

**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**

**Wednesday 3rd February 2010, 08:30-10:30: Parallel sessions on the use of data for policy-making
Session 4.1: Monitoring the progress of MDGs in Asia and the Pacific**

Moderator: Mr. Peter Leth, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Cambodia

Panellists:

- Mr. Clovis Freire, Economic Affairs Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
- Mr. Kevin Coffey, Knowledge Management Specialist and Scientific Affairs Officer, UNDP Asia and Pacific Regional Centre
- Mr. Sherif Rushdy, CMDG Consultant, UNDP Cambodia
- Mr. Michael Sheinkman, Senior Regional Programme Adviser, WFP Bureau of Asia

This session will discuss the use of MDG data for evidence-based decision making at regional, national and local levels. The presenters will share their experience in MDG monitoring and in disseminating MDG-related information for policy advisory. The session will start with an overview of the MDG monitoring at the regional level, including findings of the latest Regional MDG Report that has assessed the vulnerability of MDGs to the global economic crisis. The session will highlight some measures to make regional economies more socially resilient to economic cycles. The discussion will then move from MDG monitoring at the regional level to the national and local levels. Presenters will share their experience in monitoring hunger-related MDG indicators and the use of the Commune Database for Country MDG-based planning at sub-national level. The discussion will also address how to improve the dissemination of MDG data for evidence-based decision making and how to reduce data discrepancies between international and national agencies data.

Suggested questions for discussion

1. Is MDG 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?
2. How aligned are current policy measures and MDG indicators? What gaps need to be addressed to point development interventions in the right direction?
3. How can MDG monitoring system strengthen a focus on social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion and general wellbeing? What indicators could be used to further promote such development agenda post-2015?
4. How to address data discrepancies between international agencies and national MDG data?