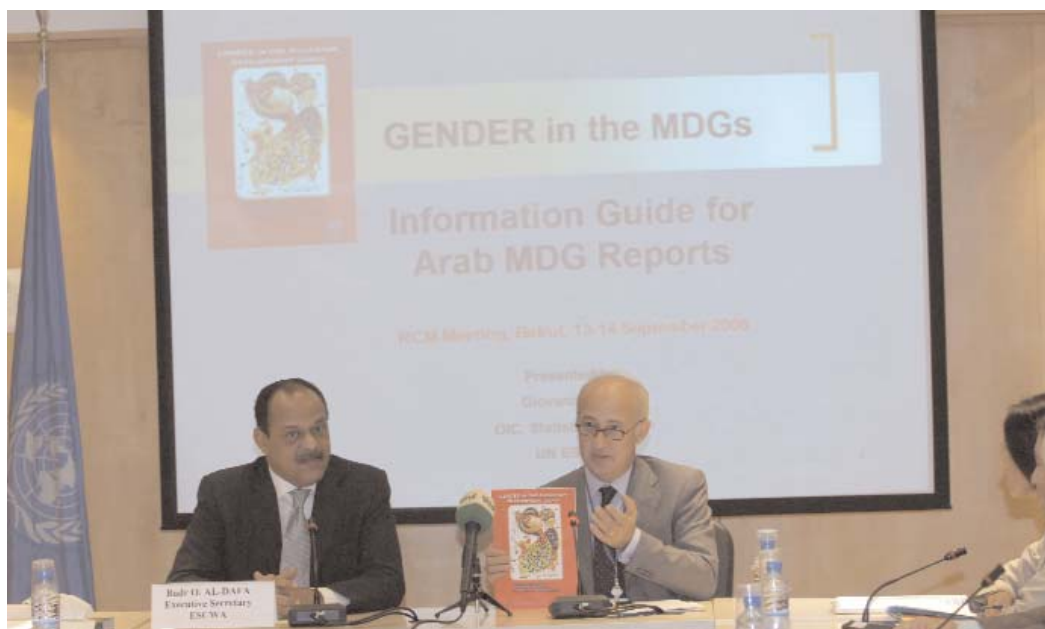




## UN Launches Guide on Gender in the Millennium Development Goals



On the occasion of the 12th Regional Coordination Mechanism Meeting (RCM), held on 13-14 September 2008 at the UN House, Beirut, UN-ESCWA Executive Secretary, Bader Omar AlDafa, launched a report on "Gender in the Millennium Development Goals: Information guide for Arab Millennium Development Goals reports" in the presence of representatives of UN regional organizations and media institutions.

AlDafa said in his statement that the Guide is the result of cooperation among the various UN organizations, and it came in response to the need to develop a single information gathering monitoring system for gender sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data. "It provides a statistical framework for an evaluation and follow-up of international agreements on the matter, such as those contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration," AlDafa said.

Head of the Statistics Division in UN-ESCWA, Giovanni Savio, said that the Guide highlights discrepancies in the availability of gender sensitive indicators across the countries, indicating the main challenges for future improvement.

The guide summarizes the main gender issues and concerns in the region in the context of each Millennium Goal. It also provides a detailed assessment of the availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators in the Arab region for gender responsive monitoring and reporting of MDGs.

The Guide can be obtained through the following link:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/scu/GenderMDG/index.asp> ■

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## Youth in the Arab Region: What the Future Holds

What are the main concerns Arab societies need to address to benefit of the present youth bulge? What policies and strategies can turn this social category into an active group that interacts with its surroundings and participates in decision-making?

UN-ESCWA Social Bulletin (June 2008) deals with both these issues, tackling the social implications and the future vision for the youth in the Arab region. The bulletin also focuses on the importance the United Nations grants youth issues, listing



## Youth in the Arab Region: What the Future Holds (Cont.)

a number of conferences it held to address them. It also highlights youth in modern literature; the demography of youth as connected to the life cycle and the development process; Arab youth and development; a future vision and a general framework for youth policies.

To access the bulletin:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/main.asp?division=sdd> ■



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

### Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

#### Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles (Percentage)

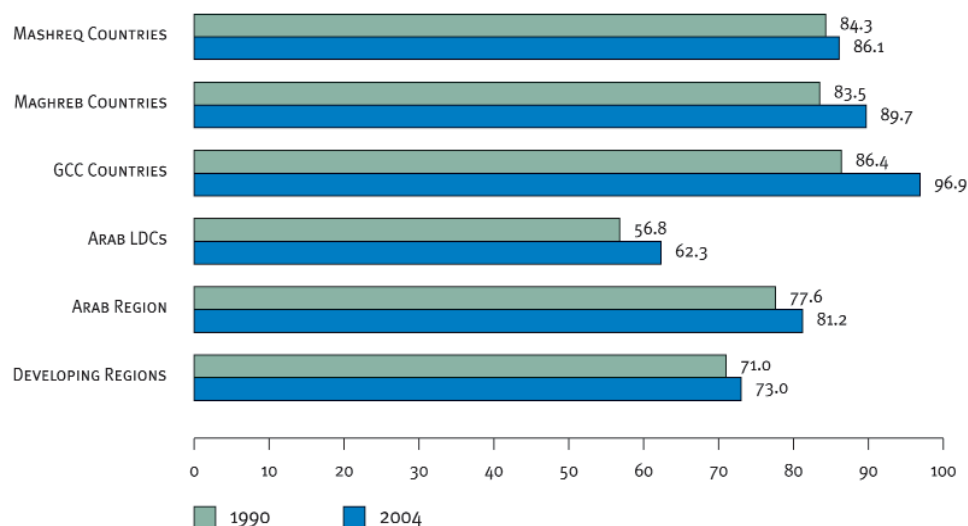
For infants, the rate of immunization is an important indicator of access to medical care and of the degree of knowledge surrounding the need for vaccination. Immunization against

measles is often the last in a series of vaccinations and would therefore indicate that the infant has access to health care and has been given the full course of immunizations. Routine immu-

nization coverage of 1-year-old children in the Arab region increased to 81.2 per cent in 2004, a number significantly above the average of 73 per cent for the developing regions.

With the exception of Iraq and Algeria, the countries of the Mashreq, Maghreb and GCC have managed to attain almost complete vaccination coverage of children. By contrast, only around 6 out of 10 children living in Arab LDCs were immunized against measles in 2004. In Somalia, immunization coverage remained below 50 per cent; while in the Comoros and Djibouti, immunization levels decreased considerably between 1990 and 2004. In countries where coverage is lagging behind, many measles-induced deaths can be prevented by making more efficient use of existing immunization services. Increasing the percentage of vaccinated children is critical for preventing disease in the community as a whole. Even those children that remain unvaccinated benefit from “herd immunity”, since immunization decreases the rate of disease transmission. ■

FIGURE 2.4.2. Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles (Percentage)



Source: The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens, UN/LAS.

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