

BB. Enhancing key statistics and indicators to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals

DESA in collaboration with the ESCAP, the ECLAC, the ECA, the ESCWA and the ECE (\$810,600)

Background

140. Reliable and timely data are a fundamental tool for development analysis and policy decision-making at the national, regional and global levels. They are needed in a particular form and at specific moments in time in order to be useful for monitoring progress towards development goals and targets at all levels. Two fundamental reasons why a significant gap still exists between the demand for high quality statistics and indicators and the capacity of countries to routinely supply them are: (a) data are not being collected/produced at the country level; and (b) while some basic data are being produced and collected, countries do not have the capacity to disseminate and communicate them in an appropriate form and in a timely fashion to the relevant user groups.
141. While the international community has devoted considerable attention and resources to assisting countries in the collection and production of data, in developing appropriate methodological tools and in agreeing on international “production standards”, relatively little attention has been paid to the challenges countries face in effectively disseminating and communicating data. This imbalance was discussed in the Secretary-General’s report at the thirty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission in 2008 (E/CN.3/2008/12). The report suggested that countries need support in better targeting their various user groups through the formulation of comprehensive “data dissemination strategies”. Furthermore, countries need technical support in using modern communication technologies, especially the Internet, to be able to quickly move their statistical products to the users. The Statistical Commission welcomed this report and explicitly “encouraged the Statistics Division of the DESA to continue its initiative to facilitate the exchange of experience among countries, with respect to dissemination policies and practices” (decision 39/111(f) of the Statistical Commission). This project proposal addresses these issues.
142. The beneficiaries of improved country capacity to disseminate and communicate data will be the broad spectrum of users, comprising the national Governments, regional and international agencies, the development research community and the public at large. In particular, modernizing and standardizing data exchange capabilities of Member States will contribute to improving the availability and timeliness of country data in key international databases (such as the Millennium Development Goal database maintained for global monitoring by the Department for Economic

and Social Affairs), which will in turn benefit the United Nations intergovernmental processes charged with monitoring progress.

143. This project will build upon lessons learned from six statistical development account projects already implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Some of the success factors of the DESA implementation of past development accounts were the focus on a manageable number of countries, and the fact that all country-based activities were always conducted in close cooperation with the national statistical offices, in order to ensure long-term impact and sustainability.

<p>Objective of the Organization: To improve accessibility by the users, especially policy decision makers and researchers, of timely and reliable statistics which are policy relevant and meet the increasing demand for high quality information at the national, regional and international levels.</p>	<p>Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)</p> <table> <tr> <td>General temporary assistance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">42.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consultants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">98.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">142.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">43.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">50.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Study tours</td> <td style="text-align: right;">50.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>374.0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">810.6</td> </tr> </table>	General temporary assistance	42.0	Consultants	98.0	Travel	142.0	Contractual services	43.6	Operating expenses	11.0	Equipment	50.0	Study tours	50.0	Workshops	<u>374.0</u>	Total	810.6
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<p>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 and the Millennium Development Goals: The DESA subprogramme 5 (Statistics); ECA subprogramme 9 (Statistics); ESCAP subprogramme 7 (Statistics); ECE subprogramme 3 (Statistics); ECLAC subprogramme 10 (Statistics and economic projections); ESCWA subprogramme 5 (Statistics for evidence-based policymaking); Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.</p>																			

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved accessibility of national data and metadata by strengthening the dissemination capability and practices at the country level	(a) Increased number of countries that can offer interactive data access capabilities on the websites of their national statistical offices
(b) Improved accessibility of national and the United Nations system data by enhancing the content and the functionality of the data portal, as a key vehicle to facilitate effective international data flow	(b) Increased volume of official statistical data at the international level provided through the United Nations data, which can be used for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals

Main activities

144. The main activities of the project will include:
- (a) Developing training material through a desk study on best practices in data dissemination and communication;
 - (b) Conducting an expert group meeting to review and validate the training material on best practices in data dissemination and communication;
 - (c) Organizing, in close cooperation with the regional commissions, five regional training workshops for staff of national statistical offices to improve the technical capabilities of their countries to disseminate and communicate statistics and indicators. The workshops will cover topics such as: improving producer-user relationships; developing online communication of statistics; providing access to microdata; developing modern data visualization tools;

- (d) Developing, in close cooperation with the respective national statistical offices of five selected countries, a prototype of a national database of key indicators and statistics, especially the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals, to be disseminated via the websites of the national statistical offices and linked to the United Nations data portal;
- (e) Providing direct technical assistance to countries to support the development of appropriate data dissemination platforms;
- (f) Organizing study tours to draw on the strengths and achievements of more advanced countries and to create opportunities for staff from statistically less developed countries to learn best practices and to share experience with other countries.

AB. Enhancing key statistics and indicators to monitor progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals		
Implementing entities: DESA with Regional Commissions		Duration: 2010 – 2013
Objective: To improve the accessibility by the users, especially policy decision makers and researchers, of timely and reliable statistics which are policy relevant and meet the increasing demand for high quality information at national, regional and international levels.		
Summary budget <i>thousands of US dollars</i>	Detailed budget (US dollars)	
General temporary assistance	42.0	General Temporary Assistance Assistance for the desk study, the preparation of training materials and the organization of the expert group meeting (in support of activities (a) and (b)). (6 work months x \$7,000 per month) 42 000
Consultants	98.0	Consultants (\$98,000)
Travel	142.0	<u>International consultants</u> International consultants for preparing training materials and holding the expert group meeting (in support of activities (a) and (b)). (3 work months x \$6,000 per month) and (\$5,000 for consultant(s) travel) (\$23,000) 98 000
Contractual services	43.6	<u>National / Regional consultants</u> National/regional consultants to assist with the provision of base material for the desk study, to act as resource persons at the regional workshops and to develop country prototypes (in support of activities (a), (c), (d) and (e)). (2 work months x \$2,500 per month) x 15 ((1 desk study per region x 5) + 5 regional workshops + 5 country prototypes]) (\$75,000)
Operating expenses	11.0	Travel of staff
Equipment	50.0	<u>DESA Staff</u> Organising and coordinating the 5 regional workshops and one expert group meeting (2 staff members for each of those six events), as well as supporting through country missions the database prototype development of the five pilot countries (1 staff member for each of the five pilot countries) (in support of activities (b), (c), (d), and (e)). (\$6,000 per person x 17 persons) (\$102,000) 142 000
Study tours	50.0	<u>Regional Commissions' staff/ other UN staff</u> Participating as resource persons in regional workshops as well as providing support to the five pilot countries; (b), (c), (d), and (e). (\$4,000 per person) x (10 persons) = \$40,000
Workshops	374.0	Contractual services)
Total	810.6	<u>Translation</u> Translation of documents (in support of activities (a), (b), (c), and (d)) (\$15,000) 15 000
		Contractual Services in support of all activities (\$28,600) 28 600

	<p>Operating expenses <u>Communications</u> (in support of activities (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)). (\$6,000) <u>Supplies</u> (in support of activities (a), (b), (c), and (d)) (\$5,000)</p> <p>Study Tours (Fellowships) (\$50,000) <u>Study Tours</u> Study tours to strengthen the capacity of the National Statistics Offices (in support of activity (f)). (\$2,500 per study tour x 20 study tours)</p> <p>Seminars and Workshops <u>Workshops</u> 5 regional workshops (in support of activity (c)). (\$3,000 per participant x 20 participants x 5 workshops) (\$300,000) <u>Expert Group Meeting</u> 1 expert group meeting (in support of activity (b)). (\$5,000 per participant x 10 participants) (\$50,000) <u>Logistical arrangements for meetings</u> Conference facilities/services and equipment rental (in support of activities (b) and (c)). (4,000 per event x (five workshops + 1 expert group meeting)) (\$24,000)</p> <p>Equipment (\$50,000) Hardware and software (in support of activities (d) and (e)). (\$10,000 per country x 5 countries) (\$50,000). (Software and workstations for content creation and website programming; servers for development and production; Internet access fees if required - - for those National Statistical Offices with limited or inadequate capacity for the development and operation of Internet-based statistical data dissemination tools and websites).</p>	<p>11 000</p> <p>50 000</p> <p>374 000</p> <p>50 000</p>
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