DATA RECONCILIATION AND EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS

Improving statistical capacities; improving inter-institutional coordination to invigorate the production of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) employment indicators and improving data description (metadata); and decreasing statistical discrepancies between national and international sources, were the main objectives of the workshop held by ESCWA in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), on “MDG Data Reconciliation: Employment Indicators,” in July 2012 at the UN House, Beirut.

Participants in the meeting included employment experts and statisticians with experience on MDGs from National Statistical Offices in eight ESCWA countries, namely Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. ESCWA Statistician Neda Jaafar delivered a statement, underscoring the importance of producing and disseminating reliable MDG indicators for evidence policy making.

The Workshop is part of the project on “Strengthening National Statistical and Inter-Institutional Capacities for Monitoring the MDGs through Interregional Cooperation and Knowledge-Sharing”. The Project aims to enable countries to produce more effective and timely information-sharing and analysis. The Workshop discussions revolved around “Data Reconciliation Issues; Concepts, Methods and Sources of Data; National Monitoring and Reporting on MDG Employment Indicators; and MDG Data Coordination.”

The Workshop was concluded with a set of recommendations on reconciling national data with international sources; enhancing data sharing and availability; increasing data and metadata dissemination; and strengthening coordination at the national, regional and global levels.

INTERNS AT ESCWA SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

Within the framework of giving visiting interns the opportunity to share their experiences with Staff Members, ESCWA Staff Council launched a series of talks in August 2012, given by Nour Rashid, James Pinho, Alisson Minor and Jamal Haidar.

Rashid, an intern in the Social Development Division (SDD), gave a lecture on the service learning model in Canadian universities and her personal experience while working for a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Bangladesh. For their part,
FACTS AND FIGURES:
Regional Profile of the Information Society in Western Asia 2011

The ESCWA region is set on bridging the digital divide

The development of the information society in the ESCWA region encompasses many different facets and variables. Broad trends are very promising; most countries are performing better now than six years ago. The rates of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) adoption and use are higher, costs are lower and more attention is being given to the ICT sector.

According to the 2011 edition of the Regional Profile of the Information Society in Western Asia, the ESCWA region has taken significant steps towards bridging the digital divide and building the information society. The prominence of ICTs throughout the region has grown; telecommunication penetration rates have drastically increased, and the adoption of broadband technologies is on the rise. Consequently, the region has witnessed a growing adoption and use of ICT applications and e-services, and a greater participation of Governments and other stakeholders in building the information society.

In addition, significant investments are underway to increase integration with regional and global communication networks. These efforts will make it easier for ESCWA member countries to address impeding issues such as access to information and knowledge, capacity-building, and the increase of digital Arabic content.

Source: Compiled by ESCWA based on data from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database – 2011.