



UN-ESCWA

UNITED NATIONS - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



# EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON MEASUREMENT ISSUES IN LABOUR STATISTICS,

Beirut, 29-30 June 2011

“Strengthening the Capacity of Arab Countries to  
Produce and Disseminate Labour Statistics”

Ismail Lubbad  
ESCWA





## **Contents:**

- 1. Background and justification.**
- 2. Objectives.**
- 3. Expected Accomplishments.**
- 4. Activities – Road-map- Evaluation**
- 5. Proposed Project Budget**
- 6. Structure of the Project Management.**



# 1. Background

- Importance of Labour data in socio-economic policies and strategies
- Peace building and stability – decent work and women in labour
- Demanded by the Statistical Committee
- Lack of periodic data on labour and absence in certain countries
- Difference in conducting and disseminating labour data: periodicity, coverage,



## 2. Duration, Objectives and target audience

**Project Cycle:** 2011-2013

**Possible Partners:** ILO, ALO, IDB, MEDSTAT

**The objectives:**

- To strengthen and upgrade capabilities (NSOs) and MoL in the Arab Countries in producing and disseminating reliable statistics and information on LS;
- To enhance cooperation: national - regional level - users and producers, regional organisations;
- to facilitate the production of high-quality LS to a variety of users, including **policymakers, civil society organizations, and academics.**



### 3. Expected Accomplishments

- Enhanced and established systems of conducting regular annual (or even more frequent) labour force surveys in Arab Countries;
- Improved methodologies used for collecting, processing and disseminating data on LS in accordance with international standard;
- Raised awareness of the importance of data on informal employment, working condition and decent work;
- Established databases in NSOs on LS and indicators, and enhancing inter-professional dialogue in LS;



## 4. Activities – Road-map

- Project Activities
  - Studies, guidelines
  - EGM, Training Workshop, Workshops
  - Networking- exchange of expertise
  - Advisory missions and study tours (ToJ)

**A proposed road-map for implementation the project activities**

### **1. Short-Term Strategy (1 year)**

- To increase awareness of the LS methodology in the Arab countries
- *Actions required:*
  - Review, assess status of LS in AC to produce a consolidated report identifying capacity building activities;
  - Organize one EGM (current one);
  - A workshop at the regional level and 3 meetings at the sub-regional level. (cluster AC according to the status and needs)



## 4. Activities – Road-map (cont...)

Identify and suggest methods of collecting data in conflict periods (statistics and conflict approach) and suggest solutions for countries that do not collect labour statistics.

- To harmonize the data collection mechanisms, increasing collaboration among data producers and users

Actions required:

- Identifying a scientific advisory body/committee to ensure the **scientific quality of the project outputs**;
- Establishment of a National Committee (NSOs, MoL) and other concerned stakeholders and users;
- Organize 3 meetings at the sub-regional level along with advisory visits (awareness sessions);
- An electronic network/ knowledge base of labour statisticians.



## 4. Activities – Road-map (cont...)

### 2. Medium-Term Strategy (1 year)

- To improve the current elaboration and dissemination of LS.
- Actions required:
  - Improve and enhance the data collection methods in the countries that conduct a LFS;
  - Maintaining/improving the current methodologies of dissemination of LS (if any);
  - Encourage data collection in the field of informal sector, work conditions and school to work (**select a country as a pilot project in case of fund available**);
  - Enhancing and enlarging the establish statistical DB at the national and the regional level;
  - Establishing at the country and at the regional level the periodic and homogeneous publication of the LS;







## 4. Activities – Road-map (cont...)

### 3. Long-Term Strategy (1 year)

- To improve the frequency of observations and the use of statistical information for policy-makers in terms of forecasting future trends and understanding the stage of the labour conditions.

#### *Actions required:*

- Encouraging the collection of information on labour trends through the establishment of a regular quarterly (or bi-annual) LFS;
- Enhancing the application of international standards and definitions as much as possible when conducting a LFS;
- Including the main outcomes of the labour trend data in the Annual Statistical Bulletin and updating the website regularly;
- If the **pilot project remarks a success** in the medium term strategy, **enlarge the scope** of work of LS ( youth, decent work, etc.)



## 5. The Project: Is it doable?

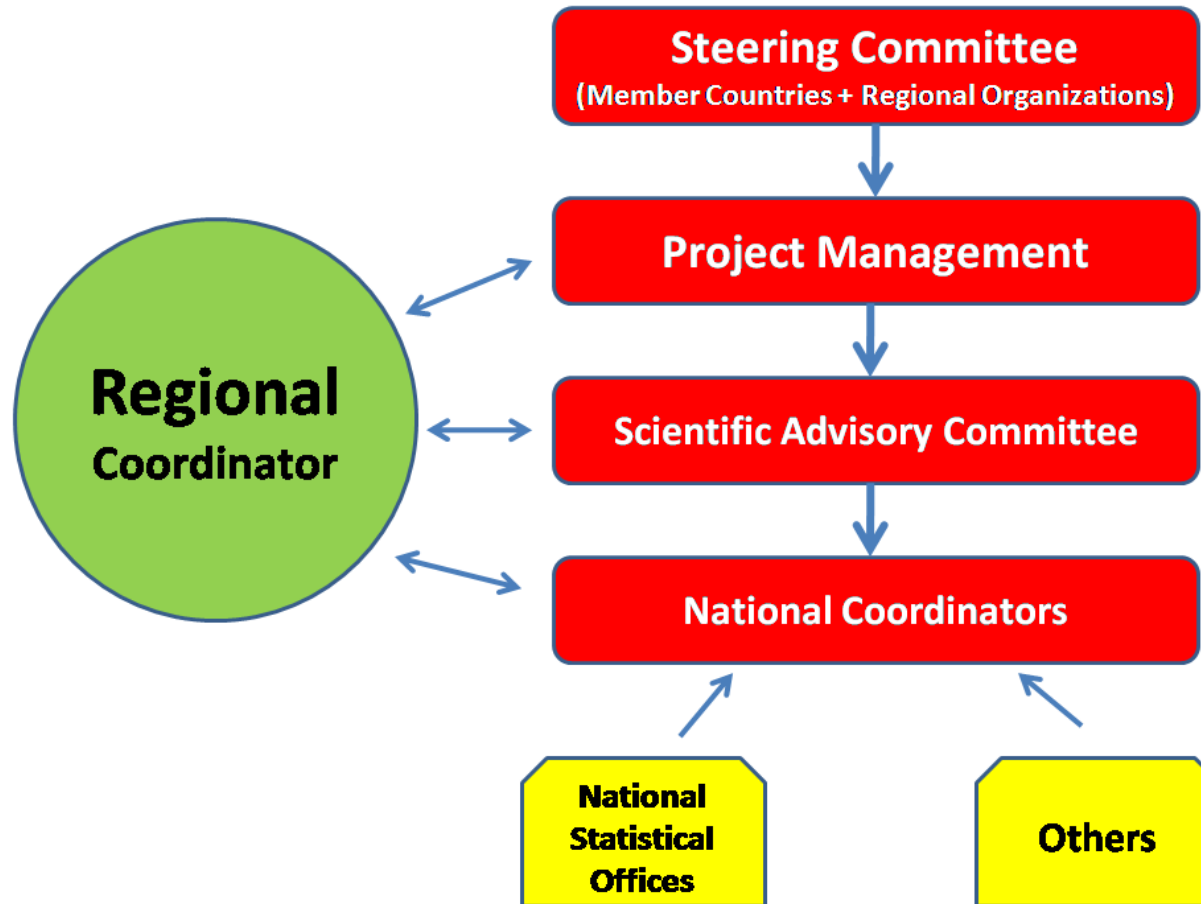
**Budget: USD 650 000**

**Alternative scenarios and modalities of implementation:**

- **DA project**
- **ESCWA**
- **ESCWA and ILO**
- **High: joint fund from relevant organization and technical assistance**



## 6. Proposed coordination: Project Management





Thank you