrition Policy & Strategy, 1388 – 1392 (2009-2013), (**www.moph.gov.af/en/documents)

The public Nutrition Department of the MoPH has been mandated to reduce nutrition related mortality amongst mothers and children by protecting and promoting healthy nutrition for all Afghans, and by preventing chronic malnutrition and associated micronutrients deficiency disorders.

The objective s of the Nutrition Sector Strategy are:

* To reduce infant mortality by 38% from 2000 baseline of 165 per 1000 live births to 111 per 1000 live births,
* To reduce under 5 mortality by 38% from 2000 baseline 257 per 1000 live births to 160 per 1000 live births.

Common causes of child mortality in Afghanistan include: neonatal death (62% U5 death), acute respiratory infection (ARI 25%), diarrhea (19) measles (6%) and malaria (1%)

The 2006 Afghanistan Health Survey found 47% of U5 had diarrhea during the previous year.

The access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities is very poor in Afghanistan. UNICEF report 2006 reveals that in Afghanistan only 22% of population is using improved drinking water source (17% in rural and 30% in urban areas), and 30% of population is using improved sanitation services.

To prevent child mortality under 5, the MoPH provides all health centers in cities and rural health with necessary vaccines including anti-pneumonia vaccines, and every year vaccination campaign is launched for prevention of polio that thousands of health workers join to this campaign across the country.

MoPH has established a child health ward in each government hospital and child section in each government health centers. In Mother and Child Clinics, nutritious flour is also distributed for mother to prevent under-weight and malnutrition of their children. The video message of the Minister of Public Health on the importance of breast feeding is aired frequently through TVs.