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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

**ESCWA
TECHNICAL COOPERATION MENU:
DELIVERING A BROAD RANGE OF
EXPERTISE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES**



United Nations
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Technical Cooperation and Capacity Development

The Technical Cooperation Programme is a natural extension of the normative and analytical work of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA). Through that Programme, ESCWA provides advisory services and technical support for member countries and development partners to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Member countries themselves define the scope of action and services in the areas of social and economic development, sustainable development and productivity, information and communication technology, statistics, empowerment of women, and emerging and conflict-related issues.

To fulfil its mission, ESCWA adopts two mechanisms of action and intervention. **The first mechanism** is a biennial plan of action including programmes and activities such as conducting studies and research, holding regional seminars and meetings, and analysing priorities and needs in consultation with member countries.

The second mechanism is the Technical Cooperation Programme which supplements the regular programme by providing member countries with services in specific areas.

The Technical Cooperation Programme aims to **assist member countries in establishing development strategies, strengthening human resources and disseminating knowledge and information** in the required fields by supporting and implementing policies to respond to sensitive and emerging socio-economic issues, to accelerate progress in the fulfilment of regional and global commitments by member countries, to build knowledge-sharing networks between member countries, to strengthen South-South cooperation and to implement innovated field projects.

Technical cooperation services are provided for member countries in the form of:

- (a) Policy advice and technical support (advisory services);
- (b) Capacity-building and knowledge sharing (workshops, fellowships and study tours);
- (c) Pilot field projects.

Technical cooperation activities are managed through the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC), the Development Account (DA) and extrabudgetary resources including the Trust Fund.

This technical cooperation (TC) menu provides a brief overview of the various services available to member countries under RPTC and how these can be accessed.

ESCWA Technical Cooperation Services

The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation is available to all 14 ESCWA member countries, based on demand. Coordinated through the network of TC focal points established in 2007, ESCWA responds to requests for technical cooperation through its regional advisors, technical staff and its network of consultants.

ESCWA employs regional advisors in different areas of expertise based on member country priorities and emerging needs. In 2011, ESCWA employed six regional advisors in the areas of:

- Environment and Water;
- Social Policy;
- The Millennium Development Goals;
- Information and Communications Technology;
- National Accounts and Economic Statistics;
- Empowerment and Advancement of Women.

Regional Advisors are available to provide services to member countries upon request, providing Governments with policy advisory services, technical support and training in their respective areas of expertise.

The Technical Cooperation Network web portal provides detailed information on technical cooperation activities in ESCWA. Member countries are encouraged to visit the website to view biographies of the ESCWA regional advisors, the names of the TC focal points in each member country and download the forms and details related to submitting a request. The web portal also provides TC focal points with regular information and updates on the latest missions and upcoming country plans.

How to Get Technical Cooperation Services

- Visit the TC Network web portal, and download the relevant forms;
- Identify and specify the exact terms of reference for the assistance required;
- Consult with the national TC focal point in your country;
- Send your request through the TC focal point to the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Division in ESCWA.

Contact us: Technical Cooperation Section
Tel.: 00961-1-981301
Fax: 00961-1-981510/11
E-mail: escwa-tc@un.org
Web portal: www.escwa.un.org/divisions/pptcd/TCNetwork/

Sustainable Development and Productivity

The subprogramme of sustainable development and productivity is the responsibility of the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD), and employs a specialized Regional Advisor on Environment and Water. The SDPD programme is focused on achieving **integrated sustainable management of natural resources in the region, with emphasis on water, energy and the production sectors**, while incorporating climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on capacity-building and provision of advisory services – including assessment, monitoring and evaluation – in the following areas:

- National and regional strategies, policies and legislation on sustainable development issues;
- Promotion of sustainable development through green economy and support for transition to a green economy;
- Integrated water resources management, including assessment and protection;
- Shared water resources management, including legal, institutional and technical aspects;
- Integrated land resources management and a sustainable livelihood approach;
- Environmental cooperation and management in the areas of natural resources management, trade and its impact on the environment, regional environmental strategies and action plans, as well as multilateral environmental agreements;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and measures;
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Regional integration and energy networks;
- Sustainable production and consumption patterns;
- Small and medium-sized enterprise development.

Social Development

The subprogramme of social development is the responsibility of the Social Development Division (SDD) and employs a specialized Regional Advisor on Social Policy. The SDD programme is focused on **promoting rights-based social policies and institutional mechanisms that advance an equitable and inclusive process of social development** using globally-recognized best practice. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on capacity-building, provision of advisory services and assessment in the following areas:

- Integrated social policies, national development plans and intersectoral social protection policies;
- Social sector strategies, including strategies to promote the integration of youth, the aged, labour migrants and marginalized groups;
- Mechanisms to strengthen social assistance, social insurance and social protection policies and programmes;
- Poverty reduction strategies and pro-poor development plans;
- Participatory approach to social development and public policy formulation, including partnership and consensus building between Government, civil society and local communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of development policies and programmes;
- Urban development strategies, socio-economic revitalization of historic areas and housing policies;
- Establishment of social and urban observatories;
- Preparation and analysis of national human development reports.

Economic Development and the Millennium Development Goals

The subprogramme of economic development and the Millennium Development Goals is the responsibility of the Economic Development and Globalization Division (EDGD) and employs a Regional Advisor on MDGs. The EDGD programme is focused on **promoting economic development towards the achievement of MDGs through appropriate macroeconomic policies, adequate financing for development and the promotion of regional integration**, including transport and trade facilitation. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on capacity-building and provision of advisory services in the following areas:

- National economic development plans, including assessment of investment strategy, industrial strategy and external-debt levels;
- Sound macroeconomic policies, including monetary and fiscal policies, that promote sustainable pro-poor economic growth in support of MDG achievement;
- Economic forecasts at country and regional levels for macroeconomic policy formulation and analysis, including the impact on the economy of changes in oil prices and exports;
- Trade policies, trade negotiations and trade-facilitation measures, in particular the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiation process and regional integration agreements;
- Labour demand and supply analyses and intraregional labour flows;
- Transportation infrastructure and associated needs of the economy;
- Tailored MDG policies and plans customized to the national and local contexts;
- MDG reports at the regional, subregional, national and subnational levels;
- MDG training based on international best practice in the area of implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Information and Communications Technology

The subprogramme of information and communications technology is the responsibility of the Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD), and employs a specialized Regional Advisor on ICT. The ICTD programme is focused on **narrowing the digital divide and building an inclusive, people-centred information society and knowledge-based economy** in the ESCWA region in line with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on the provision of advisory services – including assessment, monitoring and evaluation – in the following areas:

- ICT strategies, policies and action plans at both institutional and national levels;
- E-Government plans, actions, policies and strategies;
- Data centres and computer emergency response team applications;
- Integration of ICT in various aspects of Government operation, including tourism, education, and culture;
- Information management and such related considerations as ICT applications, infrastructure, databases, knowledge systems, strategic planning and feasibility analysis;
- ICT as a means for promoting balanced socio-economic development and regional integration, including ICT sector development;
- Support for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;
- ICT development indicators and measures of the information society;
- E-services development and impact, including evaluation at national and regional levels;
- Promotion of an ICT-enabling environment through cyberlegislation and digital Arabic content;
- National science, technology and innovation strategies and measurement.

Statistics

The subprogramme of statistics is the responsibility of the Statistics Division (SD), and employs a specialized Regional Advisor on National Accounts and Economics Statistics. The SD programme is focused on **improving the production, harmonization and dissemination of quality demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators**, including indicators on societal development and progress towards development goals, gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators. The ultimate aim is to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on capacity-building and provision of advisory services in the following areas:

- National strategies, policies and programmes for the development and harmonization of statistics;
- Basic data sources (censuses, sample surveys and administrative reporting systems) and their utilization;
- Production and dissemination of quality socio-economic statistics and indicators in all fields, such as national accounts, prices, labour market, external trade (in goods and in services), population and vital statistics, income and poverty, prices, health, education, international migration, sustainable development, particularly in the field of energy and environment;
- Monitoring of progress towards the achievement of MDGs and other internationally-agreed development goals;
- Measurement of gender disparities, the contributions of women to development and the differential impact of policies on women and men;

- International best practice in survey planning and management, including sampling and questionnaire design, and the collection, editing, analysis, documentation, archiving and safe dissemination of data;
- Implementation of international statistical standards with focus on the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 and 2008, and measurement of the informal economy and informal employment;
- Modernization of the national statistical systems in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- Statistical information systems, namely metadata, data models and interaction between statistical systems;
- Administrative registers and statistical registers of population and businesses;
- Statistical dissemination and communication to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society.

Empowerment of Women and Gender Mainstreaming

The subprogramme of empowerment of women and the mainstreaming of gender issues is the responsibility of the ESCWA Centre for Women (ECW) and employs a specialized Regional Advisor on Empowerment and Advancement of Women. The ECW programme is focused on **reducing gender imbalances, contributing to increased respect for the rights of women provided for in international instruments and encouraging interregional knowledge exchange**. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on capacity-building and provision of advisory services in the following areas:

- Economic, social and political empowerment of women, including:
 - Increasing the participation of women in economic activities and the labour force;
 - Reducing gender imbalances, with a focus on the feminization of poverty and illiteracy;
 - Combating violence against women and gender-based violence;
 - Bridging the gap between the de jure and de facto gender-related legislation;
 - Promoting the participation of women in national and local political processes;
- Gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting in national development plans and programmes;
- National strategies and programmes focused on the advancement of women and girls;
- Institutional capacity-building and training on several related issues, including:
 - Raising awareness of international conventions related to the rights of women;
 - Preparing and evaluating national reports as requested, like that of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Conflict Mitigation and Development

The subprogramme of conflict mitigation and development is the responsibility of the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues (ECRI). The ECRI programme is focused on **mitigating the impact of conflict and its spillover effects on development** in the region that cross-cut with all other subprogrammes. Working in partnership with different United Nations and international development actors, and based on needs assessments in conflict-afflicted areas, ECRI has built up a large portfolio of projects and programmes that respond to emerging threats and potential conflicts. The technical cooperation services of ESCWA focus on capacity-building and provision of advisory services in the following areas:

- Reducing causes of conflict and providing early warning;
- Reducing the destabilizing regional impact of conflicts through formulating and implementing policies and programmes that cater to the distinct needs of conflict-affected countries;
- Improving good governance practices of public and civic institutions and enhancing the rule of law;
- Building institutional capacities in countries emerging from conflict in areas of strategic planning, management and development, and macroeconomic stability.