

## Subprogramme 5 Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

### 1. Logical framework

<b>Objective:</b> To improve the production, harmonization and dissemination of quality demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators, including indicators on societal development and progress towards development goals, sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators, in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society	
<b>Expected accomplishments</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
<b>(a)</b> Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	<b>(a)(i)</b> Total number of ESCWA member countries expressing their commitment to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
	<b>(a)(ii)</b> Total number of ESCWA member countries taking measures to improve their national institutional framework for official statistics, with ESCWA assistance
<b>(b)</b> Enhanced capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate relevant, timely, reliable and comparable social, economic and environment statistics and indicators, including gender-disaggregated data, in compliance with global international standards and recommendations, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	<b>(b)(i)</b> Total number of ESCWA member countries adopting new or revised international statistical standards (SNA and foundational socio-economic classifications), with ESCWA assistance
	<b>(b)(ii)</b> Total number of new or revised international statistical standards (SNA and foundational socio-economic classifications) adopted by conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed, with ESCWA assistance
<b>(c)</b> Increased production and use by decision-makers and the public of high-quality data on key socio-demographic, economic and environmental indicators, including indicators on development (societal development and progress towards MDGs), sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators	<b>(c)(i)</b> Total number of member countries that provide for the ESCWA statistical database at least 60% of core indicators
	<b>(c)(ii)</b> Total number of database queries of online ESCWA statistical databases

### 2. External factors

The subprogramme will achieve the expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there are no significant shortfalls in regular and extra budgetary resources for statistical capacity building; (b) the regional and international organizations active in official statistics in the region willingly cooperate with ESCWA; (c) the ESCWA Statistical Committee assumes its steering role in setting priorities and providing a strategic direction; and (d) there is minimum political stability and a secure working environment, with political stability being sufficient to facilitate a cooperative environment among member countries in the region and enable the effective implementation of technical cooperation.

### 3. Strategy

The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. There is a continued need to align the production and dissemination of statistics in the region with the emerging needs of society and policy makers, improving relevance and comparability of statistics at the regional level in social, economic and cross-cutting issues. Addressing those challenges will strengthen the role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking, and monitoring and evaluating the impact of development policies.

During the biennium 2012-2013, the subprogramme will make all efforts to: (a) act as a house of expertise and a forum for exchange of views in statistical issues for ESCWA member countries; (b) concentrate on training at the national, sub regional and regional level; (c) work in close/direct cooperation and coordination with professional staff in national statistical offices of member countries in data quality assurance and implementation of international classifications and recommendations; (d) respond to requests of technical

assistance coming from member countries; (e) assist in exchange of expertise amongst member countries; and (f) build trust with their counterpart in ESCWA member countries.

A special attention will be paid to indicators on development – for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals as well as other indicators on quality of life, well being and societal progress guided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 and the 2005 World Summit Outcome 60/1, regarding the monitoring of the internationally agreed development goals. The subprogramme will increase its collaboration with other ESCWA subprogrammes with the aim of improving the quality of the secretariat's analytical outputs and products. The subprogramme will also collaborate with other regions, whenever this may bring benefits to ESCWA member countries. The subprogramme will also aim at enlarging the geographic scope of statistical cooperation to Arab countries in general, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the League of Arab States and its subsidiaries, as well as with other partners.

The subprogramme will advocate the importance of full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, especially those which address the following issues: (a) the importance of the impartiality of official statistics and their availability to the public; (b) the use of appropriate methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data; and (c) the presentation of information on sources and methods according to internationally agreed standards.

The subprogramme will continue upgrading the knowledge and skills of the national statistical offices needed for increasing the availability, frequency and timeliness of core socio-economic statistics, and in adopting new and revised economic and social international classifications and standards. The capacity building activities of the subprogramme will focus on: (a) economic statistics (short –term statistics, 2008 revision of the System of National Accounts, producer and consumer price indices, statistics on external trade in goods and services, energy and industry statistics); (b) social and demographic statistics (population and vital statistics including migration, household budget surveys, poverty, employment/labour, health, culture and education); and (c) cross-cutting statistical areas (gender statistics, environment and sustainable development and issues related to societal development). The strategy is guided by ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 and the ESCWA Commission session resolutions 247 (XXII), 276 (XXIV), 287 (XXV) on strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region and resolution 286 (XXV) on gender statistics.

The subprogramme will also aim at improving harmonization of official statistics in priority subject-matter areas. To this end the subprogramme will aim at producing short implementation guidelines and supplements to global standards, comprising regionally agreed harmonized definitions, concepts and methods. The subprogramme will also work towards improved coordination in official statistics in the region, through promoting data sharing and joint questionnaires among international and regional statistical organizations. This is supported by ESCWA Commission session resolution 283 (XXV) on compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems

The ultimate goal of the subprogramme is to improve statistics made available to policy makers, as well as researchers and public at large, while reducing the statistical burden on respondents, particularly National Statistical Offices in the ESCWA region. To this end the subprogramme will promote the development and harmonization of statistical databases following the international recommendations concerning statistical data and metadata dissemination and exchange with a free and broad access to the public. With a focus toward electronic on-line dissemination, the subprogramme will continue production of printed statistical publication as deemed necessary. The feasibility of various statistical products will be periodically evaluated.

To enhance coherence across the United Nations system and coordination among international agencies, the ESCWA statistics subprogramme will work in close cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other relevant United Nations entities, development banks and funds, regional and subregional organizations and other statistical partners and networks.