

Realizing the Millennium Development Goals through Socially Inclusive
Macroeconomic Policies in the Arab States: the Case of Yemen

Final Meeting

Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation (MOPIC)
Sana'a, 20 December, 2010

“Realizing the Millennium Development Goals through Socially Inclusive Macroeconomic Policies in the Arab States” is a capacity development project that since April 2007 has aimed at evaluating and recommending strategic options that would ensure the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in selected Arab States – Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen. Its main executing entity is the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DPAD/UN-DESA), which has worked in close collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Arab States of the United Nations Development Programme (RBAS/UNDP) and the World Bank.

Regional inception and training workshops have been conducted in Cairo (2-5 April 2007), Tunis (21-24 January 2008), and Casablanca (2-5 December 2008), to ensure that country teams get acquainted with and trained in the use of the project’s methodologies. More details can be obtained from the following links:

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/cairo_mdgs.html

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/tunis_mdgs.html

http://www.un.org/esa/policy/casablanca_mdgs.html

Empirical investigations of MDG costing and financing have been conducted, using the “Maquette for MDGs Simulations” (MAMS), a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model developed by the World Bank, as the anchoring methodology. A combination of the latter with methods at the micro level has enabled proper analysis of the determinants of MDG achievement, on the one hand, and the effect of achieving goals in primary education, health, and water and sanitation on poverty and income inequality, on the other. Similar analytical tools have already been and are being successfully applied through capacity building projects in over 20 countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

The Final Conference for Yemen’s country study of this project is being organized for 20 December, 2010, by DPAD/UN-DESA in close collaboration with UNDP, the World Bank, and Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation (MOPIC). The main objectives of this meeting are threefold:

- to present the findings of the analysis elaborated by the Yemeni study team;
- to engage experts and policymakers in a discussion on MDG-related policy implications, taking into consideration the feasibility of achieving the MDGs under different financing scenarios, public spending requirements and macroeconomic trade-offs of scaling up public spending;

- to assess overall performance and discuss the institutionalization and sustainability of the newly acquired methodologies for policymaking purposes as well as for further capacity development activities.

Agenda

Topic	Resource Person (s)	Time
Registration of participants	MPIC	9:00 – 9:30
Welcome note	Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi (Minister of Planning & International Cooperation) Randa Aboul-Hosn, tbc (UNDP Yemen)	9:30 – 9:50
Self-introduction of participants		9:50 – 10:00
Yemen country study Presentation	Chair: Randa Aboul-Hosn, tbc (UNDP Yemen) Presenter: Hans Lofgren (World Bank)	10:00 – 11:00
Coffee Break		11:00 – 11:15
Round Table Session to discuss policy implications and lessons from the macroeconomic and sectoral policy perspective and poverty	Chair: Mohamed Al-Hawri Discussants: Dr. Jamal Nasher (Ministry of Health & Population) Mansoor Ali Mokbel (Ministry of Education) Dr. Ali Al-Shatter (Ministry of Finance)	11:15 – 12:30
Meeting Session: Various discussions *	Abdulmajeed Al-Batuly Mohamed Al-Hawri Hans Lofgren Mohammad Pournik	12:30 – 13:30
Lunch		13:30

* During this session, members of Yemen's country team of the project will meet with the World Bank's resource person to discuss possible next steps on: (i) final changes/improvements to country study, (ii) possible publication of country study, (iii) use of the methodology in support of policymaking through further institutionalization, (iv) and needs for additional capacity development.