UNITED NATIONS

UN-ESCWA

UNDP
TUNISIA

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

SECOND TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR THE PROJECT STATISTICAL LITERACY AND
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MDG MONITORING AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL
23-31 JULY 2007
HAMMAMAT, TUNISIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1.   The project "Statistical Literacy and Capacity Building for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals at the Country Level" is a global project which is part of the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) efforts to operationalize the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The project aims to make data more accessible, to enhance statistical capacity and literacy, and to support evidence-based policy-making to reach the MDGs and other national development goals. The Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) is the focal point for the project for the Arab States and is leading the implementation of the project with its partner the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. VENUE AND DATES

2.   ESCWA in collaboration with the UNDP and under the umbrella of UNDG organized the Second Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop as part of the project on "Statistical Literacy and Capacity Building for MDG Monitoring at the Country Level," from 23 to 31 July 2007 at the Diar Lemdina Hotel in Hammamat, Tunisia.

B. OPENING

3.   The training opened with speeches by Ms. Neda Jafar, Project Coordinator and Statistician at UN-ESCWA, and Mr. Samir Bouzekri, Senior Programme Officer at UNDP Tunisia. Their opening remarks welcomed participants to the nine-day training and focused on the importance of working towards the achievement of the MDGs and on the use of statistics in policy-making which the project advocates.

C. PARTICIPANTS AND TRAINING TEAM

4. A total of 18 participants took part in the training. Participants attended from four different countries: Tunisia (15 participants), Qatar (1 participant), Yemen (1 participant), Syria (1 Participant). The participants were representatives from a range of government ministries, national statistical offices, government institutions, and Arab NGOs. (Annex II: Participant List is attached).

5. The regional training team consisted of Ms. Neda Jafar (UN-ESCWA), Mr. Adib Nehme (UNDP Sub-Regional Resource Facility [SURF] for Arab States), Mr. Ahmed Hussein (Expert), and Ms. Nadine Shaar (UN-ESCWA). In addition, Ms. Maram Barqawi (UNICEF Consultant) introduced the session on DevInfo software.

D. AGENDA

6. The programme of work; a combination of lectures, practical exercises, discussions and sharing of country experiences was adopted (Annex I: Final Agenda is attached).

III. CONTENT

7. The training aimed to enhance capacity and literacy in statistics at the national level and was divided into two main components, as follows:
   a. A delivery of the statistical literacy course based on the manual entitled "Indicators for Policy Management" which covers (i) The Millennium Development Goals and monitoring indicators; (ii) sources, methods and metadata; and (iii) basic statistical analysis. Some of the course material was customized where relevant and supplemented by regional or national case studies.
   b. A ToT's component to train potential country trainers on how to develop, plan, and deliver customized training within respective countries.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE – *Ms. Neda Jafar,* **Project Coordinator and UN-ESCWA Statistician**

8.   Ms. Neda Jafar, Project Coordinator and Statistician, UN-ESCWA presented the first module of the course. She outlined the objective of the course to build national capacity to monitor the MDGs, and contribute to the improved use of evidence-based methodologies for the management of development policies by building the statistical literacy of a large number of users across government and Civil Society. She outlined the purpose of the workshop and briefed the participants on methods of presentation and the expected outcomes of the ToT.

WHAT ARE THE MDGS? - *Mr. Ahmed Hussein,* **UN-ESCWA Regional Team Expert**

9.   Mr. Ahmed Hussein presented the Millennium Development Goals and highlighted their importance. He briefed participants on the eight goals and how they relate to the targets and indicators. He also highlighted the different levels of MDGs and MDG indicators, these being global, regional, national and sub-national.

Following the lecture a practical exercise was conducted, it focused on better acquainting participants with the MDG indicators, their data sources and methods of calculations.

MDGS AND THE POLICY CYCLE – *Mr. Adib Nehme, UNDP –SURF* **Expert**

10.   Mr. Adib Nehme of UNDP-SURF highlighted the role of the MDGs in the policy cycle, he explained why MDGs need to be framed in a national policy context, and clarified the policy cycle, and how the MDGs fit in the concept of "evidence-based policy making". He illustrated how evidence-based-policy making creates more effective, efficient, inclusive, and accountable policy cycles that will in increase the likelihood of meeting the MDGs.

A discussion on national policy-making processes took place in which participants outlined strengths and weakness and identified the stakeholder's level of involvement in the process.

MODULE 4: MDGS AND MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES – *Mr. Adib Nehme, UNDP –SURF* **Expert**

11.   The MDGs and Medium-Term Strategies were presented by Mr. Adib Nehme. He stressed on the importance of understanding the mechanism of the triangular-strategy-setting between the global MDG framework, the nationally adopted MDGs, and the national strategy noting that the strongest link needs to be

between the global MDG framework and the national strategy. This can be achieved, as he explained, in customizing and/or localizing the global MDG framework at the national and sub-national level. He also explained the nationalization of international targets and then incorporation into national medium-term strategies through the process of policy-making. His presentation, "MDGs from Global to Local Arena", also included a case study on how to adapt MDGs at the sub-regional context in GCCs.

The participants noted the effect of introducing a number of medium-term strategies that resulted in improved policy-making and allowed for the operationalization of MDGs. They have also identified which of the MDGs are integrated in the national strategies.

MODULE 12: USE OF MDGS AND INDICATORS IN POLICY-MAKING - – *Mr. Adib Nehme, UNDP –SURF* Expert

12.   Mr. Adib Nehme led the session on the Use of MDGs and Indicators in policy-making. He illustrated how the MDGs were operationalized, why and how they need to be adapted to fit a country's situation. Ideally, each country need to develop a long-term policy plan for reaching the MDGs followed by a medium-term strategy to reflect these long-term goals. The process is completed through a number of sectoral and thematic strategies such as the national human development strategies and assessing the progress achieved and impact on target groups. Target assessment and cost estimation at the national and sub-national levels are important as well as the need to advocate for MDGs at every opportunity.

The participants were later split into three groups to work on each goal. Each group was requested to adapt the goal and targets to a national, regional, and local level, and to propose relevant indicators. They were also requested to determine responsibility for monitoring each goal at each level. Later, each group made a presentation of their findings and assessment.

MODULE 6: PROPERTIES OF INDICATORS - *Ms. Neda Jafar,* Project Coordinator and UN-ESCWA Statistician

13.   Ms. Jafar explained the properties of indicators to participants distinguishing between qualitative indicators (descriptive, subjective and often multi-dimensional) and quantitative indicators (directly measurable, objective, one-dimensional and numeric). Furthermore, Ms. Jafar pointed out that all MDG indicators are quantitative in order to directly measure progress achieved towards set targets. She also presented other properties of indicators including those chosen at the right level of disaggregation, with direct links to interventions, reliable and consistent with available data and collection capacity.

In the working session the participants reviewed the national DevInfo databases and indicators noting year's coverage of subpopulations, and the existence of any qualitative

indicators. They also identified subsets of indicators whether as input, output, outcome or impact.

Project: MDGS IN YOUR COUNTRY

14.   Ms. Jafar explained to the participants the framework, elements, and purpose of the project "MDGs in your Country", and allocated time in every workshop session in order for the participants to complete and submit the project reports in six days. The Tunisian team was asked to branch out into three groups and the Qatari, Syrian, and Yemeni participants were asked to prepare their respective country reports following the same tasks. The project required participants to utilize their background material and assume several tasks in preparation of their final country reports including customization and assessment in achieving the MDGs in their countries.

Project: MDGS IN YOUR COUNTRY – Prioritizing Development Goals in your Country

15.   The first assignment was "Prioritizing development goals in your country". Participants were tasked to identify their national medium-term development strategies and stakeholders involved in the process as a way of identifying which MDG goals and indicators have been adapted at the national level.

MODULE 8: CONSTRUCTION OF INDICATORS - *Ms. Neda Jafar,* Project Coordinator and *UN-ESCWA* Statistician

16.   The session on the Construction of Indicators was presented by Ms. Neda Jafar. She explained the different types of indicators, underscoring the fact that MDG indicators are quantitative. She illustrated the differences between various measures, those being means, proportions, percentages, rates, quintiles, and Gini coefficients and their uses, and how they are calculated. Finally, she illustrated the importance and significance of the measure of variation and the role it plays in the use and interpretation of indicators.

The participants applied some of the concepts and calculated different types of quantitative indicators. The exercise underscored the importance of standardization in comparing differences across sub-populations, in order to analyze real differences and change in value over time.

MODULE 9: LIVING WITH ERROR - *Mr. Ahmed Hussein,* UN-ESCWA Regional Team Expert

17.   In the session "Living with Error" Mr. Hussein explained the causes of error that may arise in the calculation of MDG indicators. He elaborated on the three types of error these being computation error, sampling error, and bias error. He explained that MDG indicators may be calculated with some errors should there be a shortfall in data collection and/or processing stages.

After Mr. Hussein gave some case examples, participants worked in groups on a practical exercise that required them to list ways in which different types of error may arise and the measures needed to be taken to reduce or avoid errors.

Project: MDGS IN YOUR COUNTRY – Meeting the MDGs

18.   Ms. Jafar, followed directing the participants to continue working on the second assignment of the project "MDGs in your Country" namely "Meeting the MDGs". The participants were requested to identify the goals their countries were most likely to meet, data problems faced, and the needed budgeting for their process for nationalizing MDG.

MODULE 10: APPLICATION OF INDICATORS - *Mr. Ahmed Hussein,* UN-ESCWA Regional Team Expert

19.   Mr. Ahmed Hussein explained how indicators can be applied. Specifically he highlighted the role of the MDG indicators in developing and monitoring policy and in advocacy. In case of unavailability of direct indicators, he illustrated the use of appropriate proxies as substitutes. He noted the importance of using consistent indicators and the properties of different levels of indicators (global, regional, national, sub-national).   He also explained the objective of MDG indicators in setting targets using empirical data in informing the public and policy-makers on progress acquired towards the MDGs. As a result public interest in MDG progress would be created, which in turn would trigger action towards their achievement

The working session focused on the interpretation and use of indicators including identifying their strengths and weaknesses. The participants were provided with two sets of data, for the same country, from two different sources, and asked to compare the indicators pointing out their effective and appropriate use in specific targets and at a certain level.

MODULE 11: DATA SOURCES AND METADATA – *Ms. Neda Jafar, Project Coordinator and UN-ESCWA* Statistician

20.   The different data sources and metadata were listed by Ms. Jafar as census, survey, administrative and surveillance data outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each, and explaining how different types of data can be effectively used to produce indicators.   She highlighted the role of metadata which offers information on the data itself such as who collected them, how and when they were collected and what methodology was used to calculate the indicators. She finally illustrated how DevInfo is used as a repository for national and sub-national data as it combines data from many different sources and makes provisions for detailed documentation of the metadata.

In the working session participants practiced on identifying data sources to produce data for different indicators and discussed data limitations.

Project: MDGS IN YOUR COUNTRY – Adapting the MDGs

21.   After the working session of the eleventh module the participants started their third assignment in the project "MDGs in your Country" on "Adapting the MDGs". The participants where responsible for adapting and customizing their MDGs according to their country requirements and experiences, based on the information and analysis they have gathered and conducted in the first two assignments.

MODULE 5: MONITORING THE POLICY PROCESS – *Mr. Adib Nehme, UNDP –SURF* Expert

22.   Mr. Adib Nehme presented the module on Monitoring the Policy Process. He explained that a monitoring system is a multi-structural functioning system and that each structure or active member of the monitoring system has a specific role. Although the statistical offices maintain the most important role in the monitoring structure, other active entities play a substantial role and use a variety of relevant and operative methods. It was also highlighted that journalism and media may be efficient monitoring agents.

After the presentation, one participant and member of the Tunisian National Council of Statistics presented the Tunisian case-study, and displayed the structures and functions of the statistical system in Tunisia. Shortly after, participants were divided into groups to work on an exercise that would help them identify and outline the strengths and weaknesses of their monitoring systems.

MODULE 14: USING INDICATORS TO REFLECT DIVERSITY - *Mr. Ahmed Hussein,* UN-ESCWA Regional Team Expert

23.   The use of indicators in reflecting diversity was presented by Mr. Hussein who outlined the use of disaggregated data for this purpose. Data can be disaggregated across a number of subpopulations such as age, educational attainment, geographical/administrative area, ethnic group, employment group, sex, and urban/rural. He outlined the strengths and limitations of disaggregation of indicators and also elucidated how to interpret disaggregated indicators as they can give a more detailed outlook on reality. Using disaggregated data can be useful in targeting specific policies and advocacy programs as they allow us to identify vulnerable groups or "pockets" and thus helping to investigate a pattern, compare across sub-populations and tailor more effective policy. Following Mr. Hussein's presentation was an informative oration by the Syrian participant who discussed the means in which the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics has been trying to reflect sub-national areas on a more specific and detailed level.

In the working session participants used disaggregated data to highlight more targeted policy recommendations for poverty and also for gender mainstreaming.

MODULE 15: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF INDICATORS - *Mr. Ahmed Hussein,* UN-ESCWA Regional Team Expert

24.   Effective Communication of Indicators was presented by Mr. Hussein who aimed to showcase the different tools available to portray data most effectively for different purposes. He tackled issues such as how to design a table, the most useful types of diagram, which type of diagram and graph to use in specific circumstances, how to use text to describe data, and also presented useful hints for writing reports concerning MDG indicators.

Mr. Hussein showed examples of tables, figures, and graphs from different statistics publications from several countries, some of which represented in the workshop. Later, the participants were given the chance to comment on and recommend changes for an effective presentation of data based on the session's presentation.

Project: MDGS IN YOUR COUNTRY – Finalizing the Report

25.   Participants began finalizing their project reports on the fifth day of the workshop. They started writing the final sections of their project reports and began preparing a PowerPoint presentation to be displayed two days later.

MODULE 7: INTRODUCTION TO DEVINFO – *MS. Maram Barqawi, UNICEF,* DevInfo Expert

26.   The DevInfo software was introduced by Ms. Maram Barqawi a UNICEF Expert. She presented DevInfo to participants with a hands-on session that demonstrated how to navigate the DevInfo home page and menu options, understand the DevInfo database structure, open a database and search for data using specific parameters, and use advanced techniques to search for data.

To gain more hands on experience, participants were assigned to find different required data and navigate the database during the ensuing working session.

MODULE 13: FURTHER TOPICS ON DEVINFO - *MS. Maram Barqawi, UNICEF, DevInfo* Expert
27.   Ms. Barqawi further delved into DevInfo by showing participants how to create tables, graphs, and maps from a Data View. She also explained how to use different options to transform and analyze data, and explained how to create maps and generate a composite index.

Participants had the opportunity to practice these skills in the working session in creating a table, graph, map and composite index using their national DevInfo database.

B. TRAINING OF TRAINERS MODULES

28.   Five modules were presented as part of the training of trainers (TOT) segment of the training programme. These modules aimed at training participants, the future trainers of the national trainings, on how to organize workshops, how to prepare material for the trainings, how to plan and build workshops, and how to effectively communicate.

TOT 1: Introduction –*Ms. Neda Jafar,* Project Coordinator and UN-ESCWA Statistician

29.   The Training of Trainers segment was introduced by Ms. Neda Jafar noting the content that the following sessions would include how to construct courses appropriate to a particular target audience, how to deliver these materials effectively and how to plan and prepare a workshop. It was highlighted that this part of the training was to prepare participants for country implementation of the project's training component.

TOT 2: Organizing a Workshop – *Ms. Nadine Shaar, UN-ESCWA*

30.   Ms. Nadine Shaar of UN-ESCWA briefed participants to all aspects of organizing a workshop that must be tackled to ensure a successful meeting. She outlined the timing, accommodation, transport, equipment, supplies, catering, budgeting considerations that need to be addressed in the logistics part of the planning process.

TOT 3: Preparation for Country Training – *Ms. Nadine Shaar, UN-ESCWA*

31.   Ms. Nadine Shaar also presented the module "Preparation for Country Training" and highlighted key issues trainers need to take into consideration when planning for the country training from the perspective of the content of material. She highlighted that the customization of material, by including national and regional examples in the presentations, is pertinent to maximize ownership and relevance to each audience. She also stressed on the trainer's need to familiarise themselves with the course material and prepare for the project and exercises well in advance. In addition, key material such as agenda and background reading material should be made available and shared with the participants prior to the training.

TOT 4: Planning and Building Courses – *Mr. Adib Nehme, UNDP –SURF* Expert

32.   The session on "Planning and Building Courses" was delivered by Mr. Adib Nehme and focused on training participants how to develop a strategy for building workshops using the material from the MDGs and statistical literacy package and how to construct courses at different lengths and with varying content to fit different audiences. The corresponding working session required participants to separate into groups and set a draft action plan and timetable for the country roll out of the training. This entailed selecting assignments and trainer's roles for different target groups by selecting the appropriate modules and customization deeded for each group. In addition, each team

was required to allocate a budget total of $70,000 over the planned activities. The draft action plans were presented in a plenary session which was followed by feedback from the resource experts and other participants. Each group was then given the opportunity to review their action plans in light of the discussions made.

TOT 5: Effective Lecturing – *Mr. Ahmed Hussein,* **UN-ESCWA Regional Team Expert**

33. Mr. Ahmed Hussein presented the TOT module on "Effective Lecturing." This session covered the mechanisms of delivering lectures in the learning process, how to prepare and plan an effective lecture. Participants were asked to prepare a three minute presentation on any of the MDG indicators to present the following day applying the skills outlined in the session. Participants were videotaped while delivering their presentations and were later evaluated by the group on the effectiveness of presentation skills. Presentation style, clarity, length of delivery and other elements of the presentation were commented on by the group.

C. COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

34. In addition to presentations by several participants following a number of working session activities, there were a number of presentations aimed at increasing and sharing inter-country experiences. Country experiences were shared on the adaptation and customization of DevInfo in Syria and Yemen, and on the adaptation of the MDG monitoring framework and an action plan for training in Tunisia.

a. DevInfo presentations

DevInfo Syria – *Mr. Mutasem Mohammad, Central Bureau of Statistics*

35. Mr. Mutasem Mohammad from the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) presented the adaptation of DevInfo in Syria. CBS and UNICEF built a ChildInfo database in 2002. Seven CBS employees were provided with the facilities needed to enter and process data and calculate indicators, maintaining an indicator database, and produce reports as requested. The CBS staff and other external parties were trained on using DevInfo in two workshops conducted by CSF experts in 2002. CBS later carried out training workshops for several staff members from different ministries. After producing Syria's ChildInfo database for monitoring child and maternal indicators based on available data from national surveys and other data collection methods, a final report was issued and distributed to all ministries and stakeholders.

In 2006 the CBS, together with the Council for Planning, and the UNCT began working on the Syrian Development Indicators (SDI) project. The SDI project aims at building a national repository of data for MDG monitoring and advocacy. It is a joint effort by all ministries to gather sufficient data. It has been developed at the national level with three different sub-national levels. Data for SDI is collected from four different

sources: population and housing censuses, household surveys, laborforce surveys, and ministry reports. Furthermore, a group of specialists developed and designed maps at the fifth sub-national level.

The first report for population and housing in 2004 was issued using DevInfo and some indicators were disaggregated at the seventh sub-national level. Syria has attended four DevInfo training workshops, and has executed two local DevInfo Training workshops for DevInfo 4.0 and DevInfo 5.0. It has also, in cooperation with UNICEF, developed a database called SITAN Syria 200 containing around one hundred indicators.

Mr. Mohammad also described the challenges faced in data collection and analysis in Syria. He pointed out that data for several indicators are still missing over several years and lack of financial resources to engage in better and more accurate data gathering hampered the process in collecting these indicators. On the other hand, Syria has several positive points such as a specialized team, good coordination, continuous progress in data availability, and a continuing budget for CBS.

DevInfo Yemen – *Abdulghani Al-Sagheer*, Central Statistical Organization

Mr. Abdulghani Al-Sagheer from the Yemeni Central Bureau of Statistics acquainted the participants with the utilization of DevInfo in Yemen. Yemen uses a ChildInfo database to monitor child and maternal indicators. The country also use a program called PSE designed by a specialized team to gather all indicators and made available on Access software. Moreover, the database transferred from Access to PSE was converted to an SQL server database.

The DevInfo software has been a vital tool for monitoring and analyzing the MDG indicators. A team of specialists from the Central Statistical Organization were appointed to produce a DevInfo database for MDG indicators. Indicators were collected on a national level, several of which were disaggregated by sex or area, measured over several years beginning from 1995, and many of which were gathered from ministries and public institutes. In addition, and with the help of a number of UN agencies, the Yemeni Central Statistical Organization was able to produce a report on Population and Housing in 2004.

Although Yemen has attended two DevInfo workshops organized by ESCWA, it still faces many problems in building an accurate national repository of data. In addition to the limited funds available, Yemen has a considerable lack in specialized human resources. This demands further participation and involvement in training workshops in collaboration with UN-ESCWA.

b. PROJECT: "MDGS IN TUNISIA"

The Tunisian team presented their project "MDGs in Tunisia" giving a brief introduction and outlining significant accomplishments in the past years. The team provided a detailed explanation of the indicators collected, challenges faced and strategies to overcome them. A comprehensive report on the guidelines and strategies of adapting the MDG indicators to their national needs and requirements were also presented in their report (ANNEX I)

Introduction for Project MDG in Tunisia

Tunisia has proven that it was not only capable of achieving several goals but also exceed them. However, there are still many obstacles to be overcome and measures to be taken in order to better insure reaching and accomplishing all the millennium goals. The Tunisian team proposes that the indicators should be reassessed and customized to a national and sub-national level. Moreover, there should be a better focus on the desegregation of data by sex and region in order to advocate policies in a more accurate and precise manner. The project report also points out the importance of spreading statistical literacy and strengthening monitoring capabilities and joint efforts as an essential requirement for realizing the millennium goals. They concentrated on the importance of MDG+ in Tunisia and proposed ideas and new indicators that might be more understanding to the country's needs and beneficial to its development.

Problems Facing Several MDG Indicators in Tunisia

In the light of the most recent national statistics, most of the Millennium Goals in Tunisia have been accomplished on the national level and are waiting to be evaluated on the sub-national level by region and state. However, a number of problems and difficulties related to the quality of data produced and its organization become clear when trying to use this data in different policy building procedures. The Tunisian participants stated six indicators facing obstacles and explained the reasons that are causing these difficulties.

- *Under-five mortality rate*: The data available shows that this indicator has been experiencing considerable progress in Tunisia. However, there still lies a lack of facilities and resources to continuously follow up and gather data for this indicator in order to better realize its progress and insure its continuity in all regions of the country.

- *Maternal mortality ratio:* Knowing that the last study conducted on hospitals by the Ministry of Health stated a maternal mortality ratio of 70 deaths for every 100,000, the maternal mortality ratio has been estimated and declared to equal a smaller ratio (49 deaths for every 100,000). These ratios however are both considered underestimate as both the statistical agencies and the Health Ministry are unable to account for or monitor women giving birth outside of hospitals. Moreover, several rural areas and periphery regions like Kasreen, where 29% of women give birth outside hospitals, face a much higher maternal mortality ratio that is also unrealized by data.

- *HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 Years:* Data for this indicator is not available.

- *Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate & Percentage of population aged 15–24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS:* There is no data for these indicators because of the difficulties approached by the process of collection. Condom use is more essential and predominant in the premarital status and thus is harder to accurately gather and assess (cultural trait). For condom use, data is only available for females under 50 years of age. As for HIV/AIDS awareness, data collected is also considered inaccurate and insufficient as it is not properly integrated in consultancies and surveys. HIV/AIDS awareness is estimated to be around 81% but reaches 36% in areas like Keyrawan.

- *The proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural:* This indicator has shown some progress on the national level and has increased 14 percentage points from 1994 to 2004. However, when data is disaggregated by area it shows that the rural areas have been neglected (only increase 3%) while urban areas display much greater progress (15 %).

Customizing the Indicators

Tunisia has adopted development policies that have helped it realize an annual growth rate of 4.5% and achieve several human and social developments. These policies that have been initiated decades ago have raised the country's general standards of living from a low income level to a middle income. For this purpose, it is imperative to customize the indicators used on the global level in order to adapt it to the national level. The Tunisian participants proposed some customizations for the MDG indicators that would better fit the country requirements and development agenda.

-Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
      The Tunisian participants pointed out the need to improve the methodology used by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) to derive the poverty line and poverty indicator. They also recommended using indicators like the proportion of poor families at the national level (gathered by the development program for poor families), and the unemployment rate and the standard of living indicators (collected by the NIS through the population and housing censuses) for obtaining the poverty indicators.

-Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary education
      National data concerning the indicators for achieving universal primary education should be made available on a regional and state level. Furthermore, an indicator that measures the proportion of boys and girls that do not continue their primary education and an indicator that evaluates the schooling system should be added and collected using special surveys by the Ministry of Education. In addition, indicators like the ratio of students to teachers, ratio of students to computers, and proportion of schools with internet accessibility should be used when monitoring this goal.

-Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower women

Regarding the third goal, it is possible to acquire more accurate data for the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education and the ratio of literate women to men, 15–24 years old from the population and housing census. Also, indicators should be assigned for measuring the proportion of women with university degrees and their importance in the workforce.

-Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

In the course of reducing child mortality, the indicators used to measure the child mortality rates and proportions of immunized children against measles should be disaggregated by region and state.

-Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases:

For indicators that are associated with HIV/AIDS, the only indicator that is possible for measuring in Tunisia is the HIV/AIDS prevalence among the whole population.

-Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability:

Concerning this goal, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development must supply two additional indicators that would help assess the degree of pollution in Tunisia. These indicators should measure the proportion of clean energy use for vehicles and the gas emissions that are dangerous to the ozone layer. (Draft Action Plan in Annex III)

V. EVALUATION

13.   Evaluation questionnaires for the course and material presented were distributed to participants at the end of the nine-day workshop. All eighteen participants responded. The evaluation summary below is a synthesis of the results of the completed questionnaires and from an oral evaluation discussion held on the workshop's last day.

In general, participants welcomed the training as it was quite comprehensive, combining statistical literacy, the MDGs, and DevInfo coherently. Twenty-two percent of the participants (4) found the course material "very interesting", with 78% (14) finding it "interesting" with no one evaluating it as "not very interesting".

The full results of the evaluation are found in Annex IV.

VI. CLOSING

14.   Ms. Neda Jafar, Mr. Samir Bouzekri, Mr. Ahmed Hussein, and Mr. Adib Nehme closed the training by thanking participants and stressing on the importance of the next steps following the regional training. Certificates were distributed along with resource CDs of the training material and TOT presentations, and background reading material, to equip the trainers in their preparation for the national activities and trainings.

ATTACHMENTS
Annex I: Agenda
Annex II: List of participants
Annex III: Tunisian Draft Action Plan
Annex IV: Evaluation results
Annex V: List of documents

ANNEX I: AGENDA

Second Training of Trainers for the "Statistical Literacy and Capacity Building for MDG Monitoring at the Country Level" Project

23rd – 31st July 2007
Hammamat, Tunisia

Monday 23rd July

8:30 – 9:00   Registration

9:00 – 9:30   Opening Ceremony
                Neda Jafar, Statistician and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA
                Mr. Samir Bouzekri, Programme Officer, UNDP Tunisia

9:30 – 10:15   MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
                Neda Jafar, Statistian and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA

10:15 – 11:15 Working Session 1: MDG awareness and role in policy-making

11:15 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:15   MODULE 2: WHAT ARE THE MDGS?
                Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Statistics Advisor, Qatar Statistical Authority

12:15 – 13:00   Working Session 2: Indicator Definitions

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:15   MODULE 3: MDGS AND THE POLICY CYCLE
                Adib Nehme, Policy Advisor, UNDPSURF

15:15 – 16:30 Working session 3: National policy-making processes

Tuesday 24th July

9:00 – 10:30   **MODULE 4: MDGS AND MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIES**
                Adib Nehme, Policy Advisor, UNDP SURF Arab States

10:30 – 11:15 Working session 4: MDGs and Medium-Term Strategies /
                          Presentation by Tunisia

11:15 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:15 MODULE 12: USE OF MDGS AND INDICATORS IN POLICY-MAKING
                Adib Nehme, Policy Advisor, UNDP SURF Arab States

12:15 – 13:00 Working Session 5: Exercise on MDGs and Indicators in Policy-Making

13:00 –14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 MODULE 6: PROPERTIES OF INDICATORS
                Neda Jafar, Statistian and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA

14:30 – 15:00 Working Session 6: Exercise on Properties of Indicators

15:00 – 15:30 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT "MDGS IN YOUR COUNTRY"
                Neda Jafar, Statistian and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA

**15:30 – 16:30   Project Working Session 1: Prioritizing Development Goals in Your
                Country**
                Facilitated by Regional Team

Wednesday 25th July

8:30 – 9:30   MODULE 8: CONSTRUCTION OF INDICATORS
                 Neda Jafar, Statistian and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA

9:30 – 11:00   Working Session 7: Exercise of Indicator Construction

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 13:00 MODULE 9: LIVING WITH ERROR
                 Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Statistics Advisor, Qatar Statistical Authority

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 MODULE 9: LIVING WITH ERROR
                 Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Statistics Advisor, Qatar Statistical Authority

15:00 – 15:30 Working Session 8: Exercise on Living with Error

15:30 – 16:30 Project Working Session 2: Meeting the MDGs
                 Facilitated by Regional Team

Thursday 26th July

8:30 – 9:30   MODULE 10: APPLICATION OF INDICATORS
                    Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Statistics Advisor, Qatar Statistical Authority

9:30 – 10:30   Working Session 9: Exercises on applying indicators

10:30 - 11:00   COUNTRY EXPERIENCES PRESENTATIONS
                Sharing country experiences in adapting the MDGs: Qatar

11:00 - 11:15   Break

11:15 – 12:15   MODULE 11: DATA SOURCES AND METADATA
                    Neda Jafar, Statistian and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA

12:30– 13:00   Working Session 10: Exercise on data sources and metadata

13:00 – 14:00   Lunch

**14:30 – 16:00   Project Working Session 3: Adapting the MDGs/Regional
                  Comparisons**
                    Facilitated by Regional Team

<u>Friday 27th July</u>

8:30 – 10:00   **MODULE 5: MONITORING THE POLICY PROCESS**
        Adib Nehme, Policy Advisor, UNDP SURF Arab States

10:00 – 11:00 Working Session 11: Exercise on monitoring the policy cycle

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:00 **MODULE 14: USING INDICATORS TO REFLECT DIVERSITY**
        Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Statistics Advisor, Qatar Statistical Authority

12:00 – 12:30 Working Session 12: Exercises on Indicators to reflect diversity

12:30 – 13:00 **MODULE 15: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF INDICATORS**
        Ahmed Hussein, Head Statistics Coordination Unit, UN-ESCWA

13:00 – 13:30 Working Session 13: Exercise on Effective Communication of Indicators

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 Project Working Session 4: Finalizing the Project
        Facilitated by Regional Team

Saturday 28th July

8:30 – 10:00 MODULE 7: INTRODUCTION TO DEVINFO
Ms. Maram Barqawi, DevInfo Expert, UNICEF

10:00 – 11:00 Working Session 14: DevInfo exercise

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:30 MODULE 13: FURTHER TOPICS ON DEVINFO
Ms. Maram Barqawi, DevInfo Expert, UNICEF

12:30 – 13:00 Working Session 15: DevInfo Exercise

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 MODULE 13: FURTHER TOPICS ON DEVINFO
Ms. Maram Barqawi, DevInfo Expert, UNICEF

15:00 – 15:30 Working Session 16: DevInfo exercise

15:30 – 16:30 COUNTRY EXPERIENCES PRESENTATIONS: DEVINFO AND OTHER CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF DATA- TUNISIA, SYRIA, AND YEMEN

Sunday 29th July

8:30 – 10:00   **PRESENTATION OF PROJECT:** MDGs in Your Country, Jordan, Palestine

10:00 – 10:30 Wrap up of Course and project feedback

Monday 30 July

08:3 – 9:00   **TRAINING OF TRAINERS 1: INTRODUCTION**
                  Neda Jafar, Statistian and Project Coordinator, UN-ESCWA

9:00 – 9:15   **TRAINING OF TRAINERS 2: ORGANIZING A WORKSHOP**
                  Nadine Shaar, Statistics Assistant, UN-ESCWA

9:15 – 10:00   **TRAINING OF TRAINERS 3: PREPARATION FOR COUNTRY TRAINING**
                  Nadine Shaar, Statistics Assistant, UN-ESCWA

10:00 – 11:00 **TRAINING OF TRAINERS 4: PLANNING AND BUILDING COURSES**
                  Adib Nehme, Policy Advisor, UNDP SURF Arab States

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:30 Working Session 17: Building Workshops and Drafting Action Plan for
                  Country Roll-Out

12:30 – 13:00 Country Presentations of Draft Action Plan and Feedback

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

5:30 – 6:15   **TRAINING OF TRAINERS 5: EFFECTIVE LECTURING**
                  Ahmed Hussein, Head Statistics Coordination Unit, UN-ESCWA

Tuesday 31st July

8:30 – 10:00   Individual Presentations: Filming

10:00 – 11:00 Plenary evaluation of presentations

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:15 Working Session 17: Review of draft Action Plan

12:15 – 13:00 Wrap-up, evaluation and certificate distribution

13:00 – 13:30 Closing

ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of participants -

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DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR TUNISIA

TUNISIA

The Tunisian team developed an action plan consisting of two national sessions and three sub-national sessions.

ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

PARTICIPANT IN THE NATIONAL SESSIONS INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE:

-Ministry of Development and International Cooperation
-National Institute of Statistics
-National Council of Statistics
-Ministry of public health / Planning and Studies Department: 1 member
-Ministry of Public Health /
-Ministry of Education/ Planning and Studies Department
-Ministry of Women, Family, Child & Seniors Affairs / Planning and Studies Department
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Planning and Studies Department
-Ministry of Internal Affairs

The First Session
The Tunisian team developed a one day session program for more involvement in MDGs. This training consists of twenty participants and serves two purposes:
- To portray and help stakeholders realize the importance of MDGs.
- To strengthen the national ability to adapt and customize MDGs.

The Second Session
The Tunisian team also developed an agenda for a three day training session. This training session includes twelve participants and aims at:
-Strengthening national aptitude in adapting and customizing MDGs.
-Strengthening national capabilities in policy making.

ON THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

The participants on the sub-national level include members of several public and private institutes, ministries, global and regional organizations, and local unions.

The First Session
The Tunisian team prepared a one day program for more involvement of policy makers in MDGs. This session is scheduled for October 2007 and will take place in the city of Soussa. It includes two hundred participants and aims at portraying and explaining MDGs and their importance in development and policy making.

The Second Session
The second sub-national session that will take place in December 2007 is for the adaptation and customization of MDGs for the stakeholder that work in development. This session is two days long and includes thirty participants. The objective of this session that will take place in the city of Seliana is to distinguish between national and sub-national MDGs and build the resources and capacities needed for better data collection and analysis on a sub-national level.

The Third Session
The third and last session in the action plan will also be two days long, take place in December of 2007, and address the stakeholders involved in development with the means and methods for adapting and customizing MDGs. This session will be implemented in the city of Kasreen and will also aim at distinguishing between national and sub-national MDGs and strengthen the national capacities in data collection and analysis on the sub-national level.

Evaluation

Evaluation questionnaires to assess the nine-day workshop including resources used were distributed to the participants the last day of the training. All eighteen participants responded to the questionnaire. The evaluation summary below is a synthesis of the results of the completed questionnaires.

Summary:

In general, participants welcomed the training for its comprehensiveness in combining statistical literacy, the MDGs, and DevInfo coherently. Twenty-two percent of the participants (4) found the course material "very interesting", with 78% (14) finding it "interesting" with no one evaluating it as "not very interesting."

Goals and objectives:

Participants either found the aims and objectives of the course "very clear" (39%) or "sufficiently clear" (61%). None of the participants found the objectives "not very clear" and "not at all clear".

Duration and Structure:

Most of the participants (78%) reported the structure of the training was "good". Four participants (22%) found it to be "very good" and none of the participants regarded the course structure as "not very good". Some comments were made in relation to the DevInfo training component and requested that a training segment for the DevInfo administrator and not just the DevInfo user should be included in future trainings. One suggestion was to allocate another additional day for training participants on using the DevInfo administrator.

Several participants suggested that in the future it would be preferable to shorten the meeting as they thought that nine straight working days were quite dense and exhausting. Six participants found the duration of the workshop long (33%), with eleven (61%) evaluating the duration as appropriate, and only one (25%) as short/shorter than it should be. As highlighted in the written responses, participants recommended either increasing the duration of the workshop to allow for a day or two off during the span of the training period including decreasing the number of working hours per day, or decreasing the duration of the workshop and present the material in a more concise manner.

Given the feedback on the duration of the workshop, most participants found the pace of the workshop "about right" (78%), with three participants reporting the pace as "too slow" and only one participant reporting it as "too fast" (13). The difference in statistical knowledge and fields of implementation among the participants were evident in terms of comments related to the pace of statistics related sessions.

Material:

The material covered was considered rich, descriptive and to have corresponded well to the objectives of the workshop. Participants found that the material presented was either "very relevant" (50%) or "relevant" (50%) with most participants finding the project component "very useful" (67%) and the others (46%) finding it "useful". A number of participants clearly appreciated the efforts to deliver the course emphasizing relevant materials to their country status and structure. While most participants found the material covered during the course was "about right" (61%), some participants noted that the amount of material covered was "too much" (33%), and one participant found it to be "too little".

Five respondents (28%) found the practical sessions to be "very effective", and nine (50%) found them to be "sufficiently effective", as apposed to four participants (22%) who considered it "Somewhat effective".

Teaching Methods:

Participants were quite pleased with the style of presentations as it allowed them to interact and communicate their inputs and queries, and comprehend the material in a very lucid manner. More than half participants noted that lecturers were "very helpful" in answering questions (61%), with the rest reporting the lecturers as "somewhat helpful" (39%). Most of the participants (61%) felt that the teaching methods were "very effective", 22% (4) regarded it as "sufficiently effective", and 17% (3) considered it to be "somewhat effective.

Several participants made it clear that presenting the modules in their national context helped them to understand concrete and practical implementation processes advocated by the project.

Results of the questionnaire:

The following represents the results of the evaluation questionnaires. All questions (#1-11) had 18 valid responses.

1. The aims and objectives of the course were	#	%
Very clear	7	39
Sufficiently clear	11	61
Not very clear	0	0
Not at all clear	0	0

2. The structure of the course was	#	%
Very good	4	22
Good	14	78
Not very good		
Poor	0	0

3. The material covered in the sessions was	#	%
Very relevant	9	50
Relevant	9	50
Not relevant	0	0

4. Teaching methods used were	#	%
Very effective	11	61
Sufficiently effective	4	22
Somewhat effective	3	17
Not at all effective	0	0

5. The practical sessions were	#	%
Very effective	5	28
Sufficiently effective	9	50
Somewhat effective	4	22
Not at all effective	0	0

6. The project was	#	%
Very useful	11	61
Useful	7	39
Not useful	0	0

7. The course was	#	%
Very interesting	4	22
Interesting	14	78
Not very interesting	0	0

8. The amount of material covered during the course was	#	%
Too little	1	6
About right	11	61
Too much	6	33

9. The pace of the course was	#	%
Too slow	3	16
About right	14	78
Too fast	1	6

10. When I had questions, the lecturers were :	#	%
Very helpful in	11	61
Somewhat helpful in	7	39
Not helpful in answering	0	0

11. The duration of the workshop was	#	%
Long	6	33
Appropriate	11	61
Short/shorter than it should be	1	6

12. Which aspect of the course did you particularly enjoy? (23 responses)

The main aspects of the course that participants enjoyed focused on:
− Relating policies with statistical data
− The work chemistry and enthusiasm the regional team and the participants shared
− The group work exercises
− Nationalizing and localizing MDGs.
− Monitoring MDGs
− Organizing and preparing a workshop
− Working on the exercises
− Setting up the policies and work plans that were advocated by data
− Evaluating the participant's presentations in the Effecting Lecturing segment
− The use of DevInfo

13. Which aspects would you like to see improved? In what ways? (22 responses)

The main aspect of the workshop that most participants commented concerned the workshop's length (see question 11 and 14). Some participants also expressed an interest in:
- Allocate more time for discussing country experiences and less time on lectures for the technical side of data collection.
- Linking the course modules more with the process of preparing the reports and work plan.
- Give more examples of country experience in customizing material for planning and building training courses.
- Setting up customized and more accurate exercises that relate in a better way to the national status
- Considering the national social, economic, and cultural differences when measuring and assessing national statistics and indicators.

14. How would you change the course? (19 responses)

Some suggestions proposed by participants included:
- Concentrate more on the practical side.
- Decrease the number of days for the workshop, or add a day off.
- Diversify methods for presenting the course modules
- Allocate time for a lecture on DevInfo Administrator.
- Decrease workshop hours per day
- Training of trainers modules need to be further developed
- Allocate more time for discussion

Further comments (14 comments on the written evaluation forms and from oral evaluation session at the workshop)

Most of the responses thanked the organizers and trainers for the beneficial training and its excellent organization. Some of the responses that do not overlap with the subjects addressed in previous questions included the following points:

- Change or disregard the course modules of which the participants are already familiar with.
- Set up more workshops to get more stakeholders involved and active.

- Material corresponds well to objectives of the workshop
- Customize the presentations with the audience countries

ANNEX V: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- Manual on "Indicators for Policy Management" in Arabic (revised version)
- National MDG Report (Yemen, Syria, Tunisia)
- Other national policy strategy documents
- Agenda
- Statistical literacy brochure
- Background reading material and strategy documents

Resource CD: Includes the Standards and Methods handbook for MDG indicators, documents from TOT, all course presentations, training of trainers modules, practical exercises, the manual "Indicators for Policy Management" in Arabic English and French, regional and national MDG reports, Tunisian action plan, reference papers and extra material and readings related to the course.

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