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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Summary

This report provides an overview of the technical cooperation activities carried out by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) during the 2012-2013 biennium and funded through the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC), the United Nations Development Account (DA) and extrabudgetary resources.

The report aims to shed light on the services rendered to member States in terms of policy advice, fellowships and capacity-building activities, in line with the areas of expertise of ESCWA, its work programme and the related expected accomplishments. The report highlights synergy between the three budget components, as well as between technical cooperation and the regular programme of work.

The first section of the report reviews RPTC activities, which provide member States with technical capacity-building and advisory services support. It also covers RPTC trends and provides an overview of the activities carried out by the subprogrammes during 2012-2013. The second section covers DA activities and highlights the related achievements. The third section covers extrabudgetary activities carried out with resources mobilized through voluntary contributions.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1-2	3
<i>Chapter</i>		
I. ADVISORY SERVICES	3-30	3
A. Subprogramme 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development.....	4-8	4
B. Subprogramme 2. Social development.....	9-11	6
C. Subprogramme 3. Economic development and integration.....	12-15	6
D. Subprogramme 4. Information and communications technology for regional integration.....	16-21	7
E. Subprogramme 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking.....	22-23	8
F. Subprogramme 6. Advancement of women	24-28	9
G. Subprogramme 7. Conflict mitigation and development.....	29-30	10
II. CAPACITY-BUILDING	31-40	11
III. FELLOWSHIPS	41-42	13
IV. STRENGTHENING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK	43-45	13
V. DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS	46-50	14
VI. EXTRABUDGETARY PROJECTS	51-55	16
VII. CHALLENGES	56-57	16
VIII. EVALUATION OF DA PROJECTS	58-60	17
IX. WAY FORWARD	61-65	17

ANNEXES

I. List of capacity-building workshops	18
II. List of DA Projects	22

Introduction

1. Technical cooperation (TC) translates the normative work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) into practical capacity-building actions. TC activities provide member States with technical advice based on policy-oriented research and support for the implementation of regional and global agreements through workshops and fellowships. They constitute forums for knowledge-sharing between member States; they also aim at building their capacity and strengthening the formulation and effective implementation of national policies, strategies and programmes towards the fulfilment of sustainable development. ESCWA works with regional advisors and consultants who operate in the field to provide swift and substantive assistance in the implementation of the TC programme, using practical solutions and supporting government-led policies and initiatives. The ESCWA approach is coherent, interdisciplinary and results-oriented.

2. Funding for TC activities is drawn from the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC); the Development Account (DA); and extrabudgetary (XB) resources. RPTC activities aim to develop the capacities of individuals and institutions, and are coordinated by regional advisors with extensive experience in carrying out developmental projects in the region. These advisors are experts from a variety of fields, including information and communication technology policy; social policy; gender policy; national accounts; economic statistics; transition and governance; and environmental and water policy.

I. ADVISORY SERVICES

TABLE 1. ADVISORY SERVICES, 2012-2013

Theme	Water and environment	Social development	Economic development	Transport	Trade	MDGs	ICTs	Statistics	Gender	National dialogue processes	Total
Bahrain	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Egypt	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Iraq	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Jordan	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	10
Kuwait	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Oman	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	6
Palestine	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Saudi Arabia	4	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Syria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Emirates	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	15
Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	1	8
Sudan	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	8
Tunisia	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8
Morocco	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	14	6	19	1	3	4	13	22	3	4	89

Abbreviations: MDGs, Millennium Development Goals; ICTs, Information and Communications Technologies.

3. During 2012-2013, 89 advisory services were provided to member States. As can be seen below, activities carried out under subprogramme 3 on economic development and integration and subprogramme 5 on statistics for evidence-based policymaking represented the lion's share of services. The demand for statistical services was in keeping with previous years, but requests for economic services increased sharply. This shift was also accompanied by a decrease in social development and gender services requests.

Figure 1. Advisory services by sector

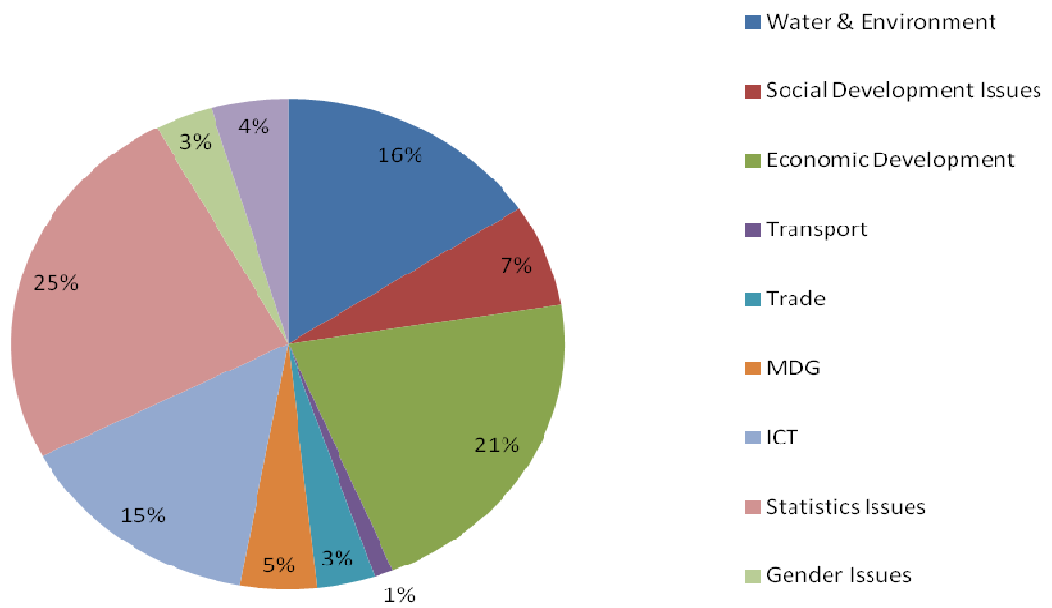
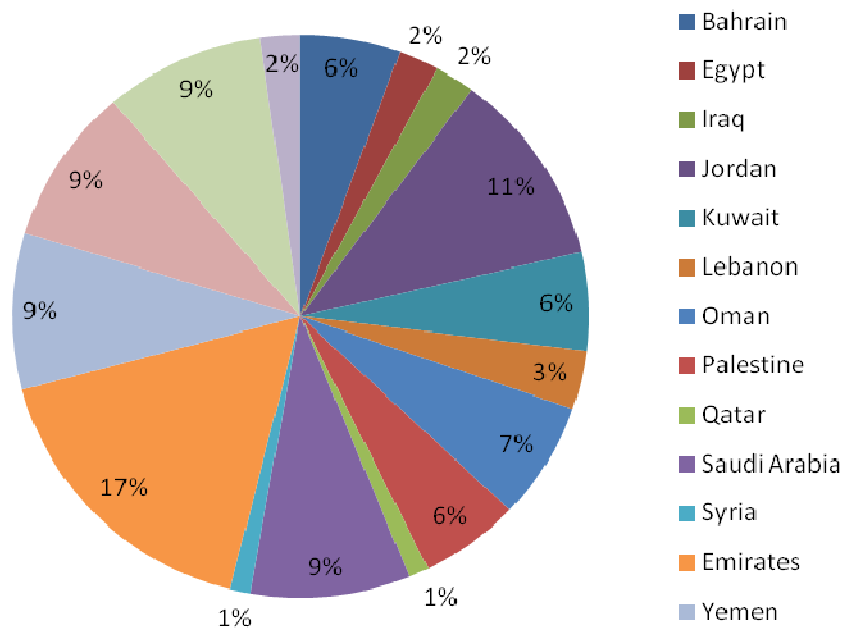


Figure 2. Advisory services by country



A. SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4. Over the course of the biennium, a total of 14 advisory services were implemented by regional advisors in the field of water and environment. These services were rendered in Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Regional advisors offered policy advice and technical assistance in the fields of sustainable development plans, green economy and integrated

management of land and water resources. Regular staff members and consultants also rendered advisory services under the subprogramme in other fields of sustainable development and productivity.

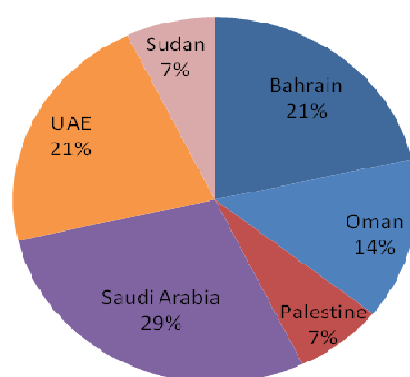
5. This subprogramme contributed to the achievement in Arab countries of the MDG on the mitigation of climate change, by enhancing knowledge on climate change negotiations, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The subprogramme carried out activities that improved capacities for adaptation to the unavoidable effects of climate change on, for example, efficient water management. These activities resulted in an improved understanding of water-related issues among countries. Services also focused on preparing and following-up on the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and on improving the enabling environment towards the post-2015 development agenda. The socioeconomic implications of water quality and pollution and the technological advances in environmental protection and sustainable development goals at the national level were also addressed.

6. Under the patronage of ESCWA, a senior delegation from the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs visited the Tunisian Ministry of Equipment and Environment from 22 to 26 April 2013, to gain insight on the Tunisian approach to environmental governance and management, and exchange information in these areas. The visit concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing ties between the Palestinian and Tunisian Ministries to carry out common projects and benefit from opportunities for international cooperation and technical assistance.

7. ESCWA conducted a three-day training course (22-24 September 2013) on “Mathematical Methods in ArcGIS Applications for Analysis and Display of Hydrogeological Data and Information” for the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources in Oman. The training was attended by 10 staff members from the Ministry, enabling them to appropriately address opportunities and constraints for the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular the management of water resources at the local and regional levels.

8. In the biennium 2012-2013, subprogramme 1 led four DA projects from the seventh and eighth tranches. The projects “Strengthening National Capacities in the ESCWA Region on Developing Green Production Sectors” and “Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia” are scheduled to close in 2014. The project “Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools” is ongoing. The project “Building Capacities in Developing Appropriate Green Technologies for Improving the Livelihood of Rural Communities in the ESCWA Region” was approved and allotted under the additional funding for the DA eighth tranche, and is expected to begin implementation in early 2014.

Figure 3. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 1



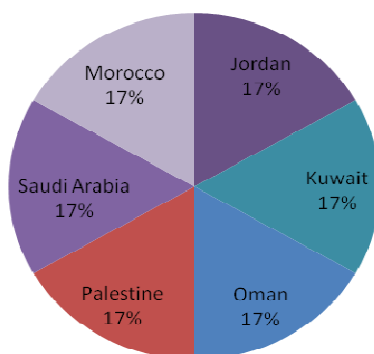
B. SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

9. Under this subprogramme, ESCWA carried out six advisory service missions during the biennium, in Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Palestine and Saudi Arabia. It provided technical assistance for the information and statistics systems on disability and developed indicators for identifying and integrating disabilities in surveys and censuses.

10. In September 2013, ESCWA responded to a request from the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs for technical support to improve the capacities of its staff in programme formulation and project proposal writing. The goal of this training was to address the national agenda for social development and identify potential donors, in order to enable the Ministry to deliver social services and social assistance not only for the Lebanese but also for Syrian refugees. The training module was delivered by an ESCWA regional advisor on the basis of ‘train-the-trainer’ and prepared 19 senior staff from various Lebanese Governorates to transfer knowledge to their colleagues. The training workshop was complemented with coaching sessions intended to strengthen the capacity of senior ministry officials to prepare successful programme and project proposals for donors.

11. In the biennium 2012-2013, subprogramme 2 implemented the DA seventh tranche project on “Strengthening Capacities of Policymakers in the ESCWA Region to Formulate National Youth Policies and Plans of Action: Responding to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)”. Through this project, the subprogramme assisted member States in developing and implementing national youth policies and plans of action in the context of WPAY. The project was successfully implemented and closed in December 2013.

Figure 4. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 2



C. SUBPROGRAMME 3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION

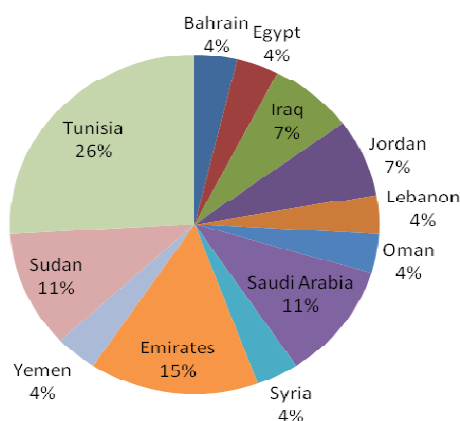
12. ESCWA carried out 27 advisory services during the biennium under this subprogramme, which benefited 12 member States. The services covered the fields of trade, MDGs, double taxation, transport and economic development.

13. ESCWA used technical cooperation funds to respond directly to the needs of Saudi Arabia. To that end, nine policy papers were prepared, covering a variety of themes such as: economic development, gender issues, social development and sustainable development. ESCWA is continuing its collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Planning in Saudi Arabia through the implementation of a joint support project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the “Preparation of Key Performance Indicators for the State Actors Project”. The project, consisting of two phases, aims to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Planning to support the elaboration of the forthcoming tenth National Development Plan (2015-2019). It also aims to build the capacity of the Ministry to follow up on the implementation of that plan and communicate it to the general public. This 2.26 million United States dollars (\$) project will be funded by the Ministry. The document of the final project and related agreements were signed by both parties in December 2013.

14. At the request of UNDP Jordan and the Government of Jordan, ESCWA prepared a paper on the working poor titled “Profile of the Working Poor in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan”, based on Jordan’s Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2010. It was presented during a meeting on poverty assessment in Jordan in December 2012 and contributed to the preparation of the poverty-reduction strategy of the country.

15. In the biennium 2012-2013, subprogramme 3 led two DA projects from the seventh and eighth tranches. Under the project on “Strengthening Capacities in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Region to Negotiate Bilateral Investment Treaties”, the subprogramme assisted government officials and negotiators of member States in designing and negotiating bilateral investment treaties and in deepening their understanding of the international legal framework for investment. The project was successfully completed and closed in December 2013. Another project on “Strengthening Capacities to Utilize Workers’ Remittances for Development” is providing assistance to government officials and financial institutions in selected Arab countries to enhance the impact of workers’ remittances in financing for development and to support the achievement of MDGs.

Figure 5. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 3



D. SUBPROGRAMME 4. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION

16. Under this subprogramme, advisory activities focused on the development and enhancement of relevant mechanisms, processes and tools for an information society and knowledge economy. A total of 13 advisory services were rendered to seven member States, with the goal of accelerating progress towards a knowledge economy. Several member States also benefited from assistance in formulating and evaluating ICT policies, reviewing cyberlegislation, enhancing the performance of e-government, promoting the development of digital Arabic content, developing science, technology and innovation strategies, and measuring the information society indicators. The outcome of these activities was a deeper understanding of the role of ICT in relation to economic and social development.

17. In partnership with the League of Arab States, ESCWA led efforts to establish the Arab Internet Governance Forum as a bottom-up, decentralized platform for inclusive consultations on Internet governance and the identification of areas of cooperation involving all stakeholders.

18. In response to two requests for advisory services received from the National Information Centre (NIC) in Khartoum, a mission was completed to the Sudan between 26 and 30 August 2013. The objectives of the mission were to support NIC in developing an e-learning strategy and to provide it with international standards and good practices for establishing the National Public Key Infrastructure. In the e-learning topic, several meetings were carried out with potential stakeholders in Khartoum in order to explore their needs,

discuss core strategic tracks and agree on methodology. All stakeholders approved the suggested methodology and were willing to participate in a national workshop on the e-learning strategy within three months.

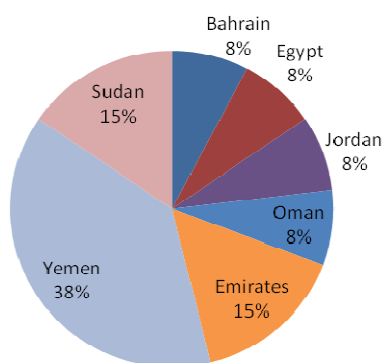
19. In response to an advisory request to review the report prepared by the technical committee of the e-government project, a mission was completed in Yemen between 27 and 29 October 2013. Several meetings were held in order to discuss the proposals of ESCWA concerning:

- (a) The administrative structure of the e-government project;
- (b) The detailed tasks of each unit in the suggested structure;
- (c) The future plan for the e-government project in Yemen.

20. The technical committee approved the remarks of ESCWA and will update the report accordingly. In addition, a MoU is being negotiated between Yemen and ESCWA for long-term coordination and support on e-government.

21. The DA project, “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the ESCWA Region (ALGLE)”, which is led by ESCWA under subprogramme 4, facilitates the transfer of essential knowledge and expertise that will help civil servants, policymakers and government leaders plan and implement ICT initiatives and facilitate the transition towards knowledge-based economies. Project implementation will continue throughout the biennium 2014-2015.

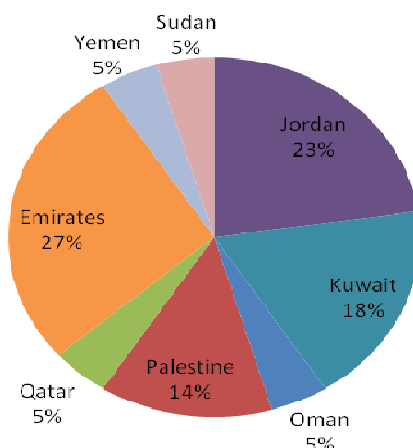
Figure 6. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 4



E. SUBPROGRAMME 5. STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

22. During the biennium 2012-2013, ESCWA carried out 22 advisory services under subprogramme 5, covering a wide array of statistical issues. ESCWA supported member States in their efforts to meet international standards in national accounts. It has placed emphasis on support to national statistical offices in the area of economic statistics in general and national accounts in particular. Through national capacity-building workshops, advisory services and hands-on support, ESCWA critical support was provided to the Statistics Departments of Jordan, Kuwait and Palestine in the implementation of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008. The countries benefiting from ESCWA support will be able to use 2008 SNA as a guide for constructing their own accounting systems, thereby enabling greater regional and international comparability. Moreover, countries will be able to improve the collection of data and the methodologies to generate accurate economic statistics in a timely manner, an important factor for policymakers in their planning.

23. Under the regional project “Strengthening Statistical Capacity for the ESCWA Countries in Energy Statistics and Energy Balance”, ESCWA, together with the United Nations Statistics Division, undertook an important initiative to link energy and environmental statistics. The project is scheduled for completion in 2014.

Figure 7. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 5

F. SUBPROGRAMME 6. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

24. ESCWA assisted three member States, namely Lebanon, Jordan and the Sudan, to mainstream gender in their respective national development strategies and action plans.

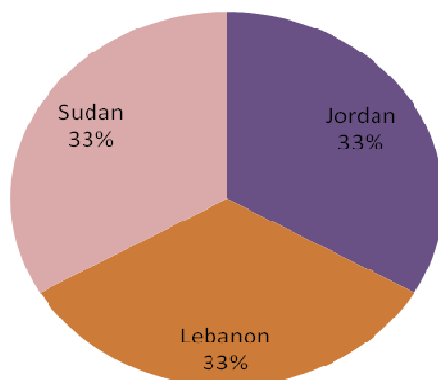
25. ESCWA actively supported national efforts geared towards the preparation of national plans and programmes to fight gender-based violence, specifically through its various publications and technical materials on this issue, as well as public events.

26. Fourteen ESCWA member States have participated in the development of a database to map national approaches to combating violence against women. The Database on National Legislations in the ESCWA Region aims to support member States in formulating action-oriented measures and gender-sensitive legislation, policies and strategies.

27. During the biennium 2012-2013, ESCWA supported parliaments and legislative authorities at the national level to amend discriminatory legislation and enact new laws to promote women's participation in political processes. With a focus on conflict-affected and transition countries, namely Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia, ESCWA was able to carry out targeted training, advisory services and the establishment of a regional knowledge network among parliamentarians.

28. During the biennium, ESCWA led the DA project on "Institutional and Capacity-building for Arab Parliaments and Other Stakeholders for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security" under subprogramme 6. Through this project, assistance and capacity-building were provided to Arab Parliaments and other stakeholders to implement the requirements of this important resolution by developing national action plans. Project implementation will continue throughout the biennium 2014-2015.

Figure 8. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 6

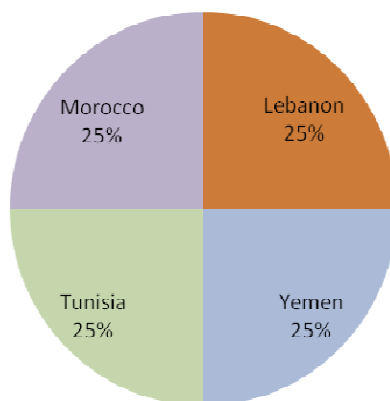


G. SUBPROGRAMME 7. CONFLICT MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT

29. Due to the political instability in the region, the role of ESCWA in addressing governance-related issues under subprogramme 7 became more critical. On poverty, technical assistance was provided for the design of the urban development index and its pilot implementation in three cities (Tripoli, Tunis and Nouakchott).

30. In 2013, ESCWA supported the local authorities in Tunisia in the fields of transition processes, national dialogue and promoting civic values for democratic transition. ESCWA was also able to coordinate on these issues with several local and regional organizations, including the Arab Institute of Human Rights, the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights and the Arab Center for the Rule of Law and. ESCWA cooperated with the National Institute of Statistics in order to review the upgraded version of the manual for urban deprivation applied in Tunisia. During the visit, the Center for Arab Women Training and Research was also able to benefit from support on the subject of MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

Figure 9. Advisory services rendered under subprogramme 7



II. CAPACITY-BUILDING

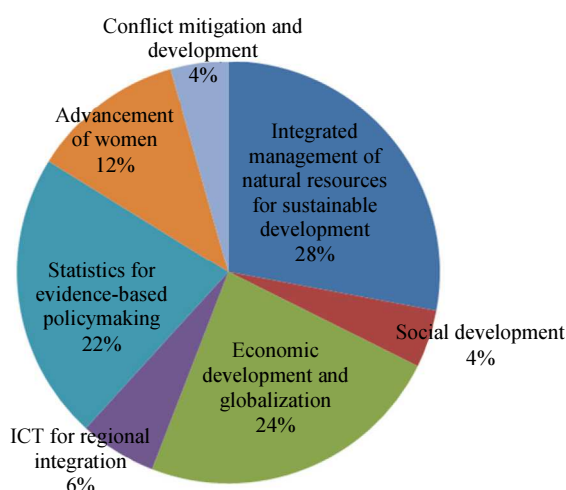
TABLE 2. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES, 2012-2013

Subprogramme	Sub-programme 1	Sub-programme 2	Sub-programme 3	Sub-programme 4	Sub-programme 5	Sub-programme 6	Sub-programme 7	Total
Bahrain	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	5
Egypt	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Iraq	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Jordan	2	0	4	0	5	1	0	12
Kuwait	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Lebanon	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	6
Oman	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	5
Palestine	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
Qatar	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	5
Saudi Arabia	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Syria	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Emirates	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Yemen	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sudan	0	0	4	0	0	2	2	8
Morocco	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4
Tunisia	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Total	19	3	16	4	15	8	4	69

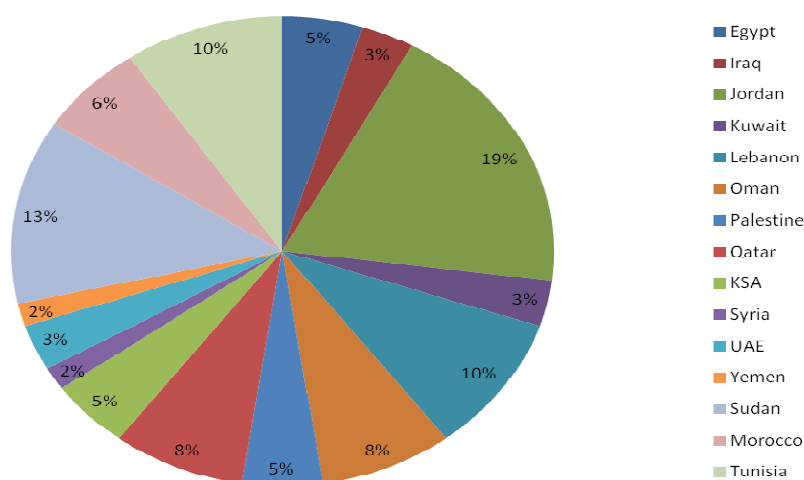
31. During the biennium, ESCWA provided 68 training workshops, 14 of which were organized at the regional level, 5 at the subregional level and 49 at the national level.

32. As with advisory services, the biennium witnessed a shift in the demand for capacity-building services in comparison to previous years. There was a sharp decrease in gender and ICT requests, while sustainable development and economic requests increased. A disparity also exists in terms of benefits to member States: some participated in as little as 3 per cent of the total capacity-building activities carried out by ESCWA. The biennium also saw strong demand from new member States.

Figure 10. Capacity development activities by subprogramme



33. Training workshops were organized to assist member States in adhering to their commitments for the implementation of international instruments and declarations in the field of gender, mainly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Efforts targeted all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, senior officials and decision makers.

Figure 11. Capacity development activities by country

34. Concerning social development, several capacity-building activities were held during the biennium and were an important part of promoting an integrated approach to social protection policy. The programme activities resulted in three new country profiles on social protection and the initiation of a toolkit to enhance the capacity of national stakeholders in building a comprehensive and efficient social protection system and applying a much-needed participatory approach to the process.

35. Alongside the Arab Union of Land Transport and other regional partners, ESCWA co-organized a regional workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan for the Decade of Action on Road Safety (2011-2020) in the region (Amman, 14-15 November 2012). The workshop was attended by 12 member States, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and more than 16 international and regional organizations, including non-governmental organizations. The meeting resulted in the formation of a list of recommendations on good practices and funding tools for road safety improvements, which will enhance the implementation of the Decade of Action on Road Safety requirements.

36. Additionally, ESCWA organized two training workshops on the Agreements on Double Taxation Avoidance. The first was held in the Sudan between 30 June and 4 July 2013 and the second in Morocco from 10 to 12 September 2013. These two workshops upgraded the skills of 50 government officials from ministries of finance and taxation departments in both countries and resulted in a better understanding of double taxations and ways to mitigate this problem.

37. ESCWA organized a preparatory workshop for Arab countries on the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, aimed at preparing member States for the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference (Bali, 3-7 December 2013). This resulted in the issuing of a list of recommendations for Arab countries regarding the Bali negotiations. The workshop was also able to organize and unify the issues and views of member States.

38. ESCWA held the Second Annual Meeting of the Arab Internet Governance Forum and four Arab Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group meetings. A workshop on cyberlegislation in the Arab region, a regional workshop on e-government good practices and a training workshop on the application of ICT impact measurement models were also organized.

39. A number of workshops were held at the national level on the production and dissemination of official statistics. These included workshops on systems of national accounts; statistics of international trade in services; time use statistics; industrial statistics; labour statistics; statistical infrastructure; and agriculture statistics.

40. ESCWA also organized a national workshop on development policy formulation in Palestine from 2 to 5 December 2013. The workshop resulted in the capacity development of Palestinian officials in formulating development policies.

III. FELLOWSHIPS

41. During the biennium 2012-2013, ESCWA responded positively to requests from member States to sponsor participants in study tours organized by public and private institutions in the region. Fellowships involve representatives from member States visiting their counterparts in sister organizations/institutions in other countries. ESCWA sponsored 21 participants to take part in six study tours, as shown in the table below.

42. ESCWA is also considering scaling up the reach of the fellowship programme. This will serve as an additional tool to enhance capacity-building and training activities, in order to meet the requirements of member States.

TABLE 3. LIST OF FELLOWSHIPS

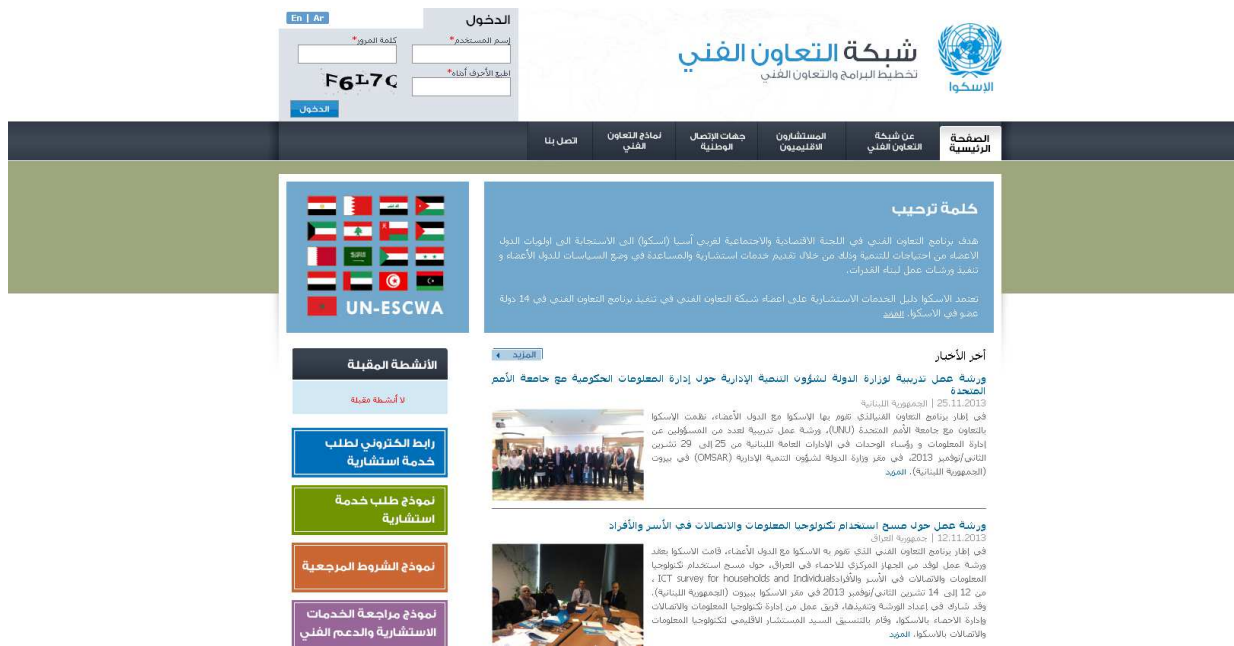
Country	Number of participants	Activity
Sudan	4	Study tour for the Sudanese Ministry of Water Resources in the fields of water harvesting and water management.
Palestine	5	Study tour for the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs to Brazil on the theme of social policy for development, to exchange experiences with Brazilian practitioners in social protection as part of the South-South Cooperation initiative of ESCWA.
Yemen	1	International Conference on "Food Secure Arab World: A Roadmap for Policy and Research" in Lebanon. Expected outcomes include a declaration on the principles of food security in the Arab world and a road map of ways to implement the recommended actions.
Iraq	5	Study tour to Jordan for Iraqi officials from the Ministry of Transport on weigh station mechanisms.
Palestine	7	Senior exchange visit on environmental management to Tunisia.
Palestine	1	First Arab Conference on Space and Geographical Names in Jordan.
Total	23	

IV. STRENGTHENING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION NETWORK

43. The TC Network aims to enhance coordination, networking and the exchange of knowledge on advisory services; conduct trainings; and execute pilot projects. In addition, the network aims to identify the priorities of member States and the basic guiding principles which could optimize the benefits of technical cooperation services and contribute to the improvement of the exchange of information and expertise. This would in turn strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones between stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. The next TC meeting will take place in September 2014, back-to-back with the meeting of the ESCWA Technical Committee.

44. During the biennium, the TC Portal was updated to reflect new TC offerings and to increase the interaction between ESCWA and member States.

Figure 12. Homepage of the new TC portal



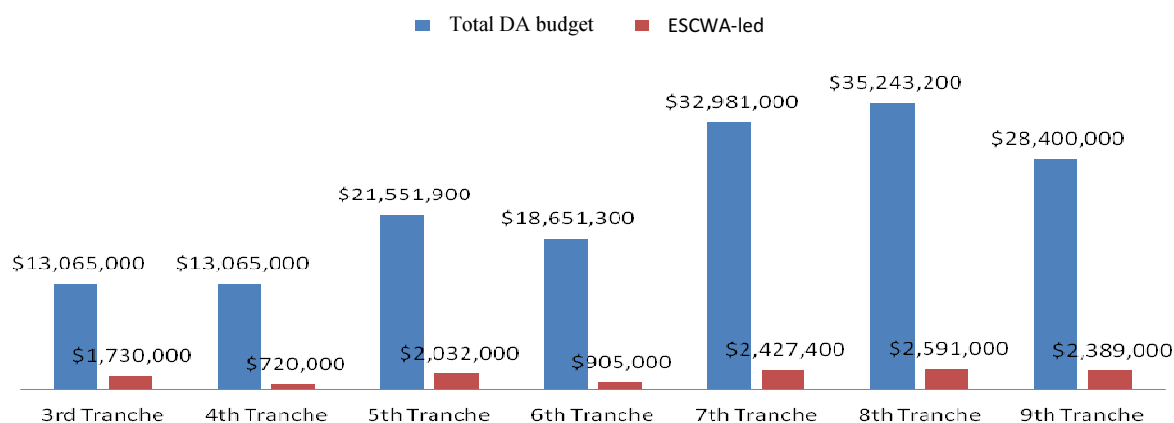
45. The updated user interface of the new portal integrates these features through its strategic placement of the most requested services. The portal will also provide any user with a quick overview of TC activities. Finally, the portal can be used as a quick reference tool to get acquainted with technical cooperation offerings and services.

V. DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECTS

46. The Development Account is a global programme established by the United Nations Secretariat to enhance the capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the United Nations Development Agenda. It is funded from the Secretariat's regular budget and was allocated around \$35 million for the last biennium. DA projects are implemented by 10 entities of the Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs); the five regional commissions; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Project sizes range from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

47. DA projects promote country ownership, intercountry collaboration, South-South cooperation, and regional and subregional cooperation among United Nations entities. They also allow ESCWA member States to participate in and benefit from new global and regional initiatives. The participation of ESCWA in DA-funded projects began in 2002, during the third tranche. Since then, ESCWA has steadily increased this participation.

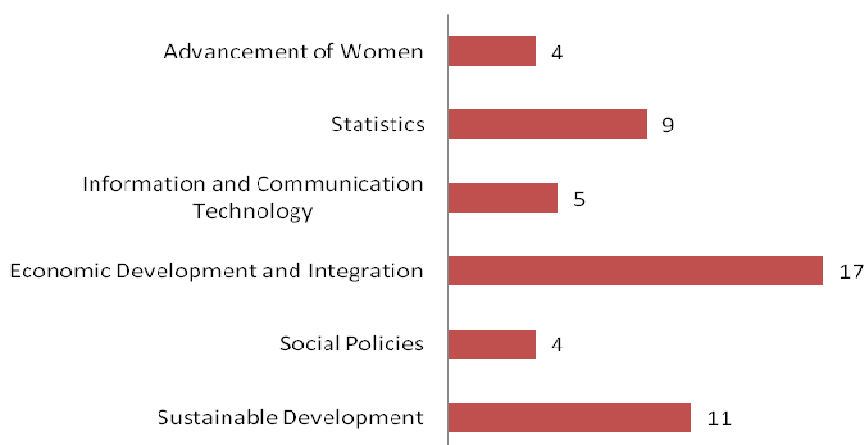
48. Over the past 11 years, ESCWA has led 19 projects of regional or global nature for a total of \$10.4 million in various thematic sectors. It has also participated in 31 projects worldwide.

Figure 13. Funding by tranche

49. Activities during the biennium 2012-2013 were in the context of the seventh and eighth tranche of the DA programme, under the theme of “Supporting Member States to accelerate progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the multiple and interrelated development challenges” (eighth tranche). During those two years, ESCWA was involved in 29 DA-funded projects; one project led by UN-Habitat, in which ESCWA participated as a partner agency, was carried over from the sixth tranche. ESCWA served as the leading agency for 10 projects, with total allocated funds of \$2,428,400 and \$2,591,000 for the seventh and eighth tranches, respectively.

50. For the biennium 2014-2015, which represents the ninth tranche of the DA programme under the theme of “Supporting Member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies towards sustainable, equitable and inclusive development”, four projects have been approved for ESCWA, with total allocated funds of \$2,389,000.

Figure 14. Third-eighth tranche DA projects led by, or with the participation of, ESCWA
(Number of projects by substantive area)



VI. EXTRABUDGETARY PROJECTS

51. Over the course of the biennium 2012-2013, ESCWA succeeded in raising approximately \$5.6 million to implement extrabudgetary (XB) projects. These funds enabled the implementation of 14 new XB projects, mainly by the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD); the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD); the Statistics Division (SD); and the Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues Division (ECRI).

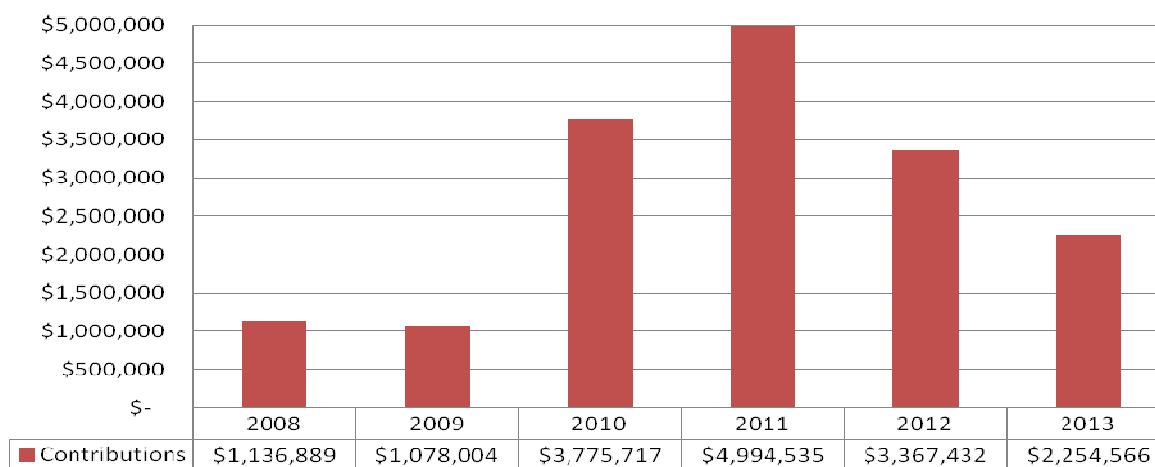
52. Under SDPD, one project was carried over from the previous biennium entitled “Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region”. The project received funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to support the proper management of water resources in the region.

53. As for EDGD, the bulk of XB activities were related to studying and combating the effects of the Syrian crisis. Key projects tackled the social, economic and political reform in the post-Conflict Syrian Arab Republic; the National Agenda for Future of Syria; and the Syria Watch Brief. Another XB project was initiated to support the capacity-building efforts of Saudi Arabia towards economic and social development.

54. Under the Statistics Division, the main XB project was the International Comparison Programme for Western Asia, which was funded by the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development. The project is concerned with studying the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) of countries in the ESCWA region.

55. The remaining subprogrammes received additional funds and support to carry out XB projects in the fields of economic and social development.

Figure 15. XB contributions per year



VII. CHALLENGES

56. The TC activities of ESCWA were affected by the strife and instability witnessed in several member States throughout 2012-2013. These developments have forced ESCWA to delay or cancel some activities, and have also required the refocusing of regional priorities; this is evident in the shift of requests for advisory and capacity-building services. This situation has also limited the travel of ESCWA staff to some countries due to security measures and forced changes in venue for several events.

57. Another obstacle facing TC is that the financial resources available are relatively limited compared to the level of demand from member States. ESCWA has thus been required to adopt innovative methods in order to optimize its performance and reduce the costs of technical cooperation.

VIII. EVALUATION OF DA PROJECTS

58. Independent evaluations are required for all DA projects. Approximately 3 per cent of the overall project budget is allocated for an external evaluation upon completion. During the biennium 2012-2013, two DA projects were evaluated.

59. The evaluation of the ESCWA-led DA project “Regional Harmonization of Cyberlegislation to Promote the Knowledge Society in the Arab World”, which was implemented between 2009 and 2012, revealed that, despite significant challenges of technical, political, administrative and legislative nature, the project activities were successfully accomplished and the outputs well received by participating countries. Examples of tangible results were the adoption of relevant laws in several Arab countries, including the law on online communications and cybercrime issued in the Syrian Arab Republic; the law on electronic signature issued in Iraq; and the draft law on e-transactions and personal data adopted in Lebanon. The evaluation noted that throughout the implementation process, the project reached out to more than 18 countries in the region through national or regional tasks and activities.

60. The evaluation of the DA project “Participatory Human Development in post-Conflict Countries”, implemented between 2009 and 2011, found that the planned benefits of the project were reached quantitatively, though estimating its qualitative benefits will only be possible through deeper analysis in the future, given the nature of its objective. While the full impact of the project would become clearer in the long term, the evaluation found that its current impact was satisfactory and that the project had a positive impact on its beneficiaries. The evaluation noted that some degree of flexibility was permitted within the project, which increased its relevance by enabling adaptation to changes in circumstances.

IX. WAY FORWARD

61. According to feedback received from member States, TC activities were successful in meeting their demands in terms of content, quality, effectiveness and timeliness. Beneficiary parties were pleased with the revised TC structure, which was introduced in 2012-2013. The new structure focused on capacity-building and the provision of enhanced flexible support through the addition of more short-term advisers.

62. Based on this feedback, ESCWA is set to continue providing advisory services and capacity-building to member States. Its TC programme will continue to serve as a platform for pilot projects, providing the seed money for their initiation and ensuring their continued financing through XB resources.

63. Going forward, there is a need for RPTC to systematize TC national workshops for the development of country plans on anticipated priorities. Furthermore, there is a need to enhance multidisciplinary missions to better assist member States in tackling their often interdependent challenges. ESCWA is currently working on a country plan for Tunisia, and will use this project as a pilot for future endeavours.

64. ESCWA will also develop strategic partnerships with academic institutions in the region to broaden and enhance the reach of the fellowship programme. These partnerships will also allow ESCWA to benefit from existing expertise and offer a swifter response to the TC requests of member States.

65. ESCWA will modify and improve its TC services by utilizing innovative procedures and methods in its implementation of TC activities during the upcoming biennium, in coordination with other United Nations agencies and programmes. This strategy will allow ESCWA to deliver a structured, efficient and effective response to the requests of member States, while maximizing its resources in coordination with United Nations partners.

Annex I

LIST OF CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS, 2012-2013

Workshop title	Number of participants	Number of female participants	Country	Date
ECW				
National workshop on Women's Right to Work in National Legislation and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Council for Family Affairs and National Commission for Human Rights)	20	0	Qatar	4-5 April 2012
National workshop on the importance of mainstreaming gender in plans and policies and its effect on the human development process (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan)	20	0	Jordan	18-21 May 2012
National training workshop on Gender and MDGs, with a special focus on legislation that guarantees gender equality and the empowerment of women (NGOs and Ministry of Social Affairs, Sudan)	20	0	Sudan	15-20 June 2012
National training workshop on Women and Leadership (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan)	20	0	Jordan	10-11 September 2012
National workshop for the discussion of policy papers and monitoring and evolution tools for the tenth National Development Plan of Saudi Arabia	20	15	Saudi Arabia	4-7 February 2013
Two national training workshops to raise awareness on CEDAW of two target groups: NGOs working under the umbrella of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the Judges	25	20	Bahrain	11-14 March 2013
National TC workshop	20	0	Kuwait	3-6 March 2012
United Nations High-Level Meeting on Reform and Transitions to Democracy	20	0	Lebanon	15-16 January 2012
ECRI				
National training workshop on project design and formulation to enhance the livestock exports of the Sudan (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rangelands)	20	0	Sudan	20-25 May 2012
Regional workshop on Fostering Participation in the Context of the post-2015 Development Agenda - Transformative e-Government and Innovation: Creating a Better Future for All	60	0	Bahrain	24-27 June 2013
National workshop on Localizing MDGs in Kordofan, Nile and Sinar in the Sudan	28	0	Sudan	9-13 June 2013
EDGD				
National workshop on The Development of Living Standards in Jordan based on the Results of Household Income and Expenditure 2002-2010 (UNDP and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation)	15	0	Jordan	26 February 2012
National workshop on the Maquette for Millennium Goals Simulations (MAMS)	15	0	Jordan	27-29 March 2012

Workshop title	Number of participants	Number of female participants	Country	Date
<i>EDGD (continued)</i>				
National seminar on Single Window (Ministry of Foreign Trade; Ministry of Investment)	20	0	Sudan	20-24 February 2012
National training workshop and study tour on weigh station mechanisms for the Iraqi Delegation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Jordan (Amman, Ministry of Transport)	5	0	Iraq	10-16 February 2012
National training workshop on Transport and Trade Facilitation in Egypt (Ministry of Transport)	20	0	Egypt	11 April 2012
National training workshop to implement the methodology workshop Resettlement MDGs, held in collaboration with the National Population Council	20	0	Sudan	10-12 June 2012
Regional workshop on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety in the ESCWA Region	20	0	Jordan	14-15 November 2012
National training workshop on Computable General Equilibrium Modelling (CGE) techniques for Jordanian officials and experts (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation)	20	0	Jordan	4-8 November 2012
Second national workshop on the establishment and implementation of the single window system to facilitate trade in the Sudan: Electronic networking between key partners to facilitate foreign trade procedures	55	20	Sudan	4-5 March 2013
Regional training workshop on Trade Facilitation, Infrastructure and Trade Cost	60	20	UAE	8-9 April 2013
National training workshop on the Negotiations of Agreements on Double Taxation Avoidance	30	10	Sudan	30 June – 4 July 2013
<i>SDD</i>				
Regional and intraregional dialogue on the challenges facing countries in the transition to democracy (ESCWA, partially funded from RPTC)	30	8	Lebanon	25-26 January 2012
National Workshop on Mediation and Negotiation to Qatari Foreign Ministry diplomats in Doha	25	10	Qatar	12-13 September 2012
Regional Workshop on the preparation of reports on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	17	0	United Arab Emirates	9-11 October 2012
National training workshop on Programme Cycle Management and Project Proposal Writing	11	3	Lebanon	21-25 October 2013
<i>SDPD</i>				
National workshop on the review of the proposed approach to a national pilot study on the injection of treated wastewater into suitable aquifers (Ministry of Works)	20	0	Bahrain	6-10 May 2012
National training workshop in preparation for Rio+20 (Ministry of Environment)	20	0	Qatar	25-29 February 2012

Workshop title	Number of participants	Number of female participants	Country	Date
<i>SDPD (continued)</i>				
National training workshop on Environmental Indicators and Environmental Performance Index (Environment Public Authority)	20	0	Kuwait	7-8 March 2012
National training workshop on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development (Union of Tyre Region Municipalities)	20	0	Lebanon	29 March 2012
Seminar and training course on Environmental Pollutant Emissions in the Electricity Sector in Arab Countries (Kahramaa, in cooperation with the Secretariat of Arab Electricity Ministerial Council, the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers in Charge of Environmental Affairs, ESCWA and UNEP)	98	0	Qatar	27-31 May 2012
Regional training workshop on Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development	30	0	Tunis	24-25 September 2012
Expert Group Meeting on Best Practices in Sustainable Consumption and Production in the ESCWA Region: Energy Efficiency	30	0	Tunis	24-26 September 2012
Regional workshop on Oil and Gas Pricing Parameters Influencing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Activities	25	12	Kuwait	11 June 2013
National training course on Mathematical Methods in ArcGIS Applications for Analysis and Display of Hydrogeological Data and Information	20	0	Oman	22-24 September 2013
<i>SD</i>				
Second national workshop on National Accounts: Supply and Use tables	20	0	Lebanon/ Syria	30 January - 3 February 2012
Subregional Workshop on Water Accounts and Statistics for Mediterranean Countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine)	60	0	Lebanon	20-22 March 2012
National Workshop on the Survey of Information and Communication Technology Use in the Business Sector in Iraq (Central Organization of Statistics and information Technology (COSIT) in Iraq)	20	0	Lebanon/ Iraq	24-26 April 2012
Two national training workshops on National Accounts	20	0	Oman	19-30 May 2012
High Level Expert Meeting to Develop the Near East Action Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Development Statistics in the Near East and North Africa Region	17	2	Egypt	17-19 September 2012
Subregional training workshop on Industrial Statistics for the Gulf Cooperation Council	37	0	Qatar	8-10 May 2012
Regional seminar on International Trade Statistics	17	0	Jordan	12-14 June 2012
Regional workshop on Linking Population Censuses with Agricultural Censuses	20	0	Jordan	24-28 June 2012

Workshop title	Number of participants	Number of female participants	Country	Date
<i>SD (continued)</i>				
Regional workshop on Developing Arab Time Use Statistics	13	7	Egypt	12-15 November 2012
Subregional workshop on Analyzing Labour Force Surveys for Monitoring of the Labour Market	20	0	Jordan	18-22 November 2012
Regional Workshop on Asymmetries in Bilateral Remittances Data in the ESCWA Region	25	0	Jordan	24-25 April 2013
Regional training workshop on Guidelines on Using Administrative and Secondary Sources for Official Statistics	33	0	Egypt	May 2013
National workshop, High-level Meeting and regional seminar on the implementation of 2008 SNA and supporting statistics in the Arab Region	50	0	Jordan	24-27 June 2013
<i>ICTD</i>				
National training workshop on the special tasks force on the self assessment for the e-readiness of Palestine, using standards and DESA and advice on the technical data and the action plan (Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology)	20	0	Palestine	23-26 January 2012
National training workshop on Empowering women to work from home, presented to the Bahrain Business Women's Society through the use of ITC (Supreme Council for Women)	20	0	Bahrain	18-22 March 2012
National training workshop on Crisis Management and ICT for the mid-level managers of the Government (National Institute for Management)	20	0	Lebanon	11-12 July 2012
Capacity-building workshop on Government Leadership Information, in cooperation with the United Nations University	25	0	Lebanon	25-29 November 2013
Capacity-building workshop on incubation and digital Arabic content	20	0	Yemen (Aden)	30-31 October 2013

Annex II**LIST OF DA PROJECTS****DA projects where ESCWA is leading agency or implementing partner***Sixth tranche*

ESCWA as a partner agency				
Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget (US\$)
UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), ESCWA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	08/09AU: Building statistical capacity to monitor the Millennium Development Goal Slum Target in the context of natural disasters and housing crisis in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean	2010	2014	440 000

Seventh tranche

ESCWA as a lead agency				
Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget (US\$)
ESCWA	Strengthening capacities in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region to negotiate bilateral investment treaties	2010	2013	502 200
ESCWA	Strengthening Capacities of policymakers in the ESCWA region to formulate national youth policies and plans of action: Responding to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)	2010	2013	379 000
ESCWA	Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia	2010	2014	547 200
ESCWA	Regional Project for Strengthening Statistical Capacity for the ESCWA Countries in Energy Statistics and Energy Balance	2010	2014	509 000
ESCWA	Strengthening national capacities in ESCWA region in developing green production sectors	2010	2014	491 000
ESCWA as a partner agency				
Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget (US\$)
ECA, jointly with ECLAC, ESCWA, ECE, ESCAP	10/11A: Facilitating effective integration of developing countries in the global economy through aid for trade schemes	2010	2014	975 300
ECE, jointly with ECLAC, ESCWA, ECA, ESCAP	10/11E: Facilitating climate change adaptation in transport through addressing the energy-environment linkage	2010	2013	738 000
ECLAC, jointly with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ESCAP, and in collaboration with DESA	10/11H: Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing	2010	2014	1 192 000

ESCWA as a partner agency (<i>continued</i>)				
Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget (US\$)
ESCAP, jointly with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ECLAC	10/11J: Enhancing energy security and improving access to energy services through the development of public-private renewable energy partnerships	2010	2014	1 006 500
ESCAP, jointly with ECA, ESCWA, ECLAC	10/11K: Strengthening social protection in Asia and the Pacific	2010	2013	749 400
UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP and UNDP	10/11P: Addressing the Impact and Implications of the Global Financial Crisis on Developing Countries through Support to Services Sector Development	2010	2014	653 000
DESA, jointly with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ECLAC and ESCAP	10/11W: Strengthening regional knowledge networks to promote the effective implementation of the United Nations development agenda and to assess progress	2010	2013	810 600
DESA, in collaboration with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ECLAC and ESCAP	10/11AB: Enhancing Key Statistics and Indicators to Monitor Progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals	2010	2014	306 000
DESA in collaboration with ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP	10/11AC: Strengthening capacity of national policy analysts in the social and economic sectors of developing countries in the production and use of National Transfer Accounts	2010	2013	349 000
ECE jointly with ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, in collaboration with UNDP	10/11AO: Strengthening the capacity of developing and transition economies to link to global supply chains through the reduction of trade obstacles	2010	2013	452 000

Eighth tranche

ESCWA as a lead agency				
Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget (US\$)
ESCWA	Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the ESCWA Region (ALGLE)	2012	2015	509 000
ESCWA	Institutional and capacity-building for Arab Parliaments and other stakeholders for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security	2012	2015	510 000
ESCWA	Strengthening capacities to utilize workers' remittances for development	2012	2015	464 000
ESCWA	Developing the capacities of the Arab countries for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management tools	2012	2015	517 000
ESCWA	Building capacities in developing appropriate green technologies for improving the livelihood of rural communities in the ESCWA region (Eighth Tranche Additional)	2012	2015	591 000

ESCWA as a partner agency				
Leading agency	Project title	Start year	End year	Budget (US\$)
DESA jointly with ESCWA, ECA, UNEP, FAO, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO)	1213C. Strengthening national capacities of conflict-affected countries to manage water scarcity and droughts	2012	2015	570 000
DESA in collaboration with UNDP and ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP	1213F. Fostering private-public partnerships to strengthen national capacities for designing, implementing and evaluating development-oriented macroeconomic policies to generate employment, growth and poverty reduction	2012	2015	400 000
DESA in collaboration with ESCWA, ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, UNCTAD and UNEP	1213G. Helping developing countries measure progress towards achieving a green economy	2012	2015	800 000
DESA collaboration with ESCWA, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, UNDPKO	1213H. Strengthening the geospatial information management capacities of developing countries for better policymaking at the national, regional and international levels	2012	2015	400 000
ECA in collaboration with ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA and DESA	1213X. Strengthening the capacity of African countries to promote the use of renewable energy to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction	2012	2015	640 300
ECE in collaboration with ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, and ECLAC	1213AA. Strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to facilitate legitimate border crossing, regional cooperation and integration	2012	2015	750 000
ECE in collaboration with ESCAP, ESCWA, ECA, ECLAC, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and DESA	1213AB. Promoting energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development	2012	2015	1 250 000
ESCAP in collaboration with ECE, ESCWA and DESA	1213AI. Interregional cooperation to strengthen national capacities to measure progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment	2012	2015	686 400
ESCAP, ECE, ESCWA and World Bank	1213AY. Building capacity and facilitating private sector involvement for infrastructure provision in less developed countries	2012	2015	691 000

Ninth tranche

ESCWA as a lead agency		
Leading agency	Project title	Budget (US\$)
ESCWA	Strengthening the statistical capacity of ESCWA member States in producing and disseminating short-term economic indicators for sustainable growth	518 000

ESCWA as a lead agency (<i>continued</i>)		
Leading agency	Project title	Budget (US\$)
ESCWA	Promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development	632 000
ESCWA	Strengthened national capacities for integrated, sustainable and inclusive population and development policies in the Arab region	714 000
ESCWA	Developing the capacity of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asian member States to address the water and energy nexus for achieving sustainable development goals	525 000
ESCWA as a partner agency		
Leading agency	Project title	Budget (US\$)
DESA in collaboration with ECLAC, ECA, ESCWA and ESCAP	1415A. Strengthening capacity of national tax administrations of developing countries to support more effective and efficient tax systems for financing of sustainable development	632 000
DESA in collaboration with ECA, ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP	1415B. Supporting Member States in developing and strengthening environment statistics and integrated environmental-economic accounting for improved monitoring of sustainable development	691 000
DESA in collaboration with UNDP, ESCWA and ECLAC	1415D. Supporting developing countries in transiting from MDG-based development strategies through macro-micro modeling	630 000
UNCTAD in collaboration with DESA and Regional Commissions	1415M. Strengthening of capacities of policymakers and municipal leaders in developing countries on applying science, technology and innovation to improve sustainability in cities	596 000
ECA in collaboration with ESCWA, ECLAC, ESCAP and UNCTAD	1415AA. Strengthening the capacity of African Governments to negotiate transparent, equitable and sustainable contracts in extractive industries for broad-based sustainable growth and socioeconomic development	635 000
ESCAP jointly with ESCWA and ECA	1415AM. Strengthening the capacity of Governments in the ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA regions to respond to the needs of youth in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies	960 000
