Summary

The Workshop on MDG Data Reconciliation: Employment Indicators held in Beirut (12-13 July 2012) was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The objective of the Workshop is to (a) improve statistical capacities; (b) improve inter-institutional coordination to invigorate the production of MDG employment indicators, (c) improve data description (metadata); and (d) reduce statistical discrepancies between data available at national and international level.

The Workshop was concluded with a set of recommended actions for countries and the secretariat. The recommendations evolved around reconciliation of national data with international data, enhancing data sharing and availability, data and metadata dissemination, and strengthening coordination at the national, regional and global levels.
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Chapter

### I. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Recommendations | 7-9 |

### II. TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

A. Data Reconciliation Issues (Session I) | 10-12 |
B. Concepts, Methods and Sources of data (Session II) | 13-16 |
C. National Monitoring and Reporting on MDG Employment Indicators: Panel Discussion (Session III) | 16-25 |
D. MDG Data Coordination (Session IV) | 26-31 |

### III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Date and venue of the meeting | 32 |
B. Opening | 33-34 |
C. Participants | 35 |
D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work | 36 |
E. Evaluation | 37 |

### List of Annexes

I. Working group exercise | 13 |
II. Regional problem tree | 14 |
III. List of participants | 15-16 |
IV. Organization of work | 17 |
INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) organized the Workshop on MDG Data Reconciliation: Employment Indicators, held at the UN House in Beirut, on 12 and 13 July 2012.

2. The workshop was implemented as part of the umbrellas project “Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing”. The Project aims to enable countries to produce more effective and timely information-sharing and analysis.

3. The objectives of the Workshop are:
   - Improve statistical capacities to invigorate the production of MDG employment indicators
   - Improve inter-institutional coordination to invigorate the production of MDG indicators
   - Improve data description (metadata)
   - Increase availability and comparability of the MDG employment related data at both national and global level
   - Understand and reduce discrepancies between data available at national and international level

4. The expected accomplishments of the workshop are:
   - Improved and increased national and regional MDG statistical production of employment information and use
   - Decreased statistical discrepancies in MDG employment indicators among national, regional and international sources
   - Improved monitoring capacities of MDGs and strengthening inter-institutional coordination
   - Strengthened network of MDG statistical and reporting experts and practitioners at the national and regional levels.

5. In order to facilitate the work and make best use of the Workshop’s time participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (employment experts or statisticians with experience in monitoring the MDGs) were requested to complete two questionnaires in cooperation with experts at their NSOs. It was a pre-requisite for their participation. They were requested to review the country table prepared by ESCWA and provide feedback on national data and metadata related to the five MDG employment indicators. Participants were also requested to provide information on coordination matters at the national level.

6. The report consists of three sections: Section I. Recommendations, Section II. Topics and Discussions and it includes four sessions: (A) Data Reconciliation Issues; (B) Concepts, Methods and Sources of Data; (C) Panel Discussion: National Monitoring and Reporting on MDG Employment Indicators; and (D) MDG Data Coordination; and Section III. Organization of the Meeting.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

7. A set of recommended actions were proposed in the meeting targeting both countries and the secretariat. The recommendations include reconciliation of national data with international source, enhancing data sharing and availability, increasing data and metadata dissemination, and strengthening coordination.
8. Recommended actions for member countries are the following:

- Review current methodologies for estimating the five MDG employment indicators and align them with the ILO international standards;
- Disseminate timely and accurate MDG employment indicators on the official NSO site, along with absolute figures to provide users, including ILO, with direct access and ease of data manipulation to produce required indicators;
- Publish metadata with relevant indicators to improve transparency, quality, and validity of data, and improve dissemination practices in line with international standards;
- Improve consultation mechanisms with regional and international agencies and respond promptly to requests by enhancing the communication process with MDG focal points at the national, regional and international level;
- Institute an inter mechanism for transferring knowledge gained from meetings to MDG team members in the national statistical system;
- Apply and follow on recommended consultation mechanisms, with a view to bringing the least-tracked indicators, in particular, into line with international standards;
- Carry out regularly relevant surveys, such as labor force surveys, income and expenditure surveys etc. to produce timely and quality data on employment;
- Develop and maintain a central repository for employment data in time series at the national and sub-national levels that is disaggregated by sex, age, educational attainment, geographical area, ethnic group, urban/rural, where applicable, and user-accessible with complete metadata;
- Publish a new round of MDG reports with MDG employment indicators, disaggregated with relevant metadata and trend analysis to track progress towards the achievement of MDGs;

9. The following are recommended action points to the secretariat:

- Continue organizing workshops and/or produce handbooks and guidelines supplied with practical illustrative examples that are understandable and could be easily replicated.
- Collaborate with ILO to supplement the metadata handbook on MDG employment indicators with practical examples on methods of calculation of each employment indicators
- Translate the updated handbook into the Arabic language;
- Provide ESCWA/ILO technical services support to countries upon countries’ request;
- Update the focal point list for MDG indicators at the international level and send it to the countries to provide contact information of their national focal points;
- Report to the Statistical Committee on the findings of the workshop and recommended actions.
- In order to improve the data reporting, and minimize to the extent possible the delay in reporting data and metadata to the ILO, ESCWA also offered its assistance in data gathering.

II. TOPICS AND DISCUSSION

A. Data Reconciliation Issues

(Session I)

10. Ms. Jafar welcomed the participants to the first session and provided a brief description of the international and regional mandates and recommendations to strengthen statistical capacities to produce development indicators including MDGs. The workshop was organized in response to ESCWA resolution 287 (XXV) on Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking encourages member countries “to produce MDG indicators”. The resolution also requests the secretariat “to assist
member countries in building their capacity to unify concepts and definitions”. Moreover, ESCWA resolution 297 (XXVI) Arab MDG monitor for societal progress calls upon all member countries “to enhance coordination between national statistical offices and implement national strategies for statistical development, with a view to improving the coverage and transparency of indicators and methods of reporting on them and disseminating effective methods of monitoring nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including MDGs”, it also requests the secretariat to assess the quality of national data and development indicators, including MDGs, and providing adequate resources to improve data quality and convergence with international standards”. The statistical commissions and other regional statistical bodies had formally recognized the existence of the problems and issues related to discrepancies between national and international sources and have urged stakeholders to take immediate action to find solutions.

11. Ms. Jafar explained that source of discrepancies in data value emanates from one or more components related to metadata, such as the definition, classifications, method of calculation, targeted population and subpopulation, proxy indicators, sources of data, dates of data series, and extrapolation/estimation methods. From the regional perspective, responding to the demand of its member countries, ESCWA had actively increased its activities in strengthening statistical capacities of the MDGs in member countries and promoting collaborative work within countries in order to share experiences and learn good practices. The Statistics Division at ESCWA had been coordinating efforts in resolving data gaps and discrepancies between national and international sources with the objectives to build national capacities, improve data quality, ensure transparency, reduce inconsistency, increase production, and enhance dissemination of national data. MDG data compilation cycle, as illustrated by Ms. Jafar, initiates from different national sources to relevant specialized agencies and finally is compiled into the MDG official central repository of data under custody of United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in New York. Some agencies resort to estimation or modeling country data due to unavailability of data and provision of metadata compliant with international standards.

12. Participants recognized the important role UNSD plays in coordinating various data inputs from different agencies at the international level, and the specialized agency’s role in providing standard comparable data based on national data sources. Participants also recognized that dissemination of data with relevant metadata in a timely manner, as well as good coordination at both national and international level, would reduce duplication of effort and lessen the burden of NSOs in responding to multiple questionnaires from agencies. The participants discussed the importance of streamlining the questionnaires sent to national statistical offices in order to avoid duplication and burden the countries with multiple requests. The participants recommended to the secretariat to update the list of MDG focal points for better networking and improve the flow of information at the sectoral, national, regional and global levels.

B. Concepts, Methods and Sources of data  
(Session II)

13. Ms. Valentina Stoveski, ILO Senior Statistician, made a presentation on the five employment related MDG indicators. She briefed the meeting on the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, and the work of the Commission for Social Development as well as the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG indicators, which entailed the addition of a new target under MDG1 (Target 1b): “Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people”. The new target is monitored using four new employment indicators, namely: Labour productivity growth rate, Employment-to-population ratio; Proportion of employed people living below the poverty line; and Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment. These four indicators are additional to the existing employment indicator “Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector” under MDG3 on Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. Ms. Stoveski
described the data gathering process at the ILO by indicating that there are no MDG specific data collection activities and that data needed for estimating the MDG employment indicators are part of the regular data collection process. She also highlighted that ILO has started collecting information on working poor only as from 2012. Up to know the ILO estimates on Proportion of employed people living below 1$/national poverty line per day have been model-derived estimates based on poverty estimates produced by World Bank. She also noted that there are not many countries currently producing this indicator.

14. Ms. Stoveski, presented the metadata for each indicator by focusing on the definitions, method of computation, formula, sources and desirable disaggregations, and explaining the limitations for each indicator. She complemented the presentation with illustrative examples on trends for countries in the ESCWA region. She also illustrated the procedure for using proxy indicators for the indicator “Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector”. She concluded her presentation outlining ILO efforts to: (a) enhance the national statistical capacity of countries to produce the data needed for estimating the MDG employment related indicators; (b) develop national analytical capacity to produce good quality imputed country values for use by countries in their monitoring of the MDGs and other development programmes; and (c) minimize the reporting burden on the countries. She emphasized that countries’ cooperation was critical to make ILO efforts successful.

15. A presentation on regional and global estimates and imputation of missing values was also made by Ms. Stoveski. She described the procedures used to treat missing values and provided the participants with an example on how to impute data for missing values on the indicator on Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sectors. She also provided the participants with a step by step instruction on the computation of the indicator MDG 1.6. Proportion of employed people living below the poverty line (working poverty rate).

16. It was evident that some country representatives were not aware of the inclusion of the new MDG target under Goal 1, others were not familiar with the definition and method of calculation. That pointed out to the problem of sharing information and knowledge gained by national staff attending MDG or related meetings. In addition, some country representatives did not have access to internet in their offices which hindered their ability to conduct research, and access to information essential for their daily work.

Ms. Stoveski responded to questions raised by the participants; this included explaining the difference between informal and formal employment. On the suitability of using administrative records available on yearly basis vis-à-vis yearly household, she explained that administrative records are suitable for some indicators but not all the indicators. Administrative records usually provide information on paid employment only, and excludes the own account workers, and they cover only formal sector. In some countries their coverage is limited to some industries only.. On the other hand labor force surveys are the most comprehensive source of information and as such are the most suitable source for most indicators. LFS can be designed to cover virtually the entire population of a country, including foreigners, all branches of economic activity, all sectors of the economy and all categories of workers, including own account workers, unpaid family workers, and persons engaged in casual work or marginal economic activity. This gives household based surveys a unique advantage for obtaining information on the total labor force and its structure. She further notified the participants that if administrative records are to be used then effort should be made to align the concepts, definitions, coverage, reference period and classifications with the ones used in the LFS to legitimize the results.
In order to monitor the progress toward the achievement of MSG goals it was recommended that LFS or other household based survey should be conducted at least once every five years. Foreigners should be counted, and data should be transparent for Gulf countries where employment of foreigners is high. It is recommended that national data is presented for both (nationals and foreigners) and for nationals only.

In order to provide clearer picture for policy direction analysis of employment-to-population ratio for youth should be complemented with other labour market indicators like information on labour market inactivity, unemployment and enrolment in education programs.

In order to estimate the number of working poor Labour force survey should be supplemented by household expenditure/income module. Or alternatively a module on employment could be added in the household expenditure survey. The first alternative is considered as more suitable because (i) the household expenditure are already very complex (ii) in many countries censuses are conducted only once every five or 10 years, while the periodicity of the labor force survey is, in most countries, higher. The third alternative is to hold two independent surveys with overlapping samples

C. National Monitoring and Reporting on MDG Employment Indicators: Panel Discussion
   (Session III)

17. Each participant made a country presentation on the five MDG employment related indicators followed by a panel discussion. This exercise facilitated the diagnosis of issues related to data availability, discrepancy, accuracy and transparency of metadata in each country. The following are the findings of the panel discussions and related recommendations to improve availability, reporting and monitoring on each indicator:

18. **Egypt** has been reporting on four MDG employment indicators, with the exception of Proportion of employed people living below $1 per day indicator. The country will calculate and report on this indicator according to international standards in the future. The availability of data is consistent with the implementation of the labor force surveys in Egypt every year. There are major discrepancies in the indicator Growth rate of GDP per person employed\(^1\). This is attributed to two reasons: (i) the growth rate is set at 9% per year, which is considered very high compared to other countries with GDG at 2% per year. (ii) the GDP used for this indicator should be in constant prices, whereas Egypt uses GDP expressed in current or nominal price, which is inflating productivity. There are minor discrepancies between national and international sources in the three remaining indicators, namely: Employment-to-population ratio, sexes, Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment, and Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. The discrepancies recorded are attributed to different definition of the age group. ILO sets the age of employed between 15- and 64 years, while Egypt sets it at 15+ years. It is recommended to align the age group with international standards. ILO reports data on a yearly basis while Egypt reports it every year.

19. **Iraq** has been reporting on one MDG employment indicator, namely: Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector: No major discrepancy in data is reported. Recommend to align the age group to 15-64 years for the employed. The country is requested to provide ILO with missing/ latest data in absolute figures for all the indicators. The country will calculate and report on the

\(^1\) GDP divided by employed person to get average, and for two consecutive years, Pt- Po, Labour force survey
remaining four indicators according to international standards. Iraq also reported that there was lack of data for previous years for some indicators, and some indicators have no data at all.

20. Lebanon has been reporting on two of the five MDG employment indicators. Country representative informed the meeting that the NSO will make an effort to calculate both the Growth rate of GDP per person employed and the Proportion of employed people living below $1 per day indicators in the future. Although the data available for employment are scarce, they are consistent in the majority of cases with ILO data. However, there is a major discrepancy between national and international sources in the indicator Employment-to-population ratio, sexes for the year 1997. The source of data is not identified. It is recommended that data for 1997 for this indicator is to be disregarded for non availability of metadata. Both indicators Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment and Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector are in compliance with international sources. NSO is requested to provide missing/latest data in absolute figures to ILO.

21. Oman has been basing its employment data on nationals only which causes a major discrepancy with ILO data based on total population. ILO publishes data on one indicator only, namely: Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector for both nationals and non-nationals. Country is recommended to publish data on both Omani and total population. Country need to provide missing data to ILO in absolute figures for all indicators. It is recommended also to report on employed persons with age group 15- 64 years. Time series need to be completed for all the indicators with available data. In selecting source of data when multiple sources exist, selection of best source should be the first criteria, and source with most available data should be the second criteria. GDP need to be calculated based on constant prices for the indicator Growth rate of GDP per person employed, and the source of data for the denominator need to be identified.

22. Palestine has been reporting on four indicators with the exception of Proportion of employed people living below $1 per day. Country is recommended to report on this indicator using the household income and expenditure survey data. ILO does not report on the indicator Growth rate of GDP per person employed which is being reported by the country. The national reported indicator is based on GDP calculated at current prices instead of constant. The country is recommended to make corrections in method of calculation and to provide ILO with missing data/ latest data. ILO will also check the 1996 data for Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment indicator. The country is recommended to report on employed persons with age group 15- 64 years to avoid minor discrepancies in the remaining indicators with international source.

23. Sudan has scarce data in general in all the five indicators. In 2008 the country reported on Employment-to-population ratio (by sexe), Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment, and Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector indicators. The indicator Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment need to be presented as one indicator and not as two indicators. There is an urgent need for the country to revise its calculation on all the indicators as per standard methodologies, and provide ILO with missing/latest data in absolute figures.

24. UAE has scarce data in general in all the five indicators although the labor force survey was implemented on a yearly basis till 2009; there are more internationally disseminated country data than national. The country has been reporting on Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, while ILO reports on three indicators, namely: Employment-to-population ratio, (by sex), Proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment, and Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, using country Labour Force Survey results. Data presented by the country on Growth rate of GDP per person employed should be
based on GDP constant prices. The country is requested to provide ILO with missing/ latest data in absolute figures.

25. **Yemen** had been reporting on one MDG employment indicator, namely: **Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector:** No major discrepancy in data is reported. Recommend to align the age group to 15-64 years for the employed. The country is requested to provide ILO with missing/ latest data in absolute figures for all the indicators. The country will calculate and report on the remaining four indicators according to international standards.

D. **MDG Data Coordination**

(SESSION IV)

26. In the session on MDG Data Coordination, Ms. Jafar made a presentation on coordination issues that emanates and feeds into a vicious cycle of challenges faced by most NSOs, such as inter and intra institutional reporting, streamlining processes, centralizing national data repositories, avoiding discrepancy at the national level, including dissemination of timely, quality and transparent data in line with standard guidelines. NSOs receive data inputs in a variety of formats (excel sheets, word documents, pdf, etc.) each might have advantages and disadvantages, however, to improve coordination and facilitate dissemination practices the establishment of a central repository of data was regarded by the meeting as critical. National data producers submit data to a common repository hosted by the NSO to populate to national and international users in compliance with Principle number 8 of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics which states that coordination among statistical agencies is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system. Lack of streamlining data inputs to the national statistical office would result in time lag in production of data, differences in data and metadata due to use of a number of databases, lack of harmonization, burden on statistical system, and susceptibility to committing errors.

27. The meeting identified two requisites for effective coordination: the first is to develop a central repository of data system, and the second is to use SDMX for the exchange of data among the national statistical system offices and with the regional and international agencies. The characteristics of the central MDG database should include store data and their metadata, produce charts, maps and cross-tabulations, import and export data and metadata, on-line data dissemination using SDMX import and export, open source database application, adaptable and can be customized to national needs.

28. Ms. Jafar highlighted in conclusion the regional priorities which included:

- Improve data quality and transparency of methods
- Identify good practices for coordination within national statistical systems
- Identify good practices in reporting mechanisms to the international statistical system
- Address key methodological issues, including the use of population figures, in the computation of the indicators
- Develop improved training tools on the compilation of the indicators
- Improve consistency and transparency in reporting and presenting data and metadata for the international monitoring (DevInfo and SDMX trainings)
- Provide technical assistance to countries in the use of international definitions.
- Improve the process of consultation by international agencies with countries before publishing their data
29. Three working groups were formed to discuss and present their findings on issues related to data reporting such as obstacles to implement a national MDG database, reasons for not disseminating the MDG database through the internet in some countries, and recommendations to implement a national MDG database disseminated on the internet (Annex I Working groups exercise). The working groups discussed issues related to data reconciliation and reasons for discrepancies between national and international data sets, and recommendations to reconcile both datasets. Coordination issues were also discussed by the working groups including steps for improving the national statistical system, and mechanisms to facilitate data reporting from the national statistical systems to the international agencies, and on how would ESCWA be able to assist in reporting data from national offices to international institutions. With regard to capacity building the working groups were asked to reflect on whether the concepts and guidelines regarding MDG labour related indicators were sufficiently clear and understandable, and in what ways would ILO be of assistance to the countries. The results of the group exercise are reflected in the Problem Tree presented in Annex II of this report and highlighted in the conclusions and recommendations of this report.

30. Some of the feedback as reported by the countries with regard to current problems with coordination of National Statistical System included:
   - Lack of legislations that organize and coordinates statistics related activities related in the statistical system
   - Challenges related to timeliness of data and periodicity of surveys and dissemination of information
   - Weak capacity of statisticians
   - Limited financial resources dedicated for statistics especially at the sub national level and in governorates statistical offices
   - Inconsistency of statistical concepts, methodologies and classifications between the national statistical system components which generates inconsistent national data
   - Incompleteness of administrative records

31. On issues related to coordination mechanisms most NSOs had the authority to coordinate the reporting of data used for MDG national reports produced by various national agencies including verification of quality of data. Nevertheless, some NSOs were not mandated to coordinate among data producers by a statistical law, neither they had the authority to make changes related to the presentation of data and metadata in the MDG reports. Most countries did not have a central repository of data; single set of data on MDG indicators, with metadata and available on the internet. Most countries did not have focal points centralizing requests received by ILO which explains also why most countries did not receive/reply to ILO questionnaires related to employment indicators.

### III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

#### A. VENUE AND DATE OF THE MEETING

32. The two-day Workshop on MDG Data Reconciliation: Employment Indicators was held at the UN House in Beirut, from 12 to 13 July 2012.

#### B. OPENING

33. The workshop was opened by Ms. Neda Jafar, Statistician, ESCWA, who welcomed the participants and discussed the objectives of the meeting and expected accomplishments. Ms. Jafar also underscored the importance of producing and disseminating reliable MDG indicators for evidence policy
making. The need for monitoring the progress towards the MDGs present, for many countries, an opportunity to develop their statistical systems and produce better information in support of evidence-based policies for development. Nevertheless, at nearly the ending period to achieve the MDGs NSOs still face pervasive statistical challenges in monitoring MDGs, including persistent data gaps, insufficient use of official national data produced by both the national agency in charge of the national MDGRs, as well as by international agencies; and statistical discrepancies in indicator values that are observed between national and international sources.

34. Ms. Jafar informed the participants that the Workshop was implemented under the umbrellas project “Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing”. The Project aims to enable countries to produce more effective and timely information-sharing and analysis.

C. PARTICIPANTS

35. The workshop was attended by nine participants from eight ESCWA member countries, namely: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The meeting was facilitated by ILO senior statistician and ESCWA statistician on MDGs. A list of participants is available in Annex III of this report.

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

36. The participants adopted the agenda as shown in Annex IV to this report.

E. EVALUATION

37. All the participants completed the evaluation questionnaires in which they have rated the organizational and substantive/technical aspects of the workshop. Below are a summary of the results of the evaluation:

Overall Assessment

- Around 80% of the respondents gave the meeting an overall rating of excellent.
- Around 80% of the respondents stated that the meeting achieved its objectives.
- All the participants agreed that the meeting discussed regional related topics and challenges.
- All the participants agreed that the meeting discussed action plans and capacity building activities.
- All the participants agreed that the meeting provided a forum to share practices on compilation and production of employment statistics.

Content and conduct of the meeting

- 90% of the respondents stated that the quality of materials were excellent.
- Around 80% of the respondents stated that the quality of presentations were excellent.
- Around 90% of the respondents evaluated the five sessions, and having sufficient time for discussion, balance between topics as excellent or good.

Organization of the meeting
Almost all the respondents agreed that the timeliness of distribution of Invitation / agenda / materials, duration of meeting, quality of meeting facilities, quality of interpretation, and Overall planning and organization of the meeting were good or excellent.

Respondents also stated that the most useful element of the meeting was to learn how to make the calculations of the five MDG indicators. They also suggested allocating longer time period for the workshop.
ANNEX I

WORKING GROUPS EXERCISE

Data reporting
1. Most of the countries produce MDG reports, some have developed databases (example DevInfo), however access to these databases is limited.

- Countries that did not implement MDG database: What are the main obstacles to implement a national MDG database?
- Countries that did implement MDG database: State the reasons why national MDG database has not been disseminated on the internet?
- What are your recommendations to implement a national MDG database disseminated on the internet?

Data Reconciliation
2. Data discrepancy have been noted in some indicators for a number of countries

- What are the main reasons for discrepancies between national and international data sets?
- What are the steps to reconcile national data with international data?

Coordination
3. Availability of data and discrepancy at the national and international level is still an issue.
   Improving coordination mechanisms by the governments and international agencies will effectively improve reporting and reconciliation of data from both sources.

- What are the steps to improve coordination of the national statistical system at the national level?
- What mechanisms should be established to facilitate data reporting from the national statistical systems to the international agencies?
- How can ESCWA assist in the reporting of data from national offices to international institutions?

Capacity building
- Are definition, concepts and guidelines regarding MDG labour related indicators sufficiently clear and understandable?
- What ILO can do to assist countries to produce the data needed to derive the MDG indicators?
ANNEX II

REGIONAL PROBLEM TREE

(cause-effect)

Persistent data gaps in data availability to monitor MDG indicators at national level  
Persistent statistical discrepancies between indicators reported by different sources (national organizations, regional agencies and international agencies)

Inconveniences of countries to produce harmonized high quality data for monitoring and reporting on MDGs

Limited knowledge of standard methods of computation to calculate MDG indicators

Lack of inter-institutional co-ordination among national, regional and international organizations

Lack of national central repository of MDG data (time series) with metadata accessible on the internet

Conceptual differences in indicators definitions, data sources, and subpopulations

Insufficient production, timeliness and dissemination of data, and metadata

Heterogeneous statistics capacity, lack of skilled human resources and limited access to web research

Low involvement of MDG related experts in capacity building activities

Not enough opportunities to interchange experiences, best practices and methodologies

Lack of focal points to coordinate MDG related activities and share knowledge
ANNEX III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA Member Countries

Egypt
Fatma Abdelrady
Manager of Family Research Department – Research Center and population studies
CAPMAS
Phone: +201115725253
Fax: +202-24024099
Email: pres_capmas@capmas.gov.eg, Fatma_vip20@yahoo.com

Lebanon
Lara Badre
Sociologist
Central Administration for Statistics
Phone: 961 1 373 160
Fax: 961 1 373 161
Email: lara_badre@yahoo.com

Palestine
Sadi Almassri
Head of Division of Labour Force
PCBS
Phone: +970/972 2 2982710
Fax: +970/972 2 2982710
Email: SAADI@PCBS.GOV.PS

UAE
Ali Al Ali
Director of Economic Statistics Department
NBS
Phone: 0097125592000
Fax: 0097125592999
Email: abuharoon@nbs.gov.ae

Yemen
Nasser Mubarak
D.G. Training Center & MDG Unit Member
CSO
Phone: +967 733846676
Fax: +967 1250664
Email: Cso1@y.net.ye
Shehab Busalamah  
Director Training Center & Head MDG Team  
CSO  
Phone: +967 733395253  
Fax: +967 1250664  
Email: Cso1@y.net.ye

Oman  
Ahmed Al Yaqoubi  
Statistician  
NCSI  
Phone: +968996363545  
Fax: +96824695169  
Email: yaqoubia@mone.gov.om, moneom@yahoo.com

Sudan  
Magda Khalafalla Mohamed  
Assistant Director  
CBS  
Phone: 00249183798114  
Email: elsirabbas@yahoo.com, dg@cbs.gov.sd

Iraq  
Zainab Al Ameri  
Chief Statistics  
CSO  
Phone: 07901268838  
Email: emanmka@yahoo.com

B. United Nations ESCWA & ILO Experts

ILO  
Valentina Stoevska  
Senior Statistician  
ILO  
Phone: +41227996433  
Fax: +41227996957  
Email: stoevska@ilo.org

ESCWA  
Neda jafar  
Statistician  
Gender and MDGs  
Phone: +9611978344  
Fax: +9611980510  
Email: jafarn@un.org
ANNEX IV

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Workshop on MDG Data Reconciliation: Employment Indicators
12-13 July, Beirut

Thursday, 12 July 2012
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  Registration/ Badges
9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.  Opening and adoption of the Agenda
9:20 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  Data Reconciliation Issues - Ms. Neda Jafar/ESCWA
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Concepts, methods and sources of data - Ms Valentina Stoevska/ILO
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  Country presentations
                      Panel discussion
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Lunch
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  Country presentations
                      Panel discussion

Friday, 13 July 2012
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  Day 1 outcome
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Regional and global estimates and imputation of missing values: An example of MDG 3.2 - Ms. Valentina Stoevska/ILO
                      Discussion
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. MDG Data Coordination - Ms. Neda Jafar/ESCWA
                      Discussion
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. National coordination practices – Ms. Neda Jafar/ESCWA
                      Discussion
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Working Groups
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  Presentation of the Working Groups
                      Discussion
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Recommendations and Conclusion