Mining and Construction: Two Important Industries to Drive Economic Development of Afghanistan

By Mohammed Gul Sahibzada

Economic prosperity and political stability are inseparable for a country such as Afghanistan. It has been years of war and bloodshed that have enveloped the land. Trillions of dollars have been poured into the nation by international donors, and billions of dollars have been spent by the Afghan government and the international community.

Keeping in view the challenges before government of Afghanistan, the private sector and the international community has been playing a constructive role. Afghanistan has the potential to be a major source of construction materials for the global market. The government of Afghanistan has made a commitment to develop the sector and has taken several initiatives to promote construction and mining industries. However, there are still challenges that need to be overcome to fully realize the potential of these industries.

The mining industry is one of the most promising sectors in Afghanistan, and the country has significant mineral resources. The government has taken several steps to promote mining, including the issuance of mining licenses and the provision of incentives to investors. The government has also established the Afghan Mining and Mineral Resources Board to regulate the sector.

However, there are still challenges that need to be overcome to fully realize the potential of these industries. One of the major challenges is the lack of skilled labor and infrastructure. The government needs to invest in training programs and infrastructure development to support the growth of the mining and construction industries.

Another challenge is the lack of a conducive legal framework. The government needs to ensure that the legal framework is in place to protect the rights of investors and to discourage corruption.

The government of Afghanistan needs to work closely with the international community and private sector to overcome these challenges and fully realize the potential of the mining and construction industries.

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Bringing Gender Equality to Global Public Health

By Helen Clark and Sania Nishat

It is the late 1990s, the international community is working to achieve a wide range of global environmental objectives, many of which are enshrined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We have advocated for many of these goals, as well as similar efforts that provided the SDGs, because we believe that such collective projects are necessary to create the type of world we want for our children and grandchildren. We have also seen that far too many efforts to fulfill global commitments lack the necessary leadership and the political will needed to achieve them. This is particularly serious about translating lofty pronouncements into real progress for people and places that are hardest to change.

Consider public health, an issue that affects everyone. The global agenda in this area determines the norms and standards that shape how public and private actors promote health, prevent disease, and administer care. It encompasses research initiatives and global public goods such as vaccines and emergency-preparedness programs for epidemic outbreaks. And it brings people together to work toward providing universal health coverage and ensuring everyone’s right to health.

In the SDG framework, the separate issues of gender and health are intertwined, because gender itself is a major driver of health outcomes. Currently, women suffer from an estimated one-third to one-half more illnesses and disabilities, and women are far more likely to experience complications during and after childbirth. This is not only because women are affected by many more illnesses, but because women receive lower-quality care than men do and experience greater social restrictions.

One of the goals of the SDGs is universal health coverage for all. This means that every woman has access to high-quality and affordable health care, regardless of where she lives. This involves providing access to reproductive health services, including family planning, and ensuring that all women have access to safe and legal abortion services.

Another goal is to reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters by 2030. This means that every woman has access to skilled birth attendants and safe and respectful obstetric care.

Finally, the goals of reducing under-5 child mortality and ending preventable child deaths also apply to girls. This means that every child, regardless of gender, has access to maternal and child health services, including antenatal care, delivery care, and postnatal care.

These goals are not only important for the health of women and girls, but they are also important for the health and economic development of entire communities. In fact, evidence shows that investing in the health of women and girls can lead to significant economic benefits. Women who are healthy are more likely to have higher productivity in the workforce, and their children are more likely to have better health outcomes.

In conclusion, the goals of the SDGs are not only important for the health and well-being of women and girls, but they are also important for the health and economic development of entire communities. We must work together to ensure that these goals are achieved, so that every woman and girl has access to the health care they need and deserve.