

**Regional Event on Using Data in Evidence-Based Decision Making:
Launch of DevInfo version 6.0 in Asia and the Pacific
Siem Reap, Cambodia
2-5 February 2010**

**Tuesday 2nd February 2010, 13.30-15.00: Parallel sessions on the use of data for policy-making
Session 2.1: Analyzing and monitoring the impact of the global economic and financial crisis,
and policy responses**

Moderator: Mr Clovis Freire, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

Panellists:

- Mr. Tep Oeun, Deputy Director-General Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, Cambodia
- Mr. Dennis Arroyo, Director, National Planning and Policy, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines
- Mr. Paul Quarles van Ufford, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF Viet Nam

This session will present an overview of the impact of the economic crisis on the social sectors in East Asia Pacific and highlight efforts to monitor this in different countries. Starting off with a brief summary of how the crisis has transmitted to the region, the presenters will then describe the efforts that have been undertaken to monitor the potential impacts on poverty, health and nutrition, education and other social sectors. The session will highlight the importance of monitoring the effects of the crisis on children and other vulnerable groups and discuss how the evidence generated from these efforts can inform the policy responses that are being formulated. Even as economic recovery is in sight, social recovery will take longer. The discussion will also address how an information system can be established which will facilitate policymakers and development practitioners to remain evidence-focused on achieving a sustainable social recovery, which will ensure that the achievement of the MDGs are not severely threatened.

Suggested questions for discussion

1. How are countries measuring the social impacts of the economic crisis, especially on vulnerable populations like children and women? What have been the achievements? What are the challenges faced in generating such evidence?
2. Are there coordinating mechanisms responsible for collecting, processing and disseminating the data generated through multiple efforts being undertaken by government departments, UN agencies and International Financial Institutions? If not, what can be done to create platforms that make this possible?
3. Is the data/information reaching intended users (usually policymakers)? If not, does the methodology or data dissemination method have to be altered to allow this to happen more effectively? How can UN agencies support this process?