

3rd Meeting of the Drafting Group on Arab MDGs Report 2010
UN House, Beirut, Lebanon
(19-24 February 2010)

Talking Points and Decisions

The main talking points and decisions of the 3rd meeting of the Drafting Group on Arab MDGs Report 2010 were as follows:

1. The drafting group reviewed the guidelines of the report and decided to re-number the chapters from 1 to 10 as follows:
 - a- Chapter 1 will be “ **The Impact of the International Financial Crisis (IFC) on the Attainment of the MDGs in the Arab Region and Policy Responses**”
 - b- Chapters 2-9 will be for the **8 MDGs**.
 - c- Chapter 10 will be as “**Summary of conclusions and recommendations**”
2. Concerning the “**Introduction**”, there will be a starting section for it and it will be composed as follows:
 - a- Foreword
 - b- Acknowledgements
 - c- Methodology
 - d- Abbreviations
 - e- Introduction
3. The drafting group agreed upon a general outline to be followed up in the chapters (2-9) i.e. the chapters on the 8 MDGs (Annex 1).
4. The meeting was informed that ESCWA, as a convener of the Thematic Working Group on Arab MDGs Report 2010, has requested the 22 Arab Countries to send along with their national report on MDGs, success stories that they would like to highlight in the report. Only selected stories will be put in the report. The deadline for this assignment is 5 March 2010.
5. The meeting went through all the comments and views given by some Arab countries and experts on the first zero draft of the chapters during and after the EGM on the Arab MDGs Report (9-11 December 2009), and agreed to take them into consideration in the revision/redrafting of the chapters.
6. On 3 January 2010, ESCWA received a formal memo from the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development in Palestine. The memo included thirteen comments/views concerning the report. The drafting group discussed thoroughly the comments and decided to take relevant action where appropriate.

7. The drafting group reviewed the comments sent by Bahrain (e-mail dated 6 February 2010) concerning Bahrain's data in the report and requested ESCWA to reply on this e-mail by asking Bahrain to provide the group with the official national data.
8. Chapter 1 on “ **The Impact of the International Financial Crisis (IFC) on the Attainment of the MDGs in the Arab Region and Policy Responses**”:
 - a- Change the title of the introduction of this chapter to be “**Arab Region in the context of the International Financial Crisis**”
 - b- Redraft the chapter in a way that 50% of it will be on the impact of IFC and 50% will be on the responses to the IFC and our analysis (projections) on the future of the crisis and mainly on policy recommendations.
 - c- Include a major section of the impact of the crisis on each MDG individually and as a whole, a matrix will be included for this purpose.
 - d- Redrafting this chapter by UNDP represented by Mr. Khaled Abou-Ismael.
 - e- Number of pages can be 25 pages.
9. Chapter 2 on Goal 1 “**Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**”:
 - a- The meeting reviewed the comments received on this chapter till 19 February 2010 and how those comments were taken into consideration.
 - b- Some data and tables need to be updated (mainly projections of IMF)
 - c- Labels in some tables need to be shown (figure 8)
 - d- Updating this chapter will be UNDP's responsibility as a lead agency of this goal
 - e- Number of pages: 15 pages
10. Chapter 3 on Goal 2 “**Achieve universal primary education**”, the meeting agreed to:
 - a- Move the part of the impact of the IFC to chapter 1.
 - b- Summarize the analysis text.
 - c- Remove poverty issues to avoid redundancy with chapter 2 on goal 1.
 - d- Dr. Ibrahim El-Souri (LAS) will redraft this chapter.
 - e- Number of pages: 12 pages
11. Chapter 4 on Goal 3 “**Promote gender equality and empower women**”:
 - a- “Primary Education” section should be coherent with goal 2.
 - b- National data tables and graphs should be removed.
 - c- “Challenges and Supporting Environment” section should be redrafted.
 - d- Sub-regional classification should be considered in data and analysis.
 - e- The meeting contacted UNIFEM (Ms. Dena Assaf) and got her approval for major changes in the chapter including reducing the pages from 27 to 10 pages.
 - f- Redrafting this chapter will be done by ESCWA with the support of Dr. Ibrahim Al-Zoubi.
 - g- Number of pages: 10 pages

12. Chapter 5 on Goal 4 **“Reduce child mortality”**:

- a- Expand the analysis in the chapter on each of the MDG 4 targets, whereby sub-regional trend analysis may be further elaborated by country-specific examples that may have had a major bearing on the trend described.
- b- Country-by-country table on U5 MR and IMR.
- c- The conclusion and policy considerations/recommendations, should actually focus on policy-oriented recommendations as to the types of interventions/programmes/policies should be adopted by the countries in the Region to improve performance on the MDG 4.
- d- With regard to U5 MR and IMR and immunization coverage (1 - 2 pages), not directly linked to the economic crisis. The existing two paragraphs will be included in the first chapter of the Report on the impact of the economic crisis on the attainment of the MDGs in the Arab Region
- e- Revision of the chapter is UNICEF’s responsibility as the lead agency of this goal.
- f- Number of pages: 10 pages.

13. Chapter 6 on Goal 5 **“Improve maternal health”** :

- a- Data will be verified and updated.
- b- “Challenges” section will remain as a major part of the chapter.
- c- “The impact of the crisis” section will be summarized as it will be tackled in details in chapter 1.
- d- Updating this chapter will be UNFPA’s responsibility as a lead agency of this goal
- e- Number of pages: 12 pages.

14. Chapter 9 on goal 8: **“Develop a global partnership for development”**:

- a- Include a summarizing paragraph that states the story of the chapter.
- b- State the 2 major worldwide events in ODA part; Monterrey International Conference (2002) and the World Summit (2005), where donor countries made pledges and didn’t meet them.
- c- Highlight that HIPC initiative should benefit all LDCs and not be limited to some.
- d- Check percentages of ODA; intra-Arab aid.
- e- Highlight that Arab region is receiving the lowest ODA/capita.
- f- Updating this chapter will be ESCWA’s responsibility as a lead agency of this goal with the support of Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl.
- g- Number of pages: 20 pages

15. The meeting agreed upon a time table for the way forward in the production of the report (Annex 2).

Annex 1
Draft Outline of the Chapters (2-9)

Section I:

Title of the Goal (Bold Large font)

Summarizing paragraph for the goal as a whole

Introductory paragraph (or 2) introducing the regional context and what is the goal about

Smaller font: number and title of the target

Summarizing statement for progress in the attainment of each target indicator

- Tracking progress
- Achievements
- Set backs
- Challenges

Section II:

Conclusion and policy considerations (recommendations)

Annex 2
Time Table for the production of the Arab MDGs Report 2010
As agreed by the Drafting Group in its 3rd Meeting (UN House, Beirut, 19-24 February 2010)

Activity	Responsible Agency	Deadline
Submission of the Introduction	ESCWA	15 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 1	UNDP	15 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 2 (Goal 1)	UNDP	1 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 3 (Goal 2)	LAS	4 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 4 (Goal 3)	ESCWA with Mr. Abdallah Al-Zoubi	15 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 5 (Goal 4)	UNICEF	1 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 6 (Goal 5)	UNFPA	1 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 7 (Goal 6)	WHO	10 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 8 (Goal 7)	UNEP	1 March 2010
Finalizing revised draft 1 of chapter 9 (Goal 8)	UNDP & ESCWA	10 March 2010
Identification of CVs of international consultants (Report Editor)	UNICEF and UNDP	1 March 2010
Selection of the report editor	Drafting Group	5 March 2010
Contracting procedure for the report editor	ESCWA	20 March 2010
Identification of CVs of a translator (Mohammad Sabra)	LAS	24 February 2010
Contracting procedure for the translator	LAS	10 March 2010
Submission of the finalized chapters to the translator	LAS / Drafting Group	Starting 1 st March 2010
Finalizing the MDG draft chapters in Arabic	LAS with the translator	20 March 2010
Peer reviewing of the MDG draft chapters in Arabic	LAS	25 March 2010
Submission of draft individual MDG chapters in Arabic to the Arab countries	ESCWA/LAS	2 April 2010
Deadline for Arab Countries to send their comments/views on the 1 st draft of the MDG chapters	Arab States	20 April 2010
Consolidation of feedbacks from Arab countries for respective chapters	ESCWA	27 April 2010
Revising the chapters according to Arab states and TWG members comments in English	Lead Agencies	5 May 2010
Revising the chapters according to Arab states and TWG members comments in Arabic	LAS, UNDP, & ESCWA	10 May 2010
Consolidation of the final draft of the report in English	The editor	15 May 2010
Consolidation of the final draft of the report in Arabic	LAS / The translator	20 May 2010
Submission of the final report to the Arab Social Ministers Council	LAS	End of May 2010
Launching of the final report	ESCWA / LAS	TBI (June 2010)
Preparation for a round table meeting in the New York summit in September 2010	ESCWA / LAS / TWG	July – September 2010