



UN-ESCWA Weekly News

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Eye-Catching Initiatives by Promising Talents



“Thank you for bringing beauty upon the stone” said UN-ESCWA Executive Secretary Bader Omar AlDafa to the crowd of young people who colored the walls of the UN House in Beirut. “Synergy between stone and color is what you created; turning walls into something beautiful that tells in part the story of the culture and history of Lebanon is an important work”.



AlDafa was speaking at the ceremony held on 8 September

2008 at the UN House to deliver certificates of appreciation to the graphic design students of the Lebanese Arts, Sciences and Technology University (AUL) who partook in the work to color the walls surrounding the UN House. AlDafa wished the students success in their future endeavors and careers, and hoped that their paths will cross with the UN once again. The artistic work surrounding the UN House also received the praise of Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, Mohamed Abdulrazzak, who thanked the students for their efforts.

Speaking on behalf of all the students who took part in the project, Shaza Mawiid said “coloring the walls of the UN House added strength and self-esteem to all of us. It stimulated our desire to express our cre-

ativity through our art and establish a communication means with society”. The students worked under the overall theme of Arab culture and had the freedom of expressing themselves through their own colors to paint joy and hope.

AUL Director of External Relations and Chairperson of the Fine Arts Division, Cherif Chehab stressed for his part the importance of the university’s communication with social institutions. “The University is part of this society”, he said, “and its policy is to keep the channels of communication open with this society. Our students have exerted great effort to create a beautiful artistic and cultural result that conveys the image of Lebanese civilizations and cultures through painted scenes”. ■

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UN-ESCWA Publications



Broadband for Development in the ESCWA Region
Enhancing Access to ICT Services in a Global Knowledge Economy

The number of broadband users worldwide is estimated at 250 million. These services revolutionized communication between people, knowledge gain, access to public services, entertainment, and business organization. The new broad-

UN-ESCWA Publications (Cont.)

band is modifying the image of telecommunication, which could take on the same importance as the changes brought by the advent of the Internet and the mobile phone, or might even be more influential on the levels of content development and information dissemination,

an event that inevitably leads to faster social and economic development.

This report highlights the vast development potential in the ESCWA region as it moves towards the broadband revolution, with real business exam-

ples focused on selected countries. It also offers an assessment of the factors that may hinder the spread of broadband, while proposing concrete actions to guide ESCWA member countries in their quest for the enhanced infrastructure necessary to build the knowl-

edge society. It aims to assist all stakeholders in the development of broadband in the ESCWA region, including governments, regulators, operators, service providers and civil society at large. ■

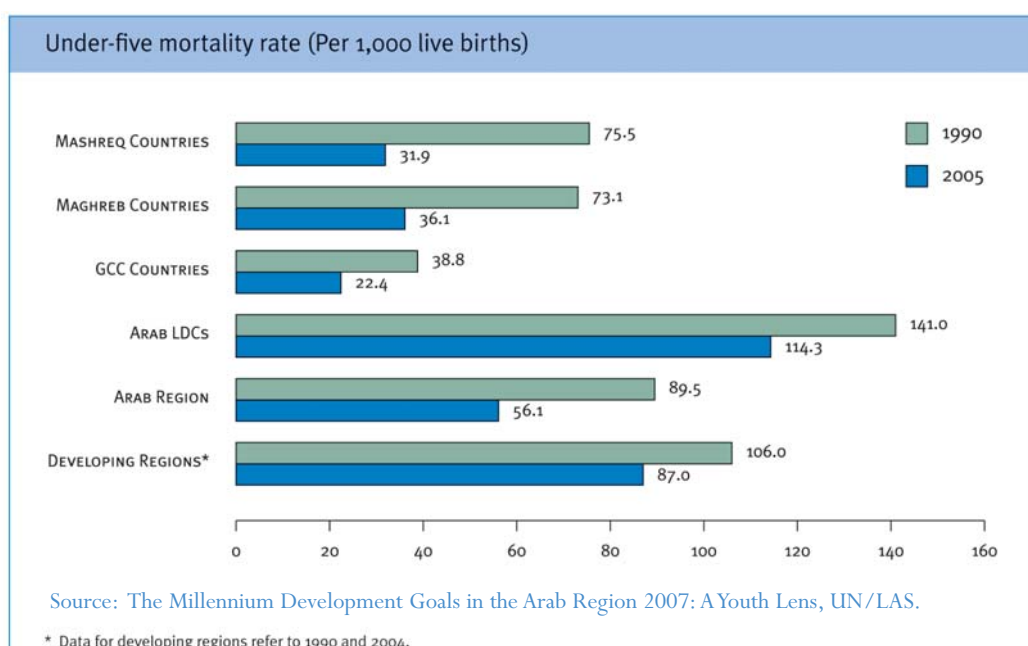
Facts and Figures: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Under-five mortality rate (Per 1,000 live births)

Goal 4 aims at reducing child mortality by lowering the under-five and infant mortality rates, principal measures of the health status in a country or region. Empirical research has led to an increased understanding of the key determinants of health outcomes, and findings have resulted in different sets of policy interventions that increasingly account for the linkages between health and other development areas, including poverty, education and the environment. As such, since the mid-1980s, efforts in developing countries, including those in the Arab region, have increased considerably to improve health outcomes, particularly for the poor.

With respect to under-five mortality rates (U5MRs), the Arab region continues to be characterized by strong disparities across the four subregions and between individual countries; in fact, no other region in the world records such wide contrasts. However, the region has made significant progress since 1990, and is not far “off track” to meet the target of reducing U5MR by two thirds over the period 1990-2015. In fact, average U5MR per 1,000 live births in the Arab region dropped by 37 per cent between 1990 and 2005, from 89.5 to 56.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. ■



Address

P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut-Lebanon
Tel.: 961-1-981301; Fax: 961-1-981510

e-mail: webmaster-escwa@un.org
website: www.escwa.un.org