

H. Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing

ECLAC, jointly with the ESCAP, the ECA, the ECE, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and in collaboration with the DESA(\$1,192,000)

Background

40. The need for monitoring the progress towards the Millennium Development Goal has been an opportunity for many developing countries in different regions to develop their statistical systems and produce better information in support of evidence-based policies for development.
41. Nevertheless, at the midpoint of the period considered to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, developing nations face pervasive statistical challenges on monitoring Millennium Development Goals, including the persistent data gaps, insufficient use of the official national data produced by both the national agency in charge of the national Millennium Development Goal reports, as well as by the international agencies; and the statistical discrepancies in indicator values that are observed between national, regional and international sources. These issues are of great concern in the international community, particularly within the statistical and reporting community in developing countries. The statistical commissions and other regional statistical bodies (i.e., the Statistical Conference of the Americas) have formally recognized the existence of these problems and have urged stakeholders to take immediate action to find solutions. Key points include strengthening statistical capacities for data and metadata production, and improving the organization of the statistical information exchange among international agencies and the countries and among international agencies as recommended in 2007 by the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2007/13).
42. The United Nations system as a whole has assigned high priority to these matters, on the understanding that there should also be more transparency in the way that international agencies use imputed data. The Inter-agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators recommended producing detailed explanations of the difference between global and national monitoring and related implications on methods and data presentation, and constructing metadata on population estimates used as denominators to calculate many Millennium Development Goal indicators. The Inter-agency Expert Group has further recommended involving the regional commissions more extensively in reviewing for discrepancies between national and international sources, in assisting in the organization of data and metadata exchanges between national statistical systems and international agencies, and in improving data-sharing at the international level.
43. From the regional perspective, responding to the demand of its member countries, the five regional commissions have increasingly taken an active role in strengthening statistical capacities of the Millennium Development Goals in its respective countries and promoting the collaborative work within countries and regions in order to share experiences and learn from each other. The statistical division of regional commissions have been coordinating efforts in resolving data gaps and discrepancies between national and international sources. A joint document was presented for discussion at the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goal Indicators in November 2008. The project represents a good opportunity for the

regional commissions to share with each other their strategies and related instruments.

<p>Objective of the Organization: To improve statistical capacities and inter-institutional coordination to invigorate the production of Millennium Development Goal indicators, improve data description (metadata) and decrease statistical discrepancies between national, regional and global sources on the Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">General temporary assistance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">85.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consultants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">389.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">99.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">120.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expert groups</td> <td style="text-align: right;">86.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">113.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Study tours</td> <td style="text-align: right;">53.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>247.0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1 192.0</td> </tr> </table>	General temporary assistance	85.0	Consultants	389.0	Travel	99.0	Contractual services	120.0	Expert groups	86.0	Operating expenses	113.0	Study tours	53.0	Workshops	<u>247.0</u>	Total	1 192.0
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<p>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 and the Millennium Development Goals: ECLAC subprogramme 10 (Statistics and economic projections); ESCWA subprogramme 5 (Statistics for evidence-based policymaking); ESCAP subprogramme 7 (Statistics); ECE subprogramme 3; ECA subprogramme 9 (Statistics); DESA subprogramme 5 (Statistics).</p>																			

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Improved and increased national and regional Millennium Development Goals statistical production and use, in accordance with both international standards and regional benchmarks, through regional collaborative practices</p>	<p>(a) Increased number of countries and national agencies producing Millennium Development Goal indicators in a regionally coordinated manner, using common statistical definitions, methodologies and metadata format</p>
<p>(b) Decreased statistical discrepancies in Millennium Development Goal indicators among national, regional and international sources, improving Millennium Development Goal monitoring capacities and strengthening inter-institutional coordination, within the countries, and between countries and international agencies, both facilitated by the regional statistical bodies</p>	<p>(b) Increased and harmonized Millennium Development Goal data and metadata availability in national, regional and international databases through development of regional benchmarks in accordance with international best practices and recommendations</p>
<p>(c) Strengthened network of Millennium Development Goal statistical and reporting experts and practitioners at the national and regional levels, through increased interchange of experiences, best practices and methodologies</p>	<p>(c) (i) Increased number of Millennium Development Goal indicators producers and users; increased number of institutions participating in the national and regional Millennium Development Goal networks and activities; and increased number of users of the networks sites and resources</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of national agencies participating and collaborating in the national Millennium Development Goal networks and in the Regional Conciliation Strategy</p>

Main activities

44. The main activities of the project will include:

- (a) Organizing an interregional Millennium Development Goal indicators meeting to share and discuss best practices, instruments, benchmarks and other national and regional advancements and shortcomings. The meeting can be held consecutively with the Millennium Development Goal Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting and should incorporate additional key national representatives from each region;
- (b) Developing a dedicated interregional web-based discussion and holding periodic video conferencing and teleconferencing among the regional commissions and selected regional partners, to ensure substantive follow-up and project effectiveness, and to coordinate interaction with the global Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- (c) Constructing interregional Millennium Development Goals data reports, assessing Millennium Development Goal strengthening of statistical inter-institutional capacities and assessing data gaps and discrepancies in each of the five regions with a view to developing interregional conclusions and recommendations;
- (d) Carrying out and updating comparative data (national, regional — United Nations millennium database) for selected countries and identifying the causes of discrepancies in the five regional commissions;
- (e) Providing technical assistance missions to selected national statistical offices, agencies and sectoral Ministries in order to assist them in achieving statistical conciliation at the national, regional and global levels;
- (f) Conducting one regional Millennium Development Goal capacity-building workshop per region, for national statistical offices and other key partners as well as for regional or international agencies, with a view to improving the inter-institutional coordination procedures for the production, description and adjustment of data;
- (g) Producing and disseminating documents and publications on a regional basis in support of training workshops and technical assistance, including methodologies, best practices and regional benchmarks;
- (h) Producing and disseminating best practices regional reports related to statistical production and the use of information;
- (i) Organizing two regional Millennium Development Goal expert meetings in the ECLAC region in order to extend and strengthen the regional Latin American and Caribbean Millennium Development Goal network, including national networks and international agencies operating in the region;
- (j) Implementing and regularly updating Millennium Development Goal indicators regional databases along with the corresponding metadata, with a view to making data comparability transparent and encouraging its use at the national, regional and international levels.

H. Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through inter-regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing		
Implementing entities: ECLAC with ESCAP, ECE, ECA, and ESCWA, and in collaboration with DESA		Duration: 2010 – 2014
Objective: To improve statistical capacities and inter-institutional coordination to invigorate the production of MDG indicators, improve data description (metadata) and decrease statistical discrepancies between national, regional and global sources on MDG indicators.		
Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)	Detailed budget (US dollars)	
GTA 85.0	General Temporary Assistance General temporary assistance (in support of activities (g), (h) and (j)) (\$17,500)	85 000
Consultants 389.0	ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE and ECA General temporary assistance for ESCWA, ESCAP and ECE (in support of activities (g), (h) and (j) (3 months x \$2,500), (3 months x \$2,500) and (3 months x \$5,000) (\$30,000)	
Travel 99.0	General temporary assistance for ECA (in support of activities (g), (h) and (j)) (4 months x \$2,500), (5 months x \$2,500) and (\$10,000) (\$37,500)	
Contractual services 120.0	Consultants	
Expert Groups 86.0	<u>ECLACC</u>	389 000
Operating expenses 113.0	<u>Inter-regional consultants</u>	
Study tours 53.0	Inter-regional consultants for preparing of meeting materials, inter-regional reports and interface (in support of activities (a), (b) and (c)) (4 work months x \$3,500 per month) and (\$14,600 for consultant(s) travel) (\$28,600)	
Workshops 247.0	<u>National/Regional consultants</u>	
Total 1,192.0	Regional consultants for preparing case studies for workshops (in support of activities (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j)) (16 work months x \$3,500 per month) and (\$27,300 for consultant(s) travel) (\$83,300)	
	<u>ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE and ECA</u>	
	Consultants for ESCWA, ESCAP and ECE (11 work months x \$3,500 per month x for 3 RCs) and (\$18,700 for consultant(s) travel x 3 RCs) (\$171,600)	
	Consultants for ECA (24.8 work months x \$3,500 per month) and (\$18,700 for consultant(s) travel) (\$105,500)	
	Experts Groups	86 000
	<u>ECLAC</u>	
	-Two (2) meetings of the Expert group for the purpose of the production of a national report in support of activity (i)	
	Travel of staff	
	<u>ECLAC</u>	99 000