Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Resource requirement (before recosting): $4,126,700

21.57 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested within the Statistics Division. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 5 of programme 18 of the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.

Table 21.19 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

Objective of the Organization: To improve the production and dissemination of quality socio-economic statistics and indicators, including Millennium Development Goals indicators and gender-disaggregated data, in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, in particular in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(a) (i) Increased number of good practices of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics followed by the national statistical offices of conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed, with ESCWA assistance

Category	Resources (thousands of United States dollars) 2008-2009	2010-2011 (before recosting)	Posts 2008-2009	2010-2011
Non-post	287.8	290.2	—	—
Subtotal	**4 353.6**	**4 724.8**	**17**	**17**
Extrabudgetary	194.0	331.1	—	—
Total	**4 547.6**	**5 055.9**	**17**	**17**

21.54 The amount of $4,434,600 under posts, reflecting an increase of $368,800, would provide for the funding of 17 posts (10 Professional and above, and 7 Local level and National Officer) as indicated in the table above. The increase relates to the delayed impact of one P-5 and one National Officer posts established effective January 2009 in the context of General Assembly resolution 63/260 on development-related activities.

21.55 The requirements under non-post resources of $290,200, reflecting an increase of $2,400, would provide for other personnel-related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff.

21.56 Extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $331,100 would assist in the development of e-services in Arabic in local communities, contribute to the development of the digital Arabic content industry in Western Asia and establishment of ICT incubating facilities for promoting the digital Arabic content industry, and build the capacity of national statistics offices and statistics units in ICT establishments. The projected increase in extrabudgetary resources is a result of the anticipated funding of new and existing projects on digital Arabic content.

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Objective of the Organization: To improve the production and dissemination of quality socio-economic statistics and indicators, including Millennium Development Goals indicators and gender-disaggregated data, in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, in particular in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(a) (i) Increased number of good practices of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics followed by the national statistical offices of conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed, with ESCWA assistance

	Performance measures: 2006-2007: 60 good practices Estimate 2008-2009: 70 good practices Target 2010-2011: 80 good practices (ii) Increased number of national statistical offices following good dissemination practices in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, with ESCWA assistance *Performance measures*: 2006-2007: 2 national statistical offices Estimate 2008-2009: 4 national statistical offices Target 2010-2011: 6 national statistical offices
(b) Enhanced capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate relevant, timely, reliable and comparable economic and social statistics and indicators, including Millennium Development Goal indicators and gender-disaggregated data, in compliance with international standards and recommendations	(b) (i) Increased percentage of core statistics and indicators disseminated by member countries *Performance measures*: 2006-2007: 40 per cent Estimate 2008-2009: 60 per cent Target 2010-2011: 70 per cent (ii) Increased number of new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations implemented by national statistical offices, with ESCWA assistance *Performance measures*: 2006-2007: Not applicable Estimate 2008-2009: Not applicable Target 2010-2011: 13 new and/or revised international statistical standards and recommendations (iii) Increased percentage of statistical experts who applied the knowledge and skills gained through ESCWA training at the national level

Performance measures:

2006-2007: 20 per cent

Estimate 2008-2009: 35 per cent

Target 2010-2011: 50 per cent

External factors

21.58 The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) member countries are willing to produce and disseminate their statistical data; (b) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources; and (c) minimum political stability and a secure working environment is prevalent, with sufficient political stability to facilitate a cooperative environment among member countries in the region as well as effective implementation of technical cooperation.

Outputs

21.59 During the biennium 2010-2011, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: parliamentary documentation: report on the ninth session of the Statistical Committee;

(ii) Statistical Committee:

a. Substantive servicing of the ninth session of the Committee (6); substantive servicing of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee (2);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report of the Task Force on Population and Housing Censuses; report on the Millennium Development Goals and gender indicators; report on the progress achieved towards strengthening the national capacities in the ESCWA region;

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings on: development of national statistical systems; data and metadata reporting and dissemination; gender statistics; measuring employment and its socio-economic implications in ESCWA member countries; and national accounts and economic statistics;

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: *Bulletin on Population and Vital Statistics* (2); *Bulletin on Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries*; *Bulletin on National Accounts in the ESCWA Region* (2); *Compendium of Environment Statistics in the ESCWA Region*; *Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators*; *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region* (2); and *Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region* (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: a statistical report; and study on economic statistics in the ESCWA region: sources and methods;

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: ESCWA Statistics Pocket Book (2); gender in figures in the ESCWA region; regional handbook on data and metadata reporting and dissemination; regional handbook on gender indicators in the Millennium

Development Goals; statistics newsletter (2); and wallchart on the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCWA region;

(iv) Technical material: maintenance and update of the e-glossary of statistical terms; maintenance and updating of ESCWA home page on statistics; and maintenance and updating of ESCWA Statistical Information System and other United Nations databases (DevInfo);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Training courses, seminars and workshops: United Nations Development Group-ESCWA joint regional training workshop on DevInfo;

(ii) Field projects: accelerated data programme in selected ESCWA countries; capacity development in census and survey; capacity-building programme on engendering national statistical systems in Western Asia and the Middle East and North Africa region; global implementation and outreach for the System of National Accounts; and International Comparison Programme.

Table 21.20 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 5**

	Resources (thousands of United States dollars)		*Posts*	
Category	*2008-2009*	*2010-2011 (before recosting)*	*2008-2009*	*2010-2011*
Regular budget				
Post	3 677.4	3 891.3	16	16
Non-post	234.1	235.4	—	—
Subtotal	**3 911.5**	**4 126.7**	**16**	**16**
Extrabudgetary	974.5	736.0	—	—
Total	**4 886.0**	**4 862.7**	**16**	**16**

21.60 The amount of $3,891,300 under posts, reflecting an increase of $213,900, provides for the funding of 16 posts (9 Professional and above, and 7 Local level) as indicated in the table above. The increase relates to the delayed impact of one P-3 post established effective January 2009 in the context of General Assembly resolution 63/260 on development-related activities.

21.61 The requirements under non-post resources of $235,400, reflecting an increase of $1,300, would provide for other personnel-related costs, consultants, expert group meetings and travel of staff.

21.62 Extrabudgetary resources of $736,000 are intended to strengthen the capacity of statisticians for evidence-based policymaking in the region in the priority areas identified by the Statistical Committee, and provide forums and networks for statisticians to exchange information and experience in statistical work and methods which would lead to enhancement of statistical capacity in the region. The projected decrease in extrabudgetary resources is due to the completion of the project on International Comparison Programme in 2008-2009. Funding for the new phase is yet to be determined.