



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Workshop on Social Indicators with Emphasis on the
Millennium Development Goals and Indicators
Beirut, 20 June 2003

INFORMATION NOTE

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03-0459

INFORMATION NOTE

In September 2000 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/2 in which 189 countries and over 147 heads of state signed the Millennium Declaration. The Millennium Declaration strongly reiterates the commitment of countries to a number of inter-related development goals, with poverty at the top of the list. These goals are not meant to replace or precede national development priorities or other international agreements, but rather serve as a broad platform for priority areas in development. The development goals targeted in the Millennium Declaration include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and meeting the special needs of Africa.

In addition to the eight goals, the Declaration establishes eighteen measurable targets to be achieved by the year 2015, using 1990 as the base year. To measure and evaluate progress towards these targets forty-eight indicators were selected. Indicators for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are necessary for tracking progress on the national level and for producing regional and global estimates of progress in human development. Member states are expected to collect and disseminate data on the progress towards achieving these goals and targets through country reports.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is planning to hold a one-day workshop on the Millennium Development Goals, targets and indicators, following its Workshop on Gender Statistics as a Tool for Policy Formulation and Analysis. The workshop will take place at the United Nations House in Beirut on 20 June 2003.

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop aims to:

1. Raise awareness on the MDGs and their indicators. This includes:
 - International and national commitment to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and the relevance of the MDGs to development challenges in the ESCWA countries;
 - Importance of tracking and monitoring progress towards the MDGs;
 - Overall review of MDG indicators.
2. Identifying means of tracking and monitoring progress toward achieving the MDGs. This includes:
 - Revision of current status of regional and country MDG data and indicators;
 - Mechanisms of MDG monitoring – identification of existing and potential sources of MDG data;
 - ESCWA support/coordination with countries in building MDG monitoring systems and databases.

B. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will include statisticians from national statistical offices, development experts from national and regional organizations as well United Nations specialized agencies such as ILO, UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO etc...

Participants are kindly asked to submit their nomination by **1st May 2003**. The registration form is provided in **Annex 1** and will be made available on-line. Each participant is asked to fill it in and return it to Ms. Nadine Shaar, either by email at nshaar@escwa.org.lb, or by fax +961-1-981 510 Ext. 1488.

C. LANGUAGE

The meeting will be conducted in Arabic; Simultaneous interpretation from English to Arabic and vice-versa will be provided.

D. DOCUMENTATION

All documentation of the workshop will be made available on the Internet page of the workshop at <http://www.escwa.org.lb/information/meetings/main.htm>

E. TRAVEL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

For participants attending at the expenses of ESCWA, a copy of their national passports should be sent to Ms. Zeina Sinno, either by email at zsinnno@escwa.org.lb , or by fax +961-1-981 510 Ext. 1428 in order to initiate the arrangements for their travel.

For processing visas, **all** participants are expected to make their own arrangements. Participants should apply to the Lebanese consulate in their country prior to departure. Information on visas could be obtained from the following link <http://www.ikamalebanon.com/info/visa.htm>.

Travel grants and daily subsistence allowances (DSA) will be made available to a limited number of participants, in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations. Other participants are expected to attend at the expense of their respective organizations.

F. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Participants are expected to make their own hotel reservations. A list of selected hotels, which have offered special UN rates, is provided in **Annex 2**. Participants are asked to send an email or a fax to the hotel of their choice with cc to Ms. Zeina Sinno (email zsinnno@escwa.org.lb, fax +961-1-981 510 Ext. 1428).

G. COMMUNICATIONS

For any additional inquiries pertaining to the workshop, you can address:

- Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Team leader
Social Statistics and Indicators
Social Development Division
Tel: +961-1-981301 Ext. 1408
Fax: +961-1-981510
Email: ahussein@escwa.org.lb

H. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEBANON

Official Name:	Republic of Lebanon
Language:	Arabic, French, English
Time:	GMT +2 in winter, GMT +3 in summer
Weather:	Typically Mediterranean, sunny and warm in summer

- Currency:** Lebanese Lira (L.L)
US Dollars are accepted everywhere. 1 US Dollar is approximately equivalent to L.L. 1,500
- Transportation:** Service taxis are available everywhere. Fares for short drives are only L.L. 1,000. For long drives to other regions, fares range from L.L. 5,000 to L.L. 15,000 depending on the distance.
Taxi fares from airport to any location within Beirut range from L.L 15,000-to L.L 20,000.
- Tourist areas:** Anjar, Baalbeck, Beiteddine, Byblos, Cedar, Jeita Grotto

Further information on Lebanon can be obtained by visiting the following link:
www.ikamalebanon.com/info/country.htm

ANNEX I

WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL INDICATORS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND INDICATORS BEIRUT, 20 JUNE 2003	ورشة عمل حول المؤشرات الاجتماعية مع التركيز على المؤشرات والأهداف الإنمائية للألفية بيروت، ٢٠ حزيران/يونيو ٢٠٠٣
REGISTRATION FORM استمارة التسجيل	
To be filled in both English and Arabic where applicable and later sent to Ms. Nadine Shaar either by email at nshaar@escwa.org.lb or by fax +961-1-981 510 Ext. 1488.	
Last name: _____ First name: _____ الاسم (بالكامل): _____	
Country/ Organization: _____ الدولة/ المنظمة : _____	
Occupation (title): _____ الوظيفة: _____	
Address: _____ العنوان: _____	
Telephone: _____ Fax : _____ رقم الهاتف: _____ رقم الفاكس: _____	
E-mail: _____ البريد الإلكتروني: _____	

ANNEX 2

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Special arrangements have been made with the following hotels for participants attending the workshop. Rates include service charges (16%) and breakfast; government taxes (10%) are excluded.

Participants are encouraged to send an email or a fax for their reservation to the hotel of their choice with cc to Ms. Zeina Sinno (email zsinnova@escwa.org.lb or fax +961-1-981 510 Ext. 1428) and should refer to ESCWA Workshop on Gender Statistics. For the hotel offering airport pick-up, the email or the fax should include the flight details including arrival and departure times.

- Le Meridien Commodore 5*****

Single Room: \$65

Hamra street-Beirut

Tel: +961-1-350 400, Fax: 961-1-345 806

Email: sales@lemeridien-commodore.com

Contact name: Mr. Tarek Ammache

Free airport pick-up/airport drop-off provided

- Holiday Inn Dunes 4*****

Single Room: \$60

Verdun street-Beirut

Tel: +961-1-792 111, Fax: 961-1-792 333

Email: sales@holidayinn-dunes.com

Contact name: Ms. Roula Mitri

Free shuttle to/from ESCWA provided

- Mayflower 4*****

Single Room: \$45

Hamra street-Beirut

Tel: +961-1-340 680, Fax: 961-1-342 038

Email: mayflo@dm.net.lb

Contact name: Mr. Mustafa Karnib