

Good practices in monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals: National lessons from Latin America

Pauline Stockins



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

STATISTICS

Good practices in monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals: National lessons from Latin America

Pauline Stockins



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

This document was prepared by Pauline Stockins, consultant, and coordinated by Daniel Taccari, Statistics Officer, in the Social Statistics Unit of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in the framework of activities under the ECLAC/United Nations Development Account project "Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing (ROA/146-7)".

The views expressed in this document, which has been reproduced without formal editing, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Organization.

United Nations publication

ISSN 1680-8770

LC/L.3564

Copyright © United Nations, August 2013. All rights reserved

Printed in United Nations, Santiago, Chile

Member States and their governmental institutions may reproduce this work without prior authorization, but are requested to mention the source and inform the United Nations of such reproduction.

Contents

Summary	5
I. Introduction	7
A. Defining good practices in monitoring the MDGs.....	8
B. Monitoring and reporting on the MDGs by countries of Latin America: the situation in 2012.....	9
II. Inter-agency coordination: institutional arrangements for improving MDG monitoring and reporting	13
A. Argentina. Inter-agency Commission for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals of the National Social Policy Coordination Council.....	14
B. Plurinational State of Bolivia: Inter-agency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals.....	16
C. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: political and technical coordination committees for preparation of the second MDG report	18
III. Understanding data discrepancies: increased production and dissemination of metadata in MDG country reports	21
A. Argentina: MDG metadata.....	25
B. Colombia: methodological documentation for the Millennium Development Goals	27
C. Mexico: metadata included in the Information System for the Millennium development goals.....	30
IV. Reducing the scale of analysis: monitoring and reporting on MDG indicators at the subnational level	33
A. Argentina: establishing the MDGs at the provincial and municipal levels	34
B. Brazil: MDG network of Brazilian municipalities	35
C. Colombia: the Millennium Development Goals at the local level	37
D. El Salvador: human development and the MDGs at the municipal level.....	38
E. Honduras: system of observatories for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.....	39
F. Other noteworthy initiatives	39
1. Plurinational State of Bolivia.....	39

2.	Cuba	40
3.	Ecuador	40
4.	Dominican Republic	40
V.	MDG data dissemination using online information systems	41
A.	Panama: MDG indicators module in the Integrated System of Development Indicators (SID).....	45
B.	Mexico: system for tracking and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (M&S-ODM)	46
VI.	Alignment of the MDGs with the national development plans: adapting targets and indicators to the national context	49
A.	Colombia: strategic targets for achieving the Millennium Development Goals	50
B.	Costa Rica: inclusion of the Millennium Development Goals in the National Development Plan	52
	Conclusions	55
	Bibliography	59
	Series Statistics: published issues	63
Tables		
TABLE 1	COUNTRY REPORTS PRODUCED BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO JULY 2012.....	10
TABLE 2	METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK PROPOSED BY THE INTER-AGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS.....	22
TABLE 3	METADATA INCLUDED IN THE MOST RECENT MDG COUNTRY REPORTS PUBLISHED BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES	24
TABLE 4	LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED ONLINE MDG INFORMATION SYSTEMS OR DATABASES	44
Diagrams		
DIAGRAM 1	INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (CIMDM): INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MDG MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA.....	16
DIAGRAM 2	CONSENSUS-BASED PROPOSAL OF CIMDM ON THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MDG MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA	18
DIAGRAM 3	DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FIRST MDG COUNTRY REPORT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, 2004	19
DIAGRAM 4	DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND MDG COUNTRY REPORT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, 2009	20
DIAGRAM 5	SAMPLE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON MDG INDICATORS FOR ARGENTINA: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (INDICATOR 5.1), 2011	26
DIAGRAM 6	SAMPLE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON MDG INDICATORS FOR COLOMBIA: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL POVERTY LINE (INDICATOR 1.1), 2010	29
DIAGRAM 7	SAMPLE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON MDG INDICATORS FOR MEXICO: PROPORTION OF POPULATION USING AN IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCE (INDICATOR 7.8), 2010.....	30
DIAGRAM 8	SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE MDGS CONTAINED IN THE “MARÍA TERESA OBREGÓN ZAMORA” NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2014	54
Box		
BOX 1	PRESENTING STATISTICAL DATA USING DEVINFO AND REDATAM.....	42

Summary

Much work has been carried out on the notion of good practices in many fields of development. This refers to specific initiatives (projects, programmes, experiments) that have been identified as valuable and that can be replicated with positive results in other situations.

The experiences described in this document are those in which the work of monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has served to improve the quality of statistical production and broaden its dissemination, to enhance inter-agency coordination in the area of national statistical systems, and to promote the effective use of statistics by national policymakers in order to fulfil the commitments undertaken at the Millennium Summit. These include initiatives that have improved access to and increased the use of social and environmental statistics through the production of harmonized microdata and the construction and dissemination of metadata, the mobilization of funds to produce disaggregated indicators at the subnational scale within countries, and the design of mechanisms for inter-agency coordination that have allowed better sharing of statistical information among countries, thereby improving coordination and cooperation among various national institutions. In this respect, all these initiatives have successfully used the MDGs to obtain official assistance for the promotion of statistical activity within countries.

Understanding these initiatives and processes is of particular interest at the present time, as the deadline for meeting the targets approaches and discussions about what should be done after 2015 have initiated. The intent here, then, is to identify what has worked and what has not at the national level in terms of statistical production, monitoring and reporting on the MDGs.

I. Introduction

With only three years to go before the date established for meeting the objectives and targets agreed by the international community in the Millennium Declaration, discussion has already begun on a new development agenda for the period beyond 2015. During the time already elapsed a great deal of international statistical effort has gone into monitoring and reporting on the MDG indicators, assessing the capacity of countries to measure progress towards the targets, to reduce statistical discrepancies between different information sources, and to fill the information gaps that exist particularly in countries with lesser statistical capacity. The remaining time will focus to a significant extent on proposing a post-2015 development agenda, evaluating experience and lessons learned with application of the existing monitoring framework.

While the countries of the region still face many challenges in generating information, there has been some significant progress in the ability of national statistics systems to monitor and report on the MDGs, and indeed they are much better placed for this task today than they were ten years ago. It is important to record and appreciate that progress. Accordingly, this document represents a first effort at assembling the initiatives of various kinds that Latin American countries have taken for monitoring and reporting on the MDGs. The intention is not to compile an exhaustive list of best practices, but rather to offer some examples of initiatives taken in each national and institutional setting that respond to specific challenges inherent in monitoring the MDGs. The purpose of the document, then, is to make publicly available some of the initiatives taken to improve the monitoring of the MDGs.

While some processes may be specific to a given country or development context, the sharing of knowledge and experience may offer some valuable lessons that can be applied in different scenarios.

The initiatives included here have been compiled from secondary sources, and may therefore provide only a partial view of the processes described in each case. The compilation is based on an analysis of MDG country reports and searches of the websites of national statistics offices and other agencies responsible for producing MDG country reports. It also includes information from other United Nations agencies, such as the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

and in particular the considerations and experiences put forward during the annual regional seminars hosted in Latin America by the ECLAC Statistics Division during the last five years.¹

A. Defining good practices in monitoring the MDGs

The MDGs have posed an enormous challenge for statistical development and inter-agency coordination in countries of the region in terms of monitoring and reporting on progress using a system of indicators that embraces the social as well as the economic and environmental dimensions and that can also capture the particular concerns of countries, using internationally agreed terminology and methodologies.

Despite these difficulties, the MDGs have also presented an excellent opportunity for moving forward with improvements to national statistical systems, mobilizing resources to strengthen them at the national and subnational levels, improving inter-agency coordination with respect to national statistical systems, and enhancing international comparability.

During the third meeting of the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in June 2005, ECLAC presented a document entitled "*El seguimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: oportunidades y retos para los sistemas nacionales de estadística*" ["Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: opportunities and challenges for national statistical systems"]. That publication identified the principal challenges facing national statistical systems in monitoring and reporting on the MDGs, as well as the political, strategic and technical opportunities that this work opened to national statistical systems and national statistics offices. It also offered some suggestions for improving this monitoring and taking advantage of the opportunities.

In line with that approach, the experiences discussed in this document are those where the work of monitoring the MDGs has served to improve the quality of statistical production and expand its dissemination, to improve inter-agency coordination with respect to national statistical systems and to promote the effective use of statistics in national policies with a view to meeting the commitments assumed at the Millennium Summit. These practices can be replicated in other situations or countries, and they offer valuable lessons for monitoring and reporting on other international summits.

Types of initiatives considered:

- First, this document describes those national information production processes that are best coordinated and articulated, and that consequently generate data which are validated and agreed among the different national institutions; these processes enhance official data and reduce statistical discrepancies and inconsistencies.
- It also includes experience in countries that have succeeded in making available timely and reliable data as the result of more rigorous processes of producing information, which include the generation of methodological documentation and notes. This has promoted the use of solid methodologies, ensuring the consistency of statistical series over time and their comparability across territories, and guaranteeing that final users can employ and interpret the indicators correctly.
- In addition, it presents experience in countries that have conducted MDG monitoring at the subnational scale, which has not only strengthened the diagnostic and monitoring capacities of the institutions working at the local level but has also, in many cases, reinforced "ownership" of the MDGs by the State and by civil society and the mobilization of resources for moving towards the proposed targets.
- It also considers national initiatives that contribute to the dissemination of relevant data in areas covered by the MDGs, making information available online so that people can obtain

¹ See [online] www.eclac.cl/mdg/actividades/default.asp?idioma=IN.

data promptly and effectively, and presenting systematized and documented information for a set of indicators.

- Lastly, it addresses experiences from countries that have produced synergy between the MDGs and national development policies, demonstrating that the effective use of timely information and empirical evidence can provide a better response to the demands of public policy, making efficient use of public resources and also ensuring greater transparency in decision-making.

There is a consensus to the effect that in order to project ourselves into the future we must retrace the road already covered, and the experience acquired with the MDGs is instructive here. The MDGs succeeded in awakening the world's conscience to development issues, and in particular to the need to eradicate poverty. In the statistics area, the stress was on the need to strengthen statistical capacity, to make official statistics more robust, and to generate statistics that are comparable at the national, regional and global scales. The world understood the importance of having a simple and clear monitoring framework that could track progress towards the targets and hold the authorities accountable to society as a whole. In addition, there was recognition of the need to have reliable and robust statistics to obtain a reliable picture of the phenomena and processes included in the Millennium Declaration (UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, 2012).

Now that the first ideas are taking shape as to the topics that will have to be included in the new post-2015 monitoring framework, it is possible to foresee the impact this will have on statistical systems, as well as the challenges and limitations that countries —and in particular their national statistics systems— will need to address over the medium and long term in order to have available timely and high-quality information for measuring and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda.

It is recognized that the region still has limitations with respect to producing information: information gaps remain in areas of development that are today regarded as priorities, especially in terms of environment and gender statistics. Countries will also have to make efforts to produce data that revealed the behaviour and trend of indicators for sustainable development, human rights and equity. This will bring with it the need to promote better coordination with other national agencies that have responsibilities for these issues at the regional and international levels, as part of a complex matrix of players that are already participating in monitoring the MDGs. Inter-agency coordination will thus remain crucial for monitoring the future agenda and for producing the necessary information, avoiding duplication of effort in the production of information, and generating consensus on the information to be used. For all these reasons, there is great value in assessing the experience gained and in understanding the problems to overcome.

B. Monitoring and reporting on the MDGs by countries of Latin America: the situation in 2012

The parties at the Millennium Summit agreed on the need to report progress towards the MDGs, and country reports have served as the basis for the proposals put forth by the main national political authorities at the various United Nations summits (2000, 2005 and 2010).² The MDG country reports constitute a tool for improving access to social and environmental statistics, making it possible to disseminate indicators through periodic publications. In addition, they contribute greatly to improving the relationship between what countries seek to achieve and the programmes and policies that will help them do so.

Most countries in the region began to report their progress in the middle of the last decade, and various publications are now available. Their progress has also been publicized through online information systems or public databases, thus offering greater availability of basic statistics and a

² See [online] www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/MDG/noticias/paginas/8/38778/P38778.xml&xsl=/MDG/tpl/p18f-st.xsl&base=/MDG/tpl/top-bottom.xsl

relatively complete picture of the national situation. The purpose of the MDG country reports is to provide public information on progress in national development, and to serve as a kind of mechanism for accountability, thus boosting the motivation of national stakeholders involved in decision-making and consequently consolidating joint efforts towards a more developed society. As pointed out in the “Guidance Note on Country Reporting on the Millennium Development Goals” (UNDG, 2003), country reports are supposed to stress national ownership and provide useful benchmarks for measuring progress, and they should be prepared in close cooperation with the various national agencies and with civil society groups so that they can serve as “campaign tools for advocacy and consensus-building”.

Since 2001 the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have produced a considerable number of MDG country reports providing up-to-date measures of their progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The year 2010 was particularly fruitful in terms of producing country reports, on the eve of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York in September 2010. That event, coming only five years before the deadline established for meeting the targets, inspired many countries to publish an account of their progress. Although most countries have by now published two or three reports, it is noteworthy that Argentina and the Plurinational State of Bolivia already have more than five publications in this area. Some countries have also produced MDG assessments at the local level, and in many cases have defined their national targets for meeting the Goals in accordance with their particular context, taking internationally agreed objectives and targets and adapting that global perspective to the national one and even the local one, consistent with each country’s or region’s development priorities and conditions, and linking them to their own development plans.

TABLE 1
COUNTRY REPORTS PRODUCED BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO JULY 2012

Country	Year of publication	Total number of reports	Author or coordinator of the latest MDG country report
Argentina	2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010	6	National Social Policy Coordination Council (CNCPS)
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010	6	Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE), Inter-agency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals (CIMDM)
Brazil	2004, 2005, 2007, 2010	4	Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) and Secretariat of Planning and Strategic Investment (SPI/MP)
Chile	2005, 2008, 2010	3	Ministry of Planning (MIDEPLAN), United Nations system in Chile
Colombia	2005, 2008	2	National Planning Department (DNP), United Nations system in Colombia
Costa Rica	2004, 2010, 2011 ^a	3	Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, United Nations system in Costa Rica
Cuba	2004, 2005, 2010	3	Government of the Republic of Cuba, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, National Economic Research Institute
Ecuador	2004, 2007	2	Government of Ecuador, National Planning and Development Secretariat (SENPLADES)-, United Nations Development Programme in Ecuador (UNDP), Millennium Social Research Centre (CISMIL)
El Salvador	2004, 2005, 2007, 2009	4	Government of El Salvador, United Nations system in El Salvador
Guatemala	2006, 2008, 2010	3	Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the President’s Office, Republic of Guatemala
Haiti	2004, 2009	2	Ministry of Economy and Finance, Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information (IHSI)

Table 1 (concluded)

Country	Year of publication	Total number of reports	Author or coordinator of the latest MDG country report
Honduras	2003, 2007, 2010	3	Government of Honduras, Office of the President, United Nations system in Honduras.
Mexico	2005, 2006, 2011	3	Specialized Technical Committee of the Information System on the Millennium Development Goals (CTE-SIODM), Office of the President of the Republic, United Nations system in Mexico
Nicaragua	2003, 2004	2	United Nations system in Nicaragua
Panama	2003, 2005, 2009	3	Social Cabinet of the Republic of Panama, United Nations system in Panama
Paraguay	2003, 2004, 2010	4	Social Cabinet, Office of the President of the Republic
Peru	2004, 2008, 2009, 2010	3	National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), United Nations system in Peru
Dominican Republic	2004, 2005, 2008, 2010	4	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development
Uruguay	2003, 2005, 2009, 2010	4	Ministry of Social Development, National Council on Social Policy (CNCPS)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2004, 2010	2	Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, Ministerial Board on Social Affairs, Ministry of People's Power for Planning and Development, National Statistics Office

Source: Prepared by the author using data from www.eclac.cl/mdg.

^a The document published in 2011 was an advance bulletin.

II. Inter-agency coordination: institutional arrangements for improving MDG monitoring and reporting

Addressing social policies within the national territory and complying with international commitments require articulation and coordinated actions among the various institutions that produce and use statistical information, so as to strengthen mechanisms for inter-agency dialogue, organization and work, and to achieve synergy in the use of technical and financial resources. Given the diversity of statistical and sectoral agencies involved in producing, monitoring and reporting on the MDG indicators, inter-agency coordination is a very important factor for improving the relevance, coverage and quality of statistics for better reporting on achievements and pending challenges.

While countries of the region still face some important challenges in this area, they have in fact made considerable progress over the last few years. The production of MDG country reports has been accompanied by the implementation of various mechanisms for inter-agency coordination (construction of platforms, committees or roundtables on the MDGs) that have enabled the coordination of work on the various issues included in the Millennium goals, thereby facilitating the transfer of information from institutions that produce statistics to those that design and implement public policies. This has served to identify more accurately the information that policymakers need to make decisions and to allocate funds.

This joint construction of statistical information among various agencies need not be confined to monitoring the MDGs in a particular country. It can be used on a pilot basis for meeting other needs of inter-agency coordination, ensuring the timeliness and quality of statistical flows between producers, compilers and users of information, both in the country and further afield (Quiroga, Stockins and Azócar, 2010).

In region's experience of constructing inter-agency platforms, a key role has been played by the agencies responsible for monitoring domestic policies and international commitments, such as the social or planning ministries or presidential offices (which have typically taken the leadership in producing the report), as well as the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as instigators of these coordination processes.

National statistics offices are playing an increasingly significant role, however, even in those cases where they are heavily involved, efforts should be multiplied to incorporate them into the processes at an earlier stage, not only to validate the information already agreed, but also to help select the most reliable and timely indicators for reporting progress. As with any initiative for monitoring cross-cutting themes, the institutions that must be involved in these inter-agency coordination efforts are determined by the topics reflected in the component variables of the indicators and targets with which a given national policy is to be monitored. Nevertheless, it is clear that these processes are strengthened by the participation, expertise and statistical skills contributed by the national statistics offices³ for producing better-quality statistical bases, MDG indicators and methodological documentation, the raw material for analysing progress and calibrating interventions (Quiroga, Stockins and Azócar, 2010).

The practices described below include coordination mechanisms created ad hoc for preparing specific reports within countries, as well as inter-agency committees that have undertaken to move the MDG issue forward within countries, serving as natural and permanent articulators for the various institutions that are involved, or should be involved in monitoring the MDGs.

A fundamental challenge is to make permanent the process of coordination established for producing the MDG country reports, thereby ensuring permanent dialogue between domestic producers and users of statistics.

A. Argentina: Inter-agency Commission for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals of the National Social Policy Coordination Council⁴

A noteworthy aspect of Argentina's experience was the early institutionalization of the MDGs in that country. As early as 2003 the government publicly defined its policy as a strategy for achieving the Goals as they applied to Argentina, and published its first MDG country report. The following year the National Social Policy Coordination Council (CNCPS) was named the coordinator responsible for monitoring the MDGs, and in 2005 the Inter-agency Commission for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals was established as a permanent body within CNCPS.

Since then, the Council, through the Inter-agency Commission, has been the agency responsible for keeping the issue on the national agenda, monitoring the MDGs in Argentina, and promoting efforts to achieve them, both at the government level and within society in general.

The overall objective of CNCPS is the articulation, planning and strategic coordination of the national government's social policies. The actions carried out with respect to the MDGs have served to increase institutional understanding of and commitment to those Goals, strengthening the operational alliance with the national ministries and with the national statistical systems in order to consolidate monitoring of the MDGs and to prepare and publish reports evaluating the achievement of the goals in Argentina.

The Inter-agency Commission for Monitoring the MDGs comprises more than 10 national institutions involved in the country's political and social decisions, including the Social Cabinet, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Production, the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services, and the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC).

³ Some interesting initiatives have emerged from the national statistics offices themselves, such as the reports by Cuba and Peru in 2008. These reports evaluate the MDGs in figures, and are thus geared less to the design of public policies and more to the statistical tracking of success towards achieving the MDGs. These publications are notable for the quality and quantity of the information they present and their breakdown of data from various information sources (see the bibliography).

⁴ Based on www.politicassociales.gov.ar/odm/index.html.

The Commission has thus promoted inter-agency efforts to define and redefine the Targets and monitor their indicators; it has built consensus on the metadata for each indicator, articulating the national statistical system with a view to standardizing concepts, definitions and methodologies, and it has coordinated the production of the national, provincial and municipal reports. Since 2010, it has developed and maintained the online MDG information system.

The specific tasks of the Commission are:

- To keep the issue of the MDGs on the national political agenda
- To maintain the commitment of government and society to achieving the goals
- To collaborate in the joint effort to define and redefine the targets and to monitor their indicators
- To disseminate comprehensive information on the results obtained from monitoring the MDGs
- To work with the national statistical system to standardize concepts, definitions and methodologies
- To coordinate production of the MDG country reports and metadata

As part of CNCPS, INDEC has played a key role in harmonizing indicators at the national and provincial levels, and has also incorporated proxy indicators to replace or supplement those that are difficult to calculate, identifying as well indicators that will provide input for defining policies for achieving the targets at the national level. The functions of the INDEC include analysing the methodological aspects involved in preparing the indicators, identifying information gaps and the need for new surveys, and reviewing the quality of sources, working together with the statistics units of other national institutions and with the provincial statistics offices to prepare and disseminate the MDG indicators at the subnational level (Petetta, 2012).

One important result of this coordinated work was the production of metadata for the indicators as a process for generating consensus and achieving coordination among the different institutions producing and using statistical information on the MDGs. This process strengthened information sharing and cooperation among the parties and helped to solidify the inter-agency agreements, establishing a collaborative work mode that would strengthen the national statistics capacity (Rodríguez, 2012). Another important achievement has been progress in MDG reporting and monitoring at the provincial and municipal levels, as described in section IV of this document.

Within this framework, CNCPS, with support from the UNDP office in Argentina, has so far produced six MDG country reports and has also assisted with monitoring and reporting at the provincial and municipal levels.⁵ To this end it has signed agreements with subnational agencies and provided technical cooperation and assistance in order to improve assessments of the current situation, adapt the targets to provincial and municipal realities, and monitor the MDGs regularly. In recent years, as part of the process of disseminating and localizing the Goals, the Council has encouraged the involvement of the Argentine academic sector, as a result of which the Plenary Session of National University Rectors approved a Declaration of Support for the activities of the Council in April 2011. Since that time a number of universities have sponsored activities, reflecting their commitment to achieving the MDGs.

The success of this experience is attributable to various factors, including an early partnership with UNDP Argentina and the establishment of a coordinating body within a public agency with convening power and with a system of inter-agency articulation already in place.

The overall, permanent objective of CNCPS is the articulation, planning and strategic coordination of the national government's social policies, and it is therefore an ideal body for monitoring and promoting efforts to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals, raising institutional knowledge of and commitment to the MDGs, strengthening operational partnerships with the national ministries, and

⁵ See [online] www.undp.org.ar/odm_arg.html.

with the national statistical system, in order to consolidate monitoring of the MDGs and to prepare and publish reports evaluating progress in achieving the Goals in Argentina.

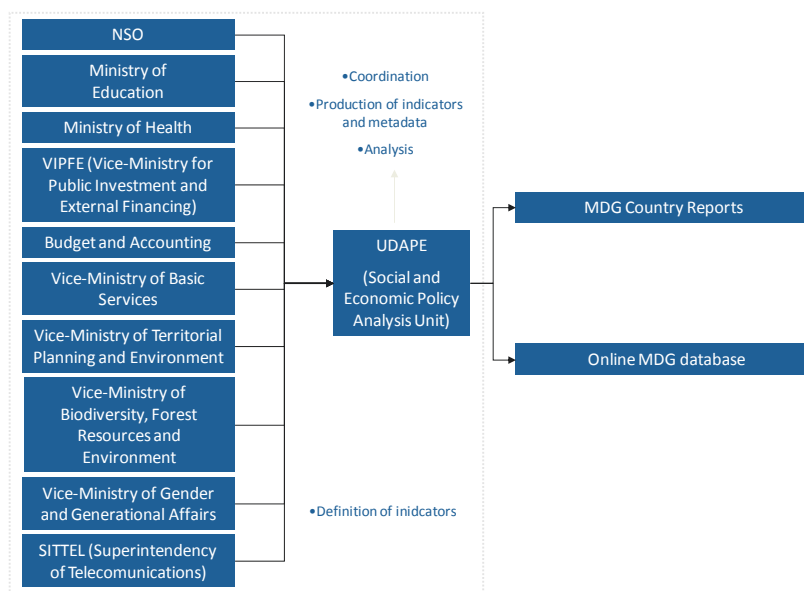
The main challenges ahead have to do with maintaining achievements over time, continuing to transfer experience to the provinces and local governments, covering statistical gaps and improving sources based on administrative records, producing statistical information at greater levels of territorial disaggregation, and pursuing work to identify sources and harmonize methodological guidelines to allow interprovincial comparisons (Rodríguez, 2012).

B. Plurinational State of Bolivia: Inter-agency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals⁶

In 2001 the UNDP office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia began the task of monitoring progress towards the MDGs, publishing two reports produced with the support of the National Statistics Institute (INE) and the Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) of the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Subsequently, in mid-2004, the Bolivian authorities from the social sector, with international cooperation support, set up the Inter-agency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals (CIMDM), tasked with generating information, and analysing and promoting policies for achieving the MDGs. CIMDM is headed by UDAPE and initially comprised technical bodies in the social sectors (health, education, and water and sanitation), the National Statistics Institute and the Vice-Ministry of Public Investment and External Financing and the Vice-Ministry of Budget and Accounting. Since 2006, its membership has included the Vice-Ministry of Gender and Generational Affairs, the Vice-Ministry of Territorial Planning and Environment, and the Vice-Ministry of Biodiversity, Forest Resources and Environment.

DIAGRAM 1
INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (CIMDM): INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MDG MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA



Source: Ronald Pardo, Lecciones y desafíos del CIMDM: generación de información, análisis y promoción de políticas orientadas al logro de los ODM. Paper presented at the regional seminar on progress and challenges in reconciling statistics for the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Latin America, Buenos Aires, 5-6 November 2009.

⁶ Based on www.udape.gob.bo/.

Although CIMDM is not a permanent committee, it has organized technical groups in the ministries concerned to produce the MDG reports and in this way has ensured the flow of up-to-date information for preparing the progress reports. The intermediate activities involve processing data, constructing indicators, estimating shortfalls with respect to the targets, identifying sector interventions, and preparing proposals for achieving the targets.

With the support of international cooperation, CIMDM has prepared and published to date six MDG progress reports for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for the years 2001, 2002, 2003-2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010, relating welfare outcomes with the social and economic policies adopted. In a complementary manner, the UNDP office prepared a thematic document on the MDGs and indigenous peoples (2006) and a methodological document on the selection of indicators for monitoring the MDGs (2005).

In 2007, UNDP, with participation by the Ministry of Development Planning and the prefectures, prepared departmental MDG reports focusing on 16 indicators defined by CIMDM. In 2010 and 2011, UDAPE and the United Nations country office also prepared bulletins on MDG progress at the departmental and national levels, in order to inform and share knowledge about the social situation in the country. Those progress reports have helped to systematize understanding of the MDGs and to establish a baseline on the human and social development situation in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The Bolivian government has demonstrated its strong commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by including them in the national debate, in public policies and in national development plans in the decade starting in the year 2000 (EBRP 2003, National Development Plan 2006) and by institutionalizing the process of monitoring the MDGs from an early stage through the creation of CIMDM; that commitment is also reflected in the sustained nature of the government's efforts over time (UDAPE, 2010).

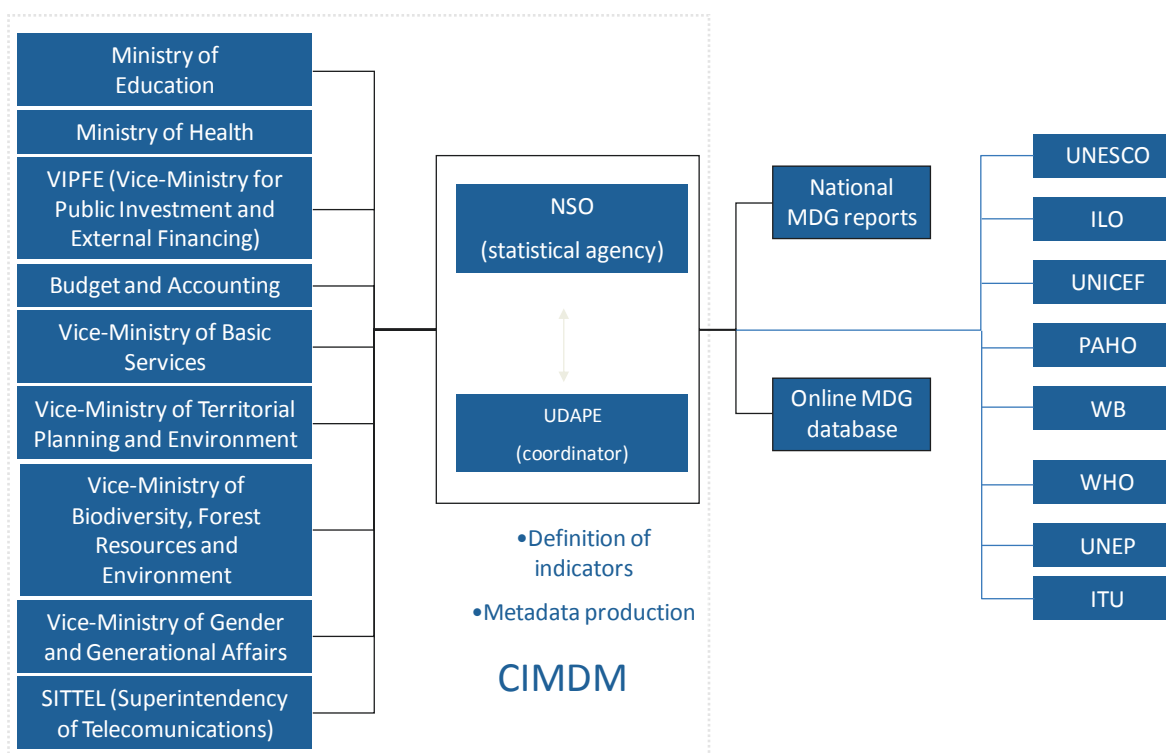
CIMDM offers a good example of the strategic alliance of political will and technical cooperation among various public agencies and the United Nations system in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (OECD, 2010). Although the process was launched with strong support from the United Nations system, UDAPE, as the leading partner, has shown great leadership capacity and a real commitment to the continuous monitoring of the MDGs.

According to an OECD study (2010), the lessons learned from CIMDM include the contribution to creating a development monitoring culture in the country, improved information systems, and greater inter-agency coordination. The concepts and indicators relating to the MDGs have constituted substantive tools for measuring the country's development progress, and the effort made by UDAPE in its "MDG Municipal Atlas" (2007), the social and economic information reports of 2009 and 2010 and the contents of the sixth MDG progress report (2010) are a reflection of this situation.

Among the outstanding challenges is the need for greater involvement by the National Statistics Institute, which, because of financial constraints, high staff turnover and technological limitations, still has difficulty in generating timely information disaggregated by department. As well, the lack of continuity in certain line ministries because of frequent personnel turnover limits their effective representation within CIMDM. It is also difficult to build consensus among all stakeholders on the sources and methodologies for calculating some of the indicators, and on the need to improve inter-agency coordination and information-sharing with international agencies (Pardo, 2009).

In light of the foregoing, UDAPE has recommended greater participation by the National Statistics Office both in defining the indicators and in constructing the metadata, working jointly with UDAPE to prepare the country reports and to provide input for the MDG database. This would also improve the flow of information to and from international agencies.

DIAGRAM 2
CONSENSUS-BASED PROPOSAL OF CIMDM ON THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MDG MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA



Source: Ronald Pardo, *Lecciones y desafíos del CIMDM: generación de información, análisis y promoción de políticas orientadas al logro de los ODM*. Paper presented at the regional seminar on progress and challenges in reconciling statistics for the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Latin America, Buenos Aires, 5-6 November, 2009.

C. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: political and technical coordination committees for the preparation of the second MDG report⁷

As of 2012, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had produced two MDG country reports. In contrast to the 2004 report, which was prepared by the Social Cabinet and the United Nations system in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a more participatory and coordinated approach was adopted for the 2010 report, with the Executive taking on a greater commitment both to the preparation of the report and to achieving the MDGs. In addition, it placed greater emphasis on the quality and rigour of the statistics used in the report, incorporating its own targets and providing assistance to improve institutional capacities for preparing the indicators and enhancing the statistical information sources at the subnational levels.

Two coordination bodies were formed; one for political coordination and the other for technical coordination, with early and substantive involvement by the National Statistics Institute.

⁷ Based on Reyes, Luis Jerónimo (2009), "República Bolivariana de Venezuela: La coordinación institucional, estado actual y avances en el planeamiento del próximo Informe País". Paper presented at the first meeting of the member countries of the Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals of the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas, Buenos Aires, 28-30 September 2009.

The political coordination role was taken on by the Ministerial Board on Social Affairs and chaired by the Minister of People's Power for Education. This board comprised the following:

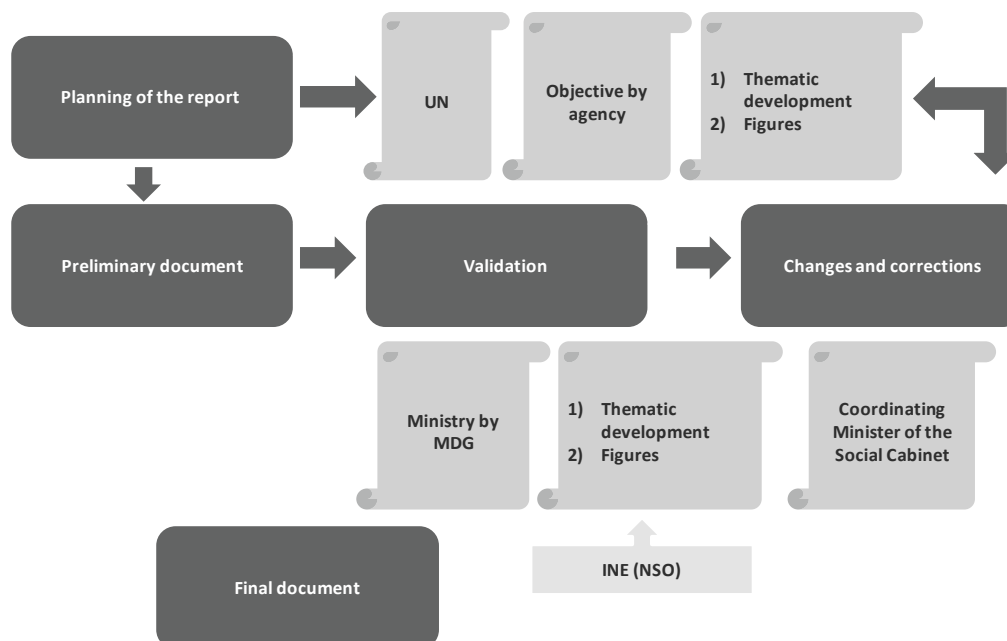
- Ministry of People's Power for Labour
- Ministry of People's Power for Education
- Ministry of People's Power for Higher Education
- Ministry of People's Power for Health
- Ministry of People's Power for Science and Technology and Light Industries
- Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equality
- Ministry of People's Power for Planning and Development
- Ministry of People's Power for the Communes
- Ministry of People's Power for Indigenous Peoples
- Ministry of People's Power for Sports
- Ministry of People's Power for Public Works and Housing

The tasks of the Coordination Board include assigning roles for preparing the report, defining policy guidelines for the report, casting the report in terms of national development plans, working on the strategy for achieving the MDGs, and incorporating national goals, thus providing clear evidence of the government's efforts to overcome social gaps.

The Ministry of People's Power for Planning and Development, together with the national statistics office, is responsible for technical cooperation. These agencies are in charged of preparing the report and planning the strategy for collecting and validating the data.

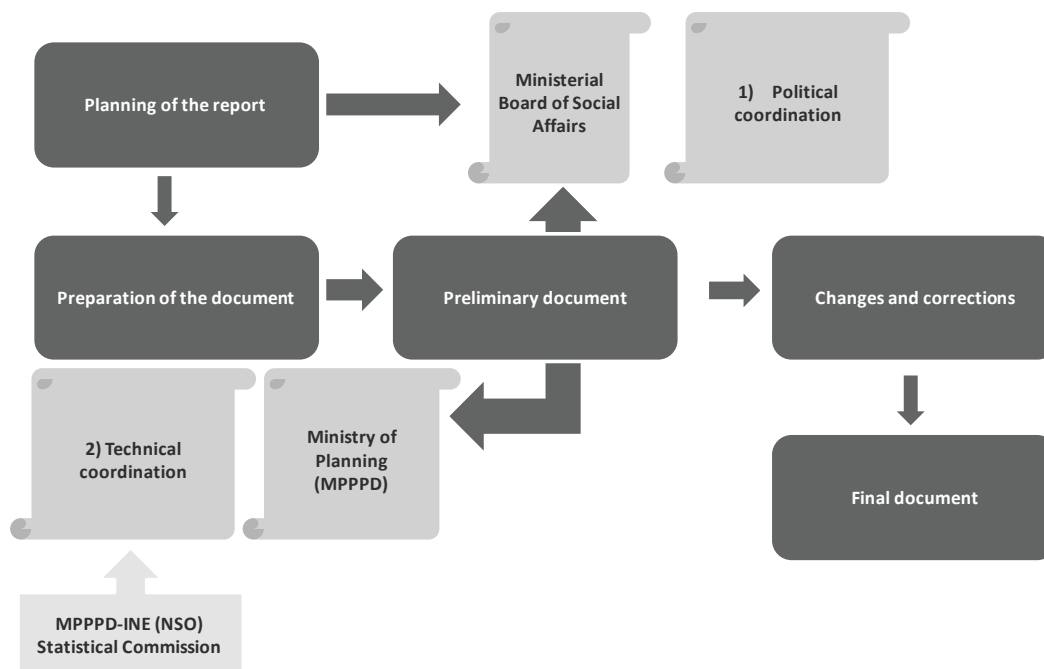
In addition to coordinating the preparation of the methodological documentation, the National Statistics Institute strengthened statistical capacities and conducted an assessment of statistical needs, investigating possible alternative sources of information for indicators for which no data were available.

DIAGRAM 3
DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FIRST MDG COUNTRY REPORT OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, 2004



Source: Luis Jerónimo Reyes "República Bolivariana de Venezuela: La coordinación institucional, estado actual y avances en el planeamiento del próximo Informe País". Paper presented at the first meeting of member countries of the Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals of the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas, Buenos Aires, 28-30 September 2009.

DIAGRAM 4
DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND MDG COUNTRY REPORT OF
THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, 2009



Source: Luis Jerónimo Reyes “República Bolivariana de Venezuela: La coordinación institucional, estado actual y avances en el planeamiento del próximo Informe País”. Paper presented at the first meeting of member countries of the Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals of the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas, Buenos Aires, 28-30 September 2009.

III. Understanding data discrepancies: increased production and dissemination of metadata in MDG country reports

Statistical metadata or "information on the information" are structured data that describe the statistical information with respect to its contents, quality, condition and other characteristics.

The benefits of such data are varied and widely known, and over time increasing emphasis has been placed on their production and dissemination. The metadata for the indicators constitute a key tool for ensuring the transparency of the statistics and giving them the status of official data. By revealing the methodological aspects of the indicators and the statistical procedures applied, the release of metadata encourages the use of solid methodologies and suitable statistical procedures throughout the process, from data collection to data validation. On the other hand, metadata can improve the consistency of statistical series over time and ensure comparability between different territories, thus promoting the unification of concepts and statistical terminology as a vehicle for better communication and understanding among all stakeholders in the statistical information system (Gardner, 2012).

The dissemination of reliable metadata also guarantees that final users can employ and interpret the indicators correctly, and also makes it possible to determine whether data from different sources can be combined and related.

The production of metadata, then, is of particular importance for MDG statistics, which are reported simultaneously at different scales and have to reflect quantitative targets, which means that statistical discrepancies occur frequently.

Beyond the realm of MDG statistics and with a view to facilitating the harmonization of official statistics, in recent years there have been many global and regional initiatives to compile information on national metadata practices, with aspects relating to the collection, processing, storage, dissemination and proper use of statistical data. Most of these initiatives have been accompanied by the development of so-called statistical metadata systems or meta-systems that constitute an essential source of information for the proper use of the data reported (Ortega, 2009).

The emergence of mass data sharing in recent years has given even greater importance to metadata, especially with the increasing use of statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX) which, through a set of commonly recognized standards, allows the exchange of data and metadata. As a result, agencies concerned with MDG issues have launched various activities to generate more and better metadata.

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators has been working to promote the improvement and better documentation of the statistical standards and methods needed to analyse the MDG indicators. The United Nations Statistics Division, which coordinates this group, has managed to systematize the information provided by various agencies, gradually generating metadata of better quality. The first metadata were published in 2003, providing basic information for 48 indicators, although they are still inadequate for gaining an accurate understanding of the methodology used by the agencies and, in particular, for countries to produce indicators in accordance with the standards and methods recommended. This publication was subsequently updated in the light of the list of indicators introduced in January 2008: this latest version is available only in electronic format and in English. It incorporates the new indicators from 2007 and not only provides metadata with more information but also includes new information fields that are deemed very important for understanding data discrepancies. These are: (a) sources of discrepancies between global and national figures, (b) treatment of missing values (by international agencies), and (c) regional and global estimates.

Over the last couple of years a new, a revised version of the indicators manual has been under discussion. It will be better suited to countries' specific needs and will include practical examples, while embracing all the new indicators introduced since 2008. It is expected to be launched by the end of 2012.

TABLE 2
METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK PROPOSED BY THE INTER-AGENCY AND EXPERT GROUP ON
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS

Field	Description
Description and Methods of Computation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Description of what is being measured statistically. (b) Description of the algorithm used in the calculation of the indicator on the basis of national data sources, providing the mathematical formula if applicable. (c) Description of all statistics used to derive the indicator such as normalizing and weighting variables (for instance, the population). (d) Description of the possible ranges of values of the indicator and their interpretation. The analysis of the results should give specific emphasis to the monitoring of progress towards the goal and target addressed.
Rationale and interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Description of the relevance of the indicator to the target and goal addressed and of the ways to interpret the data. (b) Explanation of potential implications for policy-making.
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Definitions of concepts and technical terms included in the description and methods of computation. (b) Reference to standards and classifications.
Sources and data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) List of all data sources at the national level from which information for the indicator could be collected, including the advantages and limitations of each source and highlighting those sources that are preferable in terms of comparability over time. (b) Details on how the indicator can be compiled on the basis of various data sources normally available in countries, including some practical examples. (c) List of national agencies that normally produce the data necessary to compile the indicator. (d) Indicate for each source, the time intervals for which the indicator is typically measured and reported at the national level. (e) Description of problems in data collection and methods of compilation that might affect the quality and reliability of the data, in each of the sources considered (for example, difficulties in asking people in surveys about contraceptive methods used, need to use interviewers of the same sex as the respondent, etc.).

Table 2 (concluded)

Field	Description
Disaggregation	List of all ways the indicator can be disaggregated (that are computable and relevant), such as: urban/rural area, age, sex, geographical region, race/ethnicity, income, etc. When relevant, this would include a brief explanation of the methodologies commonly used to produce disaggregated data for the indicator. It should also include references to techniques, best practices and examples.
Comment and limitations	(a) Brief description of overall limitations of the indicator for measuring progress towards the goal and target addressed, such as those resulting from the coverage of sources, definition, presence of wide confidence intervals (as for maternal mortality ratios), comparability issues, etc. (b) Details on additional non-official indicators, if any, that could be used to overcome some limitations for tracking progress of the goal and target addressed. Include a brief explanation of why and for which national contexts this(these) additional indicator(s) could be used.
Gender issues	(a) Description of gender inequalities that can be highlighted and monitored by the indicator and their causes and consequences. (b) Description of biases that can be introduced in the compilation and interpretation of the indicator due to limitations in data collection methods. (c) Description of cases where gender issues might affect interpretation or other aspects of the indicator.
Data for global and regional monitoring	(a) International data sources. Information on the agency responsible for the indicator at the international level and criteria used by the international agency to select specific national data sources. (b) International comparability. Description of the process of adjusting country data to allow international comparability (adjustments such as: to a standard classification, age group or to comply with a specific international definition). List of issues that might affect comparability across countries. (c) Discrepancies between national and international data. Explanation of the main reasons for discrepancies between data and metadata used for national and global monitoring to improve understanding by users of the differences between country-level data disseminated through the MDG global database and those available in country MDG databases.
References	List of publications where users can find information on the indicator. When possible, this includes a brief description of the content of the publication and provides hyperlinks to documents and relevant websites that present information on the indicator.

Source: Fourteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators, 28-30 October 2008 (ESA/STAT/AC.165/5). Draft outline of the updated version of the publication "Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: Definitions, Rationale, Concepts and Sources".

While the first country reports produced in the region contained little in the way of methodological references, those published by the majority of Latin American countries since 2007 include methodological annexes with varying levels of detail that allow the reader to understand the main characteristics of the indicators used (see table 3). In addition to the printed publications, the online information sites now serve as a recurrent platform for disseminating metadata, and are increasingly offering methodological documentation together with databases from the various statistical information systems used in national organizations as well as regional and international agencies. Despite this progress, the information contained in the published methodological notes is frequently inadequate for understanding fully the potential discrepancies between national and international data production or clarifying the possibilities for regional comparison of the indicators. It should also be noted that countries have encountered some problems in the process of producing metadata, reflecting the difficulty in reaching consensus among all stakeholders on the source and methodology for calculating some of the indicators. It is important, then, to highlight some national processes where real efforts have been made to achieve exchange and cooperation among the parties involved, thus helping to put existing inter-agency agreements on a more solid footing, to strengthen collaborative work among the various government bodies, and to reinforce the national statistics capacity.

TABLE 3
METADATA INCLUDED IN THE MOST RECENT MDG COUNTRY REPORTS PUBLISHED
BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Country	Year	Report	Includes metadata
Argentina	2010	National Social Policy Coordination Council, Office of the President (2010). <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Rendición de Cuentas 2010.</i>	This report does not present metadata, but the National Social Policy Coordination Council, Office of the President, has to date published two independent reports with metadata for the MDG indicators: (1) <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Metadata. Adaptación Argentina 2007. Definición, cálculo y análisis de indicadores.</i> (2007); (2) <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Metadata argentina. Versión revisada en 2011. Definición, cálculo y análisis de indicadores.</i> (June 2012)
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2010	Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE), Inter-agency Committee on the Millennium Development Goals (CIMDM) (2008). <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en Bolivia. Quinto Informe de Progreso 2008.</i>	Includes basic background on each of the indicators in the annexes to the report (<i>Anexo 3. Notas técnicas: Metodología de cálculo de indicadores</i>). The UDAPE website offers access to more detailed information on methodological aspects. See [online] www.udape.gov.bo/ODM/ODM.asp
Colombia	2008	National Planning Department (DNP), Office of the President, United Nations (2008). <i>Colombia. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Segundo Informe de Seguimiento 2008.</i>	The latest report does not contain methodological notes, but a document to this effect (<i>Fichas Metodológicas. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio ODM. 2010</i>) was included in the report <i>Documento: Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social, República de Colombia, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (2011), Modificación a Conpes social 91 del 14 de junio de 2005 "Metas y estrategias de Colombia para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio – 2015", Conpes Social 140, Bogotá.</i>
Costa Rica	2010	Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, United Nations system (2010). <i>Costa Rica. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. II Informe País 2010.</i>	The printed publication does not contain metadata, but methodological notes accompany the poverty and employment indicators presented in Costa Rica's updated System of Indicators for the Millennium Development Goals. www.inec.go.cr/cgibin/RpWebEngine.exe/PortalAccion?&MODE=MAIN&BASE=ODM
Cuba	2010	Government of the Republic of Cuba (2010). <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Tercer Informe 2010.</i>	The latest report does not contain metadata, but the report of the National Statistics Office (2008). <i>"Evaluación en cifras. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio a nivel local. Una mirada desde la región oriental de Cuba"</i> has a full chapter with technical notes on the official and additional indicators used by Cuba.
El Salvador	2009	Government of El Salvador, United Nations system in El Salvador (2009). <i>El Salvador. Segundo Informe de País. Sin excusas...Alcancemos los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en el 1015. Bases para el Plan de Cumplimiento.</i>	The document contains a chapter entitled: <i>Manual para el seguimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio para El Salvador</i> describing the methodological background for each of the indicators used in the publication. There is also an appendix on methodology and sources of data for the projections.
Guatemala	2010	Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the President's Office (2010). <i>Tercer Informe de Avances en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.</i>	Includes an annex with methodological notes on each indicator in each chapter of the report.
Honduras	2010	Government of Honduras, United Nations system in Honduras (2010). <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio Honduras 2010. Tercer Informe de País.</i>	Contains an annex with the definition and source of information for the indicators used.

Table 3 (concluded)

Country	Year	Report	Includes metadata
Mexico	2010	Office of the President of the Republic, (2011). <i>Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Informe de Avances 2010. Estados Unidos Mexicanos.</i>	Contains a complete annex with methodological notes on the official and additional indicators used by Mexico. As well, the online information system presents detailed information for calculating the indicators, including the statistical series of variables used for constructing the indicator.
Panama	2009	Social Cabinet of the Republic of Panama, United Nations System in Panama (2009). <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Tercer Informe de Panamá 2009.</i>	The 2009 report does not contain methodological notes, but the analysis incorporates conceptual and methodological references for the indicators. In addition, the Integrated System of Development Indicators kept by the INEC offers a brief methodological note for each official MDG indicator.
Peru	2010	National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) and United Nations system in Peru (2010). <i>Perú. Evolución de los Indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio al 2009.</i>	The aggregated database that INEI maintains online presents a brief methodological note for each indicator. See [online] www.inei.gob.pe/Sisd/index.asp
Dominican Republic	2010	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development (2010) <i>Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Informe de Seguimiento 2010. República Dominicana.</i>	The National System of Integrated Development Indicators (SINID) maintained by the National Statistics Office has a section on MDG indicators containing methodological notes for all the indicators.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2010	Bolivarian Government of Venezuela (2010). Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. <i>Cumpliendo las Metas del Milenio 2010.</i>	The report contains an annex entitled <i>Fichas metodológicas de indicadores</i> presenting the metadata for the official indicators used in the report. The Integrated System of Social Indicators (SISOV), maintained by the Ministry of People's Power for Planning and Finance (which coordinates the country report) contains methodological notes for each of the indicators. www.sisov.mpd.gob.ve/home/index.php

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of MDG country reports and websites of institutions participating in the preparation of those reports.

A. Argentina: MDG metadata

As noted above, Argentina has to date produced six country reports, coordinated by the National Social Policy Coordination Council (CNCPS) and produced by the Inter-agency Commission for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, in collaboration with UNDP Argentina.

The report published in 2005 already included a methodological annex, which was improved and expanded for the 2007 edition and turned into an independent publication. The methodological document was prepared with a view to facilitating exchange between data producers and users, enabling interprovincial, interregional and international monitoring across time periods, and guiding the calculation of indicators at the provincial and local levels.

Real efforts have been made to achieve exchange and cooperation among the parties involved, thus helping to put existing inter-agency agreements on a more solid footing, to strengthen collaborative work among the various government bodies, and to reinforce the national statistics capacity.

In 2011 CNCPS published a new document with metadata for the MDG indicators in Argentina. That document, produced by the Inter-agency Commission for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, seeks to give the reader an understanding of the basic concepts and methodological tools used in the design, calculation and analysis of MDG monitoring indicators. It highlights the importance of using

methodological tools rigorously at each stage of the process of constructing the indicators so as to ensure their conceptual and technical soundness (CNCPS, 2011).

This new publication is based on a revision of the metadata published in 2007, reflecting the early achievement of some of the goals and the need to consider new goals and indicators consistent with the agreements reached at various United Nations summits and conferences. This version presents the full set of 55 indicators, grouped by MDG. Each is accompanied by its own technical note containing the definition, calculation methodology, available disaggregations, and sources of information and comments for each of the indicators. It also presents indicators for future inclusion (indicators that are relevant but currently not feasible, as the technical notes are not yet available), additional indicators (to be used when appropriate and when data are available), and indicators for monitoring at the municipal level (CNCPS, 2011).

The metadata provide, for each indicator, basic information on the following aspects:

- Definition
- Rationale for use
- Method of calculation
- Data source
- Periodicity and coverage
- Comments and limitations

DIAGRAM 5
SAMPLE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON MDG INDICATORS FOR ARGENTINA: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (INDICATOR 5.1), 2011

[Text translated from original Spanish]

➤ **Maternal Mortality Ratio**

DEFINITION. The maternal mortality rate is the number of maternal deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, per 10,000 live births.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) recommends considering as well “late” maternal deaths (deaths that occur more than 42 days but less than one year after the termination of pregnancy), but these should not be included in calculating the maternal mortality rate, for purposes of national and international comparison.

RATIONALE. The maternal mortality rate reflects the risk of maternal death during pregnancy, labour or puerperium. This indicator allows the monitoring of deaths related to pregnancy.

Maternal mortality is influenced by various factors such as general state of health, education, sanitation, nutrition, general socioeconomic conditions, and care during pregnancy and childbirth

METHOD OF COMPUTATION. The maternal mortality rate is calculated by dividing the number of deaths from maternity causes among the female population of a given geographical area in a given year by the number of live births in the same area and period, expressed as 10,000 live births.

$$\text{MMR} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from maternity causes among the female population of a given geographical area in a given year}}{\text{Number of live births in the same area and period}} \times 10,000$$

Diagram 5 (concluded)

Maternal deaths can be divided into two groups:

- Direct obstetric deaths resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state (pregnancy, labour and puerperium); from interventions, omissions, incorrect treatment; or from a chain of events resulting from any of these.
- Indirect obstetric deaths resulting from previously existing diseases, or diseases that developed during pregnancy, which were not directly due to obstetric causes, but were aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.

DATA SOURCE: Vital statistics registries. Directorate of health statistics and information, Ministry of Health. These are available at the national, provincial and departmental levels. See Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE. The vital statistics are available on an annual basis. Since 1994 there has been only one year's difference between the collection of data locally and the publication and dissemination of those data nationally. For a country with a federal political and administrative system, this delay could be considered insignificant, and it has not recurred since implementation of the National Health Statistics Programme (Ministry of Health, 2005).

The MMR is available at the national, provincial and departmental levels. The Health Statistics and Information Directorate (the national level of the Health Statistics System, responsible for permanent recording of vital statistics in Argentina) publishes the MMR annually for the national and jurisdictional level. Given technical limitations relating to population size, and in line with international recommendations, absolute frequencies are presented for the departmental level. For periods longer than one year, the rates can be calculated at the departmental level for those with low frequency of vital data.

COMMENTS AND LIMITATIONS. Maternal mortality is frequently underestimated because of shortcomings in the medical certification of the cause of death. This happens in developed countries as well as in developing countries.

Source: National Social Policy Coordination Council, Office of the President, Argentina, UNDP (2012): *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: Metadatos argentina. Versión revisada en 2011. Definición, cálculo y análisis de indicadores*. Buenos Aires

B. Colombia: methodological documentation for the Millennium Development Goals

Colombia has to date produced three MDG country reports. The most recent of these was the result of a participatory process headed by the National Planning Department (DNP) with wide participation by various national institutions, including the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

DANE participated in the production of various inputs for calculating the MDG indicators. It also launched work to regulate the statistics not produced by DANE, and has made significant progress in constructing methodological notes for the indicators that are part of the MDGs (DANE, 2009).

As part of its inter-agency work with DNP and ECLAC, and in order to comply with the CONPES 91 of 2005,⁸ in the period between 2008 and 2009, DANE moved forward with production of basic information and provided its support, as the lead statistical entity, in calculating the various indicators for measuring and monitoring the MDGs. In addition, it supported the preparation of methodological notes for each of these indicators. Lastly, DANE took part in discussions in the various workshops and assisted in preparing the country document (DANE, 2009).

⁸ Colombia officially adopted its MDG strategy as established in a document entitled, "Las metas y estrategias de Colombia para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio -2015" ["Targets and strategies of Colombia for achieving the Millennium Development Goals - 2015"] (Conpes Social 91), on 14 March 2005. The document presents the world goals and the particular goals for Colombia, which are part of a general strategy for achieving greater equity in Colombia via targets that place special emphasis on the regional and local levels, including as well the strategies needed to achieve each of the Goals. The document includes methodological notes for each of the indicators proposed.

Consistent with its information regulatory functions, DANE has analysed sources and prepared metadata for each of the indicators, with a view to achieving progressive unification and complementarity both in the sources and in the calculation of the indicators. It now has a set of technical notes or metadata for each of the MDG monitoring indicators.

The metadata provide, for each indicator, basic information on the following aspects:

- Definition
- Unit of measurement
- Calculation formula
- Methodological description: method of computation
- Geographical coverage
- Data source
- Data availability
- Data periodicity
- Periodicity of the currently available time series
- Entity responsible for producing the information
- Bibliography
- Observations

Preparation of the technical notes was the responsibility of DANE, in cooperation with the National Planning Department (DNP) and the participation of professionals from the following agencies, among others: Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, the Institute for Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) (DNP, 2008a). In this process determined efforts have been made to achieve exchange and cooperation among the parties involved, thus strengthening existing inter-agency agreements, facilitating collaborative work among the various government bodies and reinforcing the national statistics capacity.

Subsequently, the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES) coordinated the revision and production of a methodological document with notes on the indicators, to accompany a new CONPES document (No. 140) and subsequent country reports.⁹ The methodological notes relate to definition of the indicator, coverage, periodicity, production source, baseline and target values for each indicator.

In addition, new targets have been defined, with projections to 2015, for those indicators where this was necessary, for example the poverty indicators for MDG 1 (percentage of persons living in extreme poverty, percentage of persons living in poverty, percentage of persons with daily incomes of less than US\$1.25) and health indicators for MDGs 4, 5 and 6 (infant mortality rate, under-5 mortality rate).

Lastly, new indicators were analysed and included, for example, in connection with MDG 1, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition or stunting the percentage of children with a low birth weight, the rate of informal employment, the proportion of the employed population with a daily income of less than US\$ 2 (purchasing power parity (PPP)), the proportion of the employed population with a daily income of less than US\$1.25 (PPP) and the national unemployment rate (DNP, 2008a).

⁹ In 2011, amendments to the Conpes Social 91 document of 2005 were put to the consideration of the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES). New indicators were included and the original baselines and targets for some of the indicators were adjusted.

DIAGRAM 6
SAMPLE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON MDG INDICATORS FOR COLOMBIA: PERCENTAGE
OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL
POVERTY LINE (INDICATOR 1.1), 2010

1. Percentage of persons living in extreme poverty

International target:

Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

National target:

Target 1. Reduce by half the number of persons living in poverty and extreme poverty

Definition:

Percentage of persons with incomes below the monthly value of the extreme poverty line.

Baseline for the indicator:

Value: 20.40%

Year: 1991

Source: National Planning Department, DNP, Social Development Directorate, Sub Directorate for Social Promotion and quality of life, based on the household surveys of the National Administrative Department of Statistics - EH - DANE

Target: 8.80%

Unit of measurement: percentages

Percentage

Calculation formula:

$$I = H/N$$

Where:

H = persons with incomes below the extreme poverty line (number of persons).

N = total population (number of persons).

Methodological description:

It is obtained by dividing the number of persons with incomes below the extreme poverty line by the total population.

Disaggregation:

Geographical: National.

Cabeceras [regional administrative centres].

Other.

13 areas.

Other *cabeceras*.

Sex: not disaggregated

Age: not disaggregated

Data sources:

Responsible entity: institutional arrangement to be defined. The methodology and the estimates were developed by the "Mission for linking the employment, poverty and inequality series" (MESEP), with technical support from DANE and the DNP.

Research: MESEP.

- Continuous Household Survey, ECH 2002-2005 (linked data) – DANE
- Integrated General Household Survey, GEIH 2008-2009-DANE

Available series: 2002-2005 2008-2010

Periodicity: annual

Comments and limitations:

- The series is comparable for the years mentioned. The data are not comparable with previous methodologies (different from MESEP estimates).
- Provisional figures: these can be changed once there is approval of the new methodology being developed by MESEP for estimating figures for extreme poverty, poverty and inequality.

Source: National Planning Department, Fichas Metodológicas Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, 2010.

C. Mexico: metadata included in the Information System for the Millennium Development Goals

In 2011 Mexico published its 2010 MDG country report and launched the Information System for the Millennium Development Goals, an online system with information on Mexico's progress towards the MDGs that also provides valuable information and links to global and regional MDG sites (for more information on the system, see section V).

The National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI) of Mexico already has a long tradition of producing statistical metadata and has in this respect been a pioneer in the region. Both the printed publication and the online system include methodological notes on the official indicators and additional indicators used by Mexico.

While the printed publication includes only a few fields of information for understanding the basic characteristics of the indicator, the online version offers the public a great deal of information. The system provides data classified by each of the goals, the 22 targets and the 80 indicators, with a view to offering high-quality, relevant, truthful and timely information to government and the public.

In addition to the methodological note presented below, the historical series of the component variables can be accessed and information downloaded in different formats, depending on the user's needs.

The metadata provides, for each indicator, basic information on the following aspects:

- Name of the indicator
- Definition
- Algorithm
- Source of basic statistical information
- Geographical coverage
- Periodicity
- Expected date for producing the indicator
- Date of updating
- Institution responsible for calculating the indicator
- International reference
- Observations

DIAGRAM 7 SAMPLE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON MDG INDICATORS FOR MEXICO: PROPORTION OF POPULATION USING AN IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCE (INDICATOR 7.8), 2010

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability > Target 7.C. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	
7.8. Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source, in urban and rural areas	
Name of indicator:	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source, in urban and rural areas
Definition:	Is the percentage of occupants of private dwellings with piped water into the dwelling or plot, from a public hydrant or another dwelling, relative to the total occupants of private dwellings in rural and urban areas.

Diagram 7 (concluded)

Algorithm:	<p>$POVPA = OVPA/TOVP \times 100$, where</p> <p>POVPA is the proportion of occupants of private dwellings with piped water into the dwelling or plot, from a public hydrant or another dwelling, in year t.</p> <p>OVPA is occupants of private dwellings with piped water into the dwelling or plot, from a public hydrant or another dwelling, in year t.</p> <p>TOVP is the total number of occupants of private dwellings in year t.</p> <p>T is the year 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010.</p> <p>K = N.U.R.</p> <p>N = National or Federative Entity</p> <p>U = urban, with information from localities with 2500 or more inhabitants</p> <p>O = rural, with information from localities with fewer than 2500 inhabitants</p>
Source of basic statistical information:	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), 11th, 12th and 13th General Population and Housing Census 1990, 2000 and 2010; First and Second Population and Housing Survey 1995 and 2005
Geographical coverage:	National and by federative entity, urban and rural areas
Periodicity:	Every five years, from 1990 to 2010
Expected date for generating the indicator:	Every 10 and 5 years for census and survey data, respectively
Date of updating:	1 April 2011
Institution responsible for calculating the indicator:	INEGI
Importance and usefulness of the indicator:	This indicator makes it possible to evaluate the results of public policy with respect to the coverage of piped water, an element essential for people's well-being and dignity. It also helps to dimension levels of social development and the quality of life, as it is linked to issues such as health, recognizing that access to piped water has helped reduce the incidence of gastrointestinal illnesses. Access to piped water is a prerequisite for reducing child mortality and malnutrition. The indicator can also reveal the gap between rural and urban areas.
International reference:	WHO-UNICEF. Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation. UNICEF: A Report Card on Water and Sanitation
Observations:	<p>date of the annual census:</p> <p>1990, 12 March;</p> <p>1995, 5 November;</p> <p>2000, 14 February;</p> <p>2005, 17 October;</p> <p>2010, 31 May</p>

Source: Information System for the Millennium Development Goals in Mexico. See <http://www.objetivosdesarrollodelmilenio.org.mx/odm/odm.htm>.

IV. Reducing the scale of analysis: monitoring and reporting on MDG indicators at the subnational level

There is a now growing demand for information disaggregated by geographical area, ethnic group and sex, among others, in order to assess, for example, the situation of women and gender problems or the living conditions of historically excluded groups such as indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.

With particular regard to the MDG indicators, the recommendations issued by the United Nations Statistical Commission have stressed the growing need to produce disaggregated indicators for analysing the MDG challenges, designing policies and programmes more rigorously, and achieving a more efficient distribution of resources (United Nations, 2011, 2012). National averages can conceal important differences within countries, in poorer areas excluded from the development process, and the statistics need to take these disparities into account.

Moreover, looking to a post-2015 development agenda that includes inequality as a factor limiting progress and reproducing poverty, the need for disaggregated information has become a priority challenge for national statistical systems, for taking account of the growing disparities and inequalities within countries, and for identifying and addressing the most vulnerable population groups (UN System Task Force on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, 2012).

Recognizing that much of the information needed for calculating the MDG indicators is derived from surveys, a key issue is to ensure that the sample sizes are effective for calculating the indicators, by providing representative, reliable and accurate information, especially when it comes to measuring phenomena of low incidence. On the other hand, it is essential to have reliable administrative records that will provide a constant flow of statistics at the subnational scale.

With increasing frequency, countries of the region are including different types of data disaggregation in the national-scale monitoring process, covering lower-level administrative policy areas, ethnic groups, age groups, gender etc., although generally speaking the disaggregation of information at the smaller territorial scales remains a challenge.

On the other hand, local governments themselves, in most cases supported by the United Nations (and in particular through technical and financial support from UNDP), have been preparing their own MDG reports, establishing local coordination committees and partnerships with agencies operating at the national scale, as a way not only of strengthening local diagnostic and monitoring capacities but also, in many cases, asserting "ownership" of the MDGs by the State and civil society. These processes have generally posed a great challenge to local governments: even in cases where those governments based their development on strategic plans, their design does not usually include explicit preparation of medium- and long-term targets or the use of indicators for measuring progress.

Despite the foregoing, their contribution has been substantial. The production of subnational reports has served to mobilize resources towards smaller geographical scales that are normally not part of the annual government budget. In many cases there has been financial support from various international agencies, and the national offices of some United Nations agencies are frequently involved, providing assistance in specific areas and serving as coordinating agency.

Following is a sample of some initiatives that have been identified in Latin American countries. It will be very important to continue investigating these experiences and to understand the processes of inter-agency coordination behind these initiatives, so that they can serve as a benchmark for other subnational territories.

A. Argentina: establishing the MDGs at the provincial and municipal levels¹⁰

The process of establishing the MDGs in the provinces of Argentina, promoted by the national government, began in 2005 with the objective of giving the provinces the tools for medium- and long-term planning, encouraging the dissemination of up-to-date information on the social situation, and supporting efforts to make government management more orderly and efficient. Within the Argentine federal system, the provinces have broad powers and are responsible for a large number of policy areas, particularly those that are priorities for achieving the MDGs, such as health, education and environment. The provincial authorities have decision-making responsibility for planning and administration in these areas (CARI, UNDP Argentina, 2008).

While not all experiences of instituting the MDGs in the provinces have followed the same path, they have usually involved similar processes. The starting point is to formalize an agreement between the National Social Policy Coordination Council (the MDG coordinator at the country level) and the provincial government, setting out their mutual commitment to launch the process of adapting the goals and targets to provincial realities and monitoring the MDGs over time. Once this agreement is signed, the process can begin with technical support from the MDG team of the CNCPS.

Normally, an inter-agency team will be established under the agreement, coordinated by the planning agency at the provincial level, with a mandate to produce a report that can be used as a management tool by the provincial government and as an instrument for monitoring policies applied within the territory in question. The process will be supported by professional consultants contracted with financing from UNDP Argentina, as well as the collaboration of technicians from provincial public institutions. Production of the document involves intensive inter-agency coordination, as well as input from civil society and other relevant players such as academic institutions and the private sector.

The process typically begins with an initial information meeting with the various provincial government entities, followed by thematic workshops grouping entities by Goal and assigning focal points for each ministry in each technical area of government involved in generating the information. The first versions of the document are normally produced by the institution responsible for its

¹⁰ Based on [online] <http://www.politicassociales.gov.ar/odm/provinciasymunicipios/>.

coordination, and they are subsequently reviewed by the various entities participating in preparing the report. The process usually concludes with a wrap-up workshop in which the document is officially adopted and released to the public.¹¹

By mid-2012, 17 provinces had already joined the initiative. They reveal varying degrees of progress in instituting the MDGs; some provinces have a provincial report already prepared with established targets, while others are at the stage of selecting indicators and defining targets.

Moreover, as the municipalities also have great potential to generate policy interventions that will have an impact on achieving the targets proposed for 2015, in 2008 CNCPS created, within the MDG project and with UNDP collaboration, a component to support the municipalities in preparing local MDG plans.

In 2009, CNCPS, together with UNDP Argentina, published a guide for achieving the MDGs at the local level (CNCPS, UNDP, 2009), designed to provide guidelines and methodological suggestions for incorporating the MDGs as a management and planning tool at the municipal level. The intent is to focus on issues such as strengthening management capacities, jurisdictional competencies and contextual situation analysis as key aspects for formulating and tracking targets for achieving the Goals locally.

On the basis of experience to date with the establishment and monitoring of targets at the national level, CNCPS strongly recommends establishment of an inter-agency technical team coordinated by a social planning institution or an ad hoc interministerial body that has executive functions, an administrative structure and suitable human resources available for the task. In addition to participation by various social stakeholders there must also be a public commitment on the part of all political players in order to ensure that the MDGs will in fact become State policy.

CNCPS also recommends efforts to adapt the country's Millennium targets to the provincial or municipal reality. The provinces and municipalities are assumed to be in a position to follow a procedure similar to that used by the national government and to set targets at "reasonably ambitious" levels consistent with the local problem. "Reasonably ambitious" means that the targets must not be set so low that no additional effort is needed to meet them beyond what the government was already doing, nor should they be so demanding that they are impossible to achieve, again considering the availability and quality of information over time. The subnational targets must be defined with due regard to the disparity in levels of development within the territory. The process of adapting the Millennium targets, it is suggested, should be the result of open dialogue with various social stakeholders (NGOs, the private sector, universities, labour unions etc.) who will have to see the MDGs as embodying their own aspirations for human development. Consequently, all of society must assert ownership over these goals and mobilize the available resources for disseminating and achieving them (CNCPS, UNDP Argentina, 2009).

B. Brazil: MDG network of Brazilian municipalities

Since Brazil institutionalized the MDGs in 2004,¹² the emphasis has been on involving the states and municipalities as key players, recognizing that in a country where subnational governments have a broad degree of autonomy but where there are also great territorial disparities, achieving the targets requires efforts on all sides and strong coordination between the federal level and the local governments. It is also understood that achieving the targets will only be possible if civil society is committed to participation from the outset.

¹¹ The process of adapting the MDGs to the subnational scale in the Province of San Juan offers an interesting case study. See [online] www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/MDG/noticias/seminarios/4/42584/P42584.xml&xsl=/MDG/tpl/p36f.xsl&base=/MDG/tpl/top-bottom.xsl.

¹² The Office of the President of the Republic was given responsibility for coordinating production of the MDG country reports for Brazil. It works closely with the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), responsible for technical coordination of the MDG country report, which involves as well the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), representatives of 17 national ministries and various United Nations agencies. To date, four country reports have been produced, the last published in 2010.

To encourage civil society and local governments participate and mobilize in connection with the MDGs, the federal government, with the support of UNDP Brazil, created in 2004 the National Movement for Civic Action and Solidarity, a non-partisan and pluralistic movement of volunteers devoted to achieving the MDGs in Brazil. Organized by Brazilian civil society, its purpose is to stimulate, articulate, publicize and oversee action to achieve the MDGs in a convergent and integrated manner at the national, state and municipal levels through volunteer work (Movimento Nacional pela Cidadania e Solidariedade, 2012).¹³

This movement seeks to organize civil society and the local public sector to pursue programmes and projects for achieving the Millennium goals, encouraging voluntary effort on the part of individuals and organizations. To this end it regularly hosts regional and national meetings and has sponsored training for civil society representatives via courses and distance workshops and seminars. It has a website to keep the public informed of the latest activities and to provide materials for achieving the MDGs in Brazil. Its work is organized through a National Executive Board (principal and deputy), a Mobilization Secretariat (principal and deputy) and seven regional coordinators. It also has core units at the state, regional and municipal levels that bring together public and private entities, civil society organizations and individuals committed to achieving the MDGs. These core units carry out their work programmes independently but in harmony with the regional coordinators (Movimento Nacional pela Cidadania e Solidariedade, 2012).

The municipalities have also organized their own MDG network (Rede ODM Brasil), and in 2009 they launched a website (see [online] www.portalodm.com.br), as a new tool for monitoring the MDGs at the local level. This portal was developed and is maintained by the Sustainability Indicators Regional Base Observatory (see [online] www.orbis.org.br), a privately funded civil society organization. UNDP is coordinating the initiative, which also receives support from UNICEF, from civil society groups and from the National Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management. Other government institutions, private firms and United Nations agencies are also participating in the initiative.

The portal provides indicators for monitoring achievement of the MDGs in the 5,564 Brazilian municipalities. The purpose of the site is to provide policymakers with information on what their cities are doing to achieve the MDGs. The site also provides access to a library with publications, progress reports, images and videos dealing with the MDGs. It offers as well a news bulletin board, a calendar of activities, and a database on best practices.

As part of another initiative, the President's Planning Secretariat (with the support of various national agencies in the United Nations system) maintains a website (www.odmbrasil.gov.br) that promotes achievement of the MDGs in the states of Brazil. It provides access to federal reports produced since 2005 and to various additional materials.

The UNDP Brazil country office deserves special mention for supporting the municipalities in their MDG-related efforts by contributing to activities and preparing documents and manuals.

Of particular interest is the Toolkit for Localizing the MDGs prepared by UNDP with the support of various civil society organizations, the National Movement for Civic Action and Solidarity, and national public agencies. This guide is intended to help municipal managers and their technical teams to identify ways of improving living conditions around the world. It offers methodological suggestions for fulfilling the MDGs at the municipal level by forming inclusive committees, preparing municipal diagnostic assessments that include basic indicators consistent with municipal strategies, developing an action plan, and conducting monitoring and evaluation activities.

An important boost to the work of the MDG core units and the municipalities has been the introduction of an MDG prize, first awarded in 2005, designed to encourage efforts to achieve the

¹³ The National Movement for Civic Action and Solidarity has established a website offering information at the state level, as well as news and activities (see [online] www.nospodemos.org.br/). For each state, a progress report is presented on each of the MDGs.

Millennium Development Goals. It is awarded every two years and is mobilizing thousands of individuals in Brazil.¹⁴

C. Colombia: the Millennium Development Goals at the local level¹⁵

Since 2004 the UNDP office in Colombia has been working on a series of programmes and projects to strengthen local capacities for assessing and monitoring the MDGs and creating effective strategies for achieving them.

A project entitled "Millennium Development Goals at the Local Level" (ODML) was launched in 2007 to strengthen local capacities to monitor and assess progress on the MDGs and promote ownership of the MDGs by the State and civil society. To this end it has been pursuing various activities to provide technical support for achieving the MDGs at the subnational level, applying and validating tools in various target territories, and developing an outreach strategy to encourage local governments to incorporate the MDGs into their development plans. Part of the project's strategy is to improve the methodological instruments for achieving the MDGs, including diagnostic, data collection and monitoring tools. As part of this project, UNDP has worked with various government institutions, social organizations, the academic world, the media and the private sector at the local level to prepare assessments and action plans for various national territories. With the support of universities and research centres, it has also constructed an MDG baseline for the country's *departamentos* to serve as benchmarks for a roadmap to achieve the targets by 2015. To date, diagnostic assessments are available for 10 departments: Cesar, Nariño, Santander, Caldas, Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Bolívar, Sucre, Huila and Meta, as well as an assessment relating the MDGs to the challenges of climate change in the Department of Cauca. It has also conducted assessments at smaller territorial scales, such as in the districts of Cartagena de Indias and San Basilo de Palenque.¹⁶

Thanks to the experience it has acquired in targeting the MDGs, UNDP Colombia has been able to identify the core activities needed to meet the Goals, which include the need to involve social stakeholders from the outset by launching projects publicly and holding participatory workshops (UNDP Colombia, 2008a).

With respect to monitoring, it is key, among other activities, to establish and train a technical team (civil servants assigned to MDG issues at the municipal or departmental level) in order to strengthen local capacities for formulating targets, preparing participatory action plans and implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. In addition, for preparing the strategy it is essential to have an initial baseline document on the MDGs with secondary information provided by the departmental or municipal administration, and to conduct an assessment of local information systems and offer recommendations for improving them (UNDP Colombia, 2006).

UNDP Colombia also stresses the importance of having an adequate exit strategy, so that UNDP can withdraw without jeopardizing the pursuit of future tasks. On this score, UNDP puts emphasis on strengthening institutional capacities for adoption and ownership of the MDGs, social participation and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups, and the building and management of partnerships with the national government, cooperation agencies, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in order to increase ownership of the MDGs in the country and in this way enlist the support of more partners and donors for achieving the MDGs.¹⁷

¹⁴ See [online] www.odmbrasil.gov.br/odmbrasil/sobre.

¹⁵ Based on information from <http://odm.pnudcolombia.org/> and www.pnud.org.co/sitio.shtml?apc=a-c020101--&m=a&e=C

¹⁶ See http://odm.pnudcolombia.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=272&Itemid=16.

¹⁷ See <http://odm.pnudcolombia.org/>.

D. El Salvador: human development and the MDGs at the municipal level

Thanks to support provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)¹⁸ and the work of UNDP El Salvador, several assessments of the MDG situation at the municipal and departmental levels have been conducted in El Salvador.

In June 2005 an agreement was signed between JICA, UNDP, the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, the General Directorate of Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Social Investment Fund for Local Development (FISDL) and the Salvadoran Institute of Municipal Development (ISDEM), with a view to monitoring the MDGs at the municipal level through use of the Integral System of Municipal Development (SIDM) and the preparation of municipal MDG monitoring plans. A key outcome of this project was a report entitled "Municipal Indicators on Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals in El Salvador, 2005: Report 262", which offers an overview of progress towards the MDGs in the country's 262 municipalities and is intended to serve as a guide for local governments in overcoming the outstanding challenges.

As well, in 2006, with financial support from JICA, UNDP El Salvador published six papers on human development and the MDGs in various microregions of the country, examining the situation and context of human development in environmental, economic, social and cultural terms in the Esperanza Valley microregion, intended to serve as a tool for adopting measures for the sustainable development of the locality, in the light of the Millennium Development Goals.

To delve more deeply into this reality, UNDP and the National Council for Sustainable Development (CNDS), with financial support from the Government of Japan through the UNDP Partnership Fund and technical and financial support from JICA, has published a series of municipal reports. They provide information on the preparation of plans, programmes, projects and investment initiatives geared essentially to eradicating poverty and fostering debate, understanding and cooperation between civil society and local governments.¹⁹

Another form of support has been the high-definition digital updating of the country's maps, through the DIGESTYC and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, which will serve as the basis for census-taking, and development of the Integral System of Municipal Development (SIDM), all with a view to making information available to public and private stakeholders, international agencies, NGOs and the general public. In addition, the Government of Japan, together with UNDP and the World Bank, and in coordination with the Presidential Commission for Social Development, prepared a report on El Salvador's compliance with the MDGs. In this connection, the Government of Japan and UNDP decided to pool their efforts to create the Municipal Map of Human Development and Millennium Development Goals.

¹⁸ The Government of Japan has also contributed significant funding for achieving the MDG targets in El Salvador, and has supported various development projects involving the transfer of technology and measures to boost national capacities.

¹⁹ UNDP (2006). Monografía sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Municipio de Conchagua Departamento de la Unión; Monografía sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Municipio de Acajutla Departamento de Sonsonate; Monografía sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Municipio de Torola Departamento de Morazán; Monografía sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Municipio de Nueva Concepción. Departamento de Chalate; Monografía sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Municipio de Guaymango. Departamento de Ahuachapán; Monografía sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Micro-Región Valle La Esperanza. Departamentos de Usulután.

E. Honduras:²⁰ system of observatories for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

In 2004, Honduras published a report on experience in disseminating the MDGs at the local level during 2003, covering municipalities in four departments (Valle, Copán, Cortés and Lempira). While the report focused on outreach strategies for publicizing the MDGs and incorporating the Millennium targets as an instrument for defining national, regional and municipal policies, it also offered statistical information on the MDGs at the departmental and municipal levels, where data were available. The publication was prepared by UNDP and financed by JICA. (UNDP and JICA, 2004, *Llevando las metas del milenio al ámbito local. Experiencias y resultados del trabajo en cuatro departamentos de Honduras*).

Recognizing that the responsibility for achieving the goals established at the Millennium Summit are the responsibility not only of national governments but also of local governments, UNDP has been providing support for achieving the MDGs in various subnational territories of Honduras since 2004.

To this end, it implemented a project entitled “System of Observatories for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals” (www.odm-honduras.org/), intended to develop local capacities for constructing and evaluating policies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending and investment as well as to strengthen democracy and participatory processes at the local level. Specifically, the project proposes to build capacities in 65 municipalities in the west, south and north regions of the country (www.undp.un.hn).

As part of this initiative, a web portal for the Observatories for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (www.odm-honduras.org/) was established, in collaboration with the National Planning Ministry and with the support of the Swedish Agency for International Development (SIDA) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

The website offers access to a documentation centre with more than 50 municipal MDG reports: users can visit related links, obtain information on activities, and access and MDG database at the municipal scale. Microdata by municipality can also be downloaded from the 2007 household survey of Honduras.

F. Other noteworthy initiatives

1. Plurinational State of Bolivia

UNDP, in association with the Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit (UDAPE) and the prefectures, prepared departmental reports on the MDG situation in 2007, focusing on 16 indicators. Those reports show the situation in each of the departments and propose guidelines for policies to improve living conditions for their populations. These reports were prepared under Project BOL/50863, “Programme of Decentralized Policies and Public Management for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals”, with the support of the local authorities. The publications were financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

A total of nine reports were prepared for the departments of Chuquisaca, La Paz, Oruro, Cochabamba, Potosí, Tarija, Santa Cruz, Beni and Pando, along with a report on the MDGs and indigenous peoples.²¹

A series of bulletins on the status of social rights of the Bolivian population was published during 2010 and 2011, as a joint effort of UDAPE and UNDP, providing information at the national and departmental levels on the principal achievements, as well as problems and shortcomings, relating to social issues. This information is important for fostering debate on the public social agenda from a

²⁰ Reports available at http://www.undp.un.hn/honduras_y_los_odm.htm.

²¹ The reports on individual departments and on indigenous peoples are available [online] at: www.udape.gob.bo/ODM/ODM_052_Dep.asp.

perspective that includes basic human rights. The information in the departmental bulletins focuses on extreme poverty, basic education, maternal and child health, malnutrition, and issues concerning municipal investment and departmental social programmes.

2. Cuba²²

In 2008, the National Statistical Office, as part of the United Nations project for strengthening MDG monitoring capacities at the local level in Cuba, developed a series of indicators at the provincial level for the eastern region of Cuba.

The objectives of the initiative included:

- To expand the horizon of indicators for measuring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the light of the country's circumstances
- To provide input into local evaluations for the design of future policies
- To provide a more complete information base for preparing future reports
- To conduct studies to ensure the comparability of the information that is of international interest

The report considered a set of 23 official MDG indicators, together with 66 additional indicators relating to local and national circumstances (series for 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 for five provinces). Technical notes were included for each of the indicators.

This initiative was made possible through the joint efforts of the National Statistical Office, the 14 provincial offices and the 169 municipal offices that make up the National Statistical System of Cuba, and culminated in the publication of the report, *Evaluación en cifras. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio a nivel local. Una mirada desde la región oriente de Cuba*²³ ["Evaluation in figures: the Millennium Development Goals at the local level. A view from the eastern region of Cuba"].

3. Ecuador²⁴

Between 2006 and 2007, Ecuador produced five reports at the provincial level: Azuay, Bolívar, Los Ríos, Manabí and Pichincha.

These reports were prepared by the Millennium Social Research Centre (CISMIL), a tripartite agency involving the government, the academic world, and international cooperation, and was led by the provincial governments concerned, as part of the PRO-ODM project of the Consortium of Provincial Councils of Ecuador (CONCOPE), with support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), in the context of the Programmatic Platform of the Working Group on Poverty in Ecuador, coordinated by UNDP.

4. Dominican Republic²⁵

In 2005, UNDP, together with the Presidential Commission for the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (COPDES) and the Office of the First Lady, prepared a study evaluating needs and analysing the costs inherent in achieving the MDGs in the town of El Seibo by 2015. The study resulted in a publication entitled *Evaluación de Necesidades y Análisis de Costos para cumplir con los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio – El Seibo, Pueblo del Milenio*.²⁶

²² Information on this initiative is available on CD and can be downloaded in PDF format at: www.one.cu/.

²³ National Statistical Office of Cuba, United Nations Cuba (2008), *Evaluación en cifras. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio a nivel local. Una mirada desde la región oriente de Cuba*.

²⁴ Publications available for download [online] at: www.undp.org.ec/odm/index.htm.

²⁵ See [online] www.pnud.org.do/informesmundialesobrelosodmpublicaciones.

²⁶ COPDES, UNDP (2005), *Evaluación de Necesidades y Análisis de Costos para cumplir con los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio – El Seibo, Pueblo del Milenio*.

V. MDG data dissemination using online information systems

The availability of timely statistical information is essential for monitoring and evaluating the MDGs in the national and international contexts. For this reason, international as well as regional agencies and individual countries have implemented online databases for disseminating relevant data for the areas covered by the Millennium Development Goals, thereby offering to the public tools that will facilitate monitoring and the formulation of policies and programmes for achieving the targets.

These systems provide swift and effective access to data, presenting systematized and documented information for a set of indicators. The information can in many cases be downloaded in Excel and HTML format, and methodological notes are provided as well as graphs and maps.

Depending on national circumstances, these systems have emerged at the initiative of countries themselves or as a result of international financial support for their initial development, operation and administration. International cooperation has also provided training for local personnel in an effort to ensure that the systems are sustainable over time. In some cases they operate as platforms devoted exclusively to disseminating the Millennium indicators, but they are frequently presented as modules within broader systems of development or social indicators, maintained for the most part by national statistical offices and to a lesser extent by the social or planning ministries.

The technologies used for implementing these information systems vary from country to country, and there is no standard pattern for their development, which in many cases is determined by the cooperation agency providing the support. Although the Microsoft SQL server is known to be used as an engine for managing the databases, there is also widespread use of free software such as Devinfo (supported by UNICEF) and Redatam (supported by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), as well as other applications, such as Microsoft Access.

BOX 1 PRESENTING STATISTICAL DATA USING DEVINFO AND REDATAM

DEVINFO. Countries around the world have adopted the Devinfo system designed and sponsored by UNICEF, which facilitates the presentation and dissemination of quantitative data among different agencies and makes it possible to present and download information in various formats. UNICEF has been an important promoter of the use of Devinfo by countries of the region, with a view to wider dissemination of development indicators, and in particular the indicators for the Millennium Development Goals.

The programme is delivered free of charge and can generate tables, graphs and maps presenting information at the subnational scale, while at the same time including methodological notes for each of the indicators. The technology evolved to Devinfo version 5.0, with the option of publishing the information from the online databases. The importance of Devinfo as an information system was thus increased. In 2009, Devinfo version 6.0 was made public, with the capacity to handle bigger databases. DevinfoLAC is the regional technical support group for Devinfo, serving the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America. Its main task is to provide technical support to all countries of that region, so that they can implement the Devinfo technology in government institutions, NGOs, and United Nations agencies.

Among other functions, it can be used to organize promotional and outreach activities and training in Devinfo technology, to provide technical assistance and support to database users and administrators in countries of the region applying the Devinfo technology, and to create databases with indicators and information for monitoring and evaluating international and regional commitments, as well as other priority topics. Examples of systems that use the Devinfo platform are the System of Social Indicators on Childhood, Adolescence and Women (SISNAM) of Honduras, INEInfo of the National Statistics Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Parinfo in Paraguay. More information can be found [online] at: www.devinform.org/.

Redatam. With more than 25 years of development behind it, Redatam is a user-friendly, accessible interface that is easy to use and free of charge, designed essentially for the exploitation of very large databases, such as population and housing censuses. Today, 14 countries in Latin America and five in the Caribbean have set up online applications with census microdata from the past and previous decades using Redatam Webserver.

Its features include the option of obtaining new tabulations and the possibility of processing other sources of information such as agricultural censuses, housing surveys, industry surveys, administrative records, foreign trade data and youth surveys.

The evolution of the software, which is already in its fifth version (Redatam + SP revision 5) has considerably improved its processing speed and opened up possibilities for creating applications tailored to the different users involved in disseminating the data. Redatam is being used to disseminate census data not only at the microdata level but also in an aggregated form, through information systems that can integrate data from various sources, thus making it possible to monitor and compare development indicators, such as the Integrated System of Development Indicators (SIID) of Panama, the MDG Indicator System of Costa Rica, the MDG Monitoring System of the Plurinational State of Bolivia maintained by UDAPE, and the Integrated System of Social Indicators of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (SISOV) managed by the National Statistics Institute, and has now become an ideal tool for analysing and disseminating social and demographic data. Every year, an average of six training courses on various functions of the software are conducted.

More information can be found [online] at: www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/redatam/noticias/paginas/7/8107/P8107.xml&xsl=/redatam/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/redatam/tpl/top-bottom.xsl.

Source: www.devinform.org/ and www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/redatam/noticias/paginas/7/8107/P8107.xml&xsl=/redatam/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/redatam/tpl/top-bottom.xsl

A number of the more pioneering countries that developed information systems before the advent of Devinfo have been migrating their statistical databases to free software; one example of this is the Integrated System of Social Indicators of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (SISOV) (Ministry of People's Power for Planning and Finance, 2012).

For the systems to be sustainable over time there must be a strong political will, expressed in the allocation of resources for its permanent administration, constant updating, and implementation of the new utilities and tools that keep emerging with technological progress, such as the incorporation of geographic information system (GIS) modules, the mass export of data via SDMX and the use of modules developed in ASP.NET for incorporating the interactive and dynamic capacity of the web.

Imminent adoption of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)

At the global level, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators has been working to establish a common data exchange platform that will reduce statistical discrepancies among data derived from different sources. To this end it has adopted the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standard, which is being developed to facilitate data exchange among countries, regions and subregions and between national and international statistical systems.

The MDG data structure definition developed by the task team on SDMX has gone through a number of tests during the last few years. The test results highlighted the existence of shortcomings in

the first version of the data structure definition, such as duplications, a lack of comprehensive definitions and explanations, and a few errors. The Statistics Division undertook a full revision of the MDG data structure definition to tackle its shortcomings and improve its functionality, as well as to upgrade it to the SDMX version 2.1. Some members of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators are also currently working on promoting the use of SDMX. For instance, a useful tool published by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides online training courses on SDMX-HD (health domain). The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has developed the UNAIDS indicator registry, which allows users to be notified when changes are made, to reference back and to connect to the UNAIDS database for updates (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2011).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) was among the first to implement SDMX. Through the Strategic Programme of the National Statistical and Geographic Information System, INEGI incorporated SDMX in 2010 for transmitting data and metadata. The objective is to use it for exchanging and integrating data and metadata derived from different sources and available in different formats, and to take advantage of its versatility to disseminate and visualize statistical information in various applications and computer platforms such as mobile devices, iPads, PCs, etc. The project is planned in three stages (publication, collection and visualization).²⁷

²⁷ For the first stage, a number of software tools were adopted from Eurostat, such as the Data Structure Wizard, Mapping Assistant and NSI Web Service (Eurostat's reference infrastructure). The Web Service was supplemented with development of a REST interface (Eurostat reference infrastructure with INEGI adjustments) for exploitation via a URL. This constitutes the publication infrastructure for SDMX dataflow, data structure definitions (DSD) and other components, which can be consumed through Query Messages (SOAP) and RESTful (URL), the output format for which can be XML, JSON, JSONP, PNG or CSV. See [online] www.inegi.org.mx/inegi/contenidos/servicios/sdmx/default.aspx.

TABLE 4
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED
ONLINE MDG INFORMATION SYSTEMS OR DATABASES

Country	Online information system
Argentina	The National Social Policy Coordination Council (CNCPS) maintains a complete online information site that includes a database at which indicators can be consulted by department, province and municipality. The database does not contain any associated metadata, although methodological publications can be downloaded at the site. Address: www.politicassociales.gov.ar/odm/provinciasmunicipios/buscadorodm.php .
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	UDAPE maintains the MDG Monitoring System, a complete information site that includes a database where indicators at various subnational levels can be consulted. The database does not contain any integrated metadata, although methodological notes for each indicator can be downloaded at the site. Address: www.udape.gob.bo/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=104 . In addition, UDAPE maintains the Geo-Referenced Information System (SIG) for the Millennium Development Goals of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, developed in REDATAM. Address: http://udapesig/odmsigudape/
Brazil	The Brazilian municipalities that make up the MDG Brazil Network maintain a website for monitoring the MDGs at the local level, with the assistance of civil society (Sustainability Indicators Regional Base Observatory) and financial support from the private sector. The portal provides access to indicators for monitoring MDG attainment in the 5,564 Brazilian municipalities; the information is presented via graphs and texts. There is also access to summary progress reports for each municipality. The site has established a library with publications, progress reports, images and videos relating to the MDGs. It also has a news bulletin board, a calendar of activities, and a database of best practices. Address: www.portalodm.com.br .
Colombia	System of development indicators for the Colombian Caribbean region. Address: www.ocaribe.org/sid/index.php .
Costa Rica	INEC produced the online MDG indicators system, and keeps it updated. This was developed in REDATAM and metadata for the indicators can be consulted. Address: www.inec.gov.cr/cgi-bin/RpWebEngine.exe/PortalAction?&MODE=MAIN&BASE=ODM .
Honduras	The National Statistics Institute maintains the system of social indicators on children, adolescents and women (SISNAM) developed in Devinfo. The MDG indicators are published in this system. The database does not contain any associated metadata. Address: www.ine.gob.hn/sisnam/
Mexico	The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) developed the MDG information system in Mexico, and keeps it updated. Address: www.objetivosdesdesarrollodelmilenio.org.mx/ .
Panama	INEC maintains the Integrated System of Development Indicators (SID) for Panama, developed in REDATAM. Address: www.contraloria.gob.pa/inec/sid/ .
Paraguay	The General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Census (DGGECC) maintains the Parinfo Integrated Data System: Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, developed in Devinfo. Address: www.dggeec.gov.py/parinfo/ .
Peru	The National Statistics and Informatics Institute (INEI) maintains an online database. The system was developed using the R+SP WebServer software of REDATAM+SP, Data Recovery for small areas by microcomputer, a computer programme developed by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE). Address: www.inei.gob.pe/Sisd/index.asp .
Dominican Republic	The National Statistics Office developed and is responsible for updating the National System of Integrated Indicators for Development (SINID) (), which contains a module on the Millennium Development Goals. For each indicator there is a table and a graph. In addition, methodological notes can be accessed for each indicator. The site includes the official indicators defined internationally and those proposed at the national scale. Address: http://sinid.one.gob.do/index.php .
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	The National Statistics Institute (INE) maintains a system of indicators developed in Devinfo (2.0) known as INEINFO, which includes a module for monitoring the MDGs. The system offers indicators and statistical data disaggregated by federal entity, municipality and parroquia [parish], and includes metadata for each of the indicators, which can be represented via tables, graphs and maps. Address: www.ineinfo.ine.gob.ve/# . The Ministry of People's Power for Planning and Development maintains the database known as the Integrated System of Social Indicators of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (SISOV), developed with the web application PHP and containing a Postgres database. The system has a module for monitoring the MDGs, which includes updated statistics, methodological notes and documents related to the goals and targets. Address: www.sisov.mpd.gob.ve/home/index.php .

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of the websites of the official national statistics offices and other national agencies responsible for monitoring the MDGs in Latin America.

A. Panama: MDG indicators module in the Integrated System of Development Indicators (SID)

<http://www.contraloria.gob.pa/inec/sid>

Panama's Integrated System of Development Indicators (SID) was launched in 2003 as a result of a joint effort of the Social Cabinet and the Statistics and Census Directorate of the Comptroller General's Office (now the National Statistics and Census Institute of Panama, INEC), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. It was intended to provide the national government, civil society, cooperation agencies and the community at large with access to official statistics, disaggregated by geographical level and continuously updated, that could be visualized and downloaded in different formats, including statistical graphs and thematic maps.

SID serves as a platform for the R+SPxPlan application of CELADE: hence R+SPxPlan/SID 2004, which has the following advantages:

- It integrates the growing output of development indicators for Panama into a single system that is easy to access and use and is permanently updated
- It displays the metadata including description, method of computation, periodicity, geographical disaggregation, source and contact, among other elements
- It displays the indicators via:
 - production of tables with descriptive statistics
 - graphs
 - production of thematic maps in combination with various entities, with geographical referencing
- It has the capacity to export information for use in other applications such as Excel, Word, Access, statistics programmes and geographic information systems
- It does not require other applications for its use and functioning

The information contained in the SID was selected by the liaison groups, work teams that maintain information-sharing channels between State institutions, whose data greatly facilitate analysis, decision-making, policy formulation and evaluation, and the execution of plans, programmes and projects. The main function of these liaison groups is to share information for the analysis of social development issues, as needed by State institutions for taking decisions, formulating and evaluating policies, and implementing plans, programmes and projects.

The liaison groups consist of professional staff in each of the State institutions, who initially compile internal information and then feed it, via IT networks and the Internet, into the computerized SID. That system, in turn, provides feedback to the liaison groups in the form of expanded data, thereby strengthening the respective statistics and planning departments.

To strengthen the functions of the Social Cabinet in its work with the Liaison Groups and the SID, two working groups were established: the Specialized Team for Smaller Areas (EEAM) and the Specialized Team for Primary Information and Qualitative Indicators (EEIPIC).

B. Mexico: system for tracking and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (M&S-ODM)²⁸

www.objetivosdesdesarrollodelmilenio.org.mx/

With a view to facilitating achievement of the commitments assumed in the Millennium Summit Declaration, Mexico introduced in 2011 the System for Tracking and Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (M&S-ODM) as part of the National Demographic and Social Information Subsystem of the National Statistical and Geographic Information System (SNIEG).²⁹

A Specialized Technical Committee for the Millennium Development Goals Information System (CTE-SIODM) was created to coordinate M&S-ODM. The committee's objective is to prepare and review technical standards, guidelines, methodologies and processes needed to integrate information on progress towards achieving the MDGs into the SNIEG. In particular, the committee is mandated to review available information sources for monitoring the targets; to review and agree on the methodologies and technical procedures for calculating the indicators; to coordinate the work of updating the information; to present reports on the outcomes and make them available to the public (Garcés, 2011).

The committee is chaired by the Office of the President of the Republic through the General Directorate for Planning and the Strategic Agenda. The National Population Council serves as recording secretary and INEGI as technical secretary. Membership of the committee includes representatives of the ministries of health, labour and social security, social development, education, environment and natural resources, and the Federal Telecommunications Commission. Representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs and of finance and public credit, the National Social Development Policy Evaluation Council and UNDP attend as guest observers (Garcés, 2011).

The committee's member institutions drew up a work programme for 2010 with a view to defining procedures, rules and methodologies to guide the competent bodies in the design, update and monitoring of the indicators, in accordance with United Nations recommendations. It also called for integrating information of national interest, as the main input for the progress report published by Mexico in 2011. The committee is responsible for integrating statistical information for monitoring the trend of the MDG indicators, ensuring that the methodology proposed by the United Nations is applied for this purpose, and making sure that the information comes from authorized official sources, thus lending certainty to Mexico's situation vis-à-vis each of the goals and targets established internationally, as well as the additional targets set by the country.

M&S-ODM was designed as a tool for use by government officials, development programme managers and other users in the measurement and analysis needed for systematic and regular monitoring of the country's social well-being, and to provide information for evaluating programmes and activities at the central and decentralized levels, as a way of making human development policy management more effective.

The system comprises the following three modules:

- Indicators module. Data are provided for 35 selected indicators for monitoring the MDGs. The results are presented as tables, graphs or maps. Depending on the availability of information, each indicator is disaggregated for the national, departmental and municipal spheres. Each indicator is accompanied by a methodological note describing the definition of the indicator,

²⁸ Based on information from: www.metasdelmilenio.inegi.gob.mx/artus/eis/portalm/m/bienvenida.asp.

²⁹ On 16 April 2010 the Law on the National Statistical and Geographic Information System (SNIEG) was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation. The mandate of SNIEG is to make public timely information of national interest through the coordinated efforts of members of the system, in accordance with national and international standards; the system is to be coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), as an autonomous agency.

the unit of measurement, the periodicity of calculation, the level of disaggregation, the agency producing the information, distribution and the source associated with the indicator, among other aspects. The system allows each indicator to be displayed via graphs, tables and maps.

- Programmes and projects module. This module provides information on interventions of the public sector and other development agents, describing the characteristics of the programmes and projects in terms of objectives, coverage and financial resources. For disseminating the M&S-ODM system, the central government and the prefectures present the most important programmes that are expressly linked to progress towards meeting the MDGs. The explanation and analysis of those programmes is contained in a standardized and updated summary.
- Reporting module. This section presents the assessment documents for evaluating progress towards the MDGs at the national or departmental level, by theme, or by other disaggregation.
- Information updating. The indicators are updated according to the schedule posted on the site, and all information contained in the system is available to users in different export formats.
- Useful links. The information system also presents a series of links to regional and international sites monitoring achievement of the MDGs.

The system was developed in a Windows environment and uses the Microsoft Access 97 database as the engine.³⁰ During 2012, with financing from the Mexican Cooperation Agency, training was offered to several countries in the region for implementing the system, and four workshops have already been held.

One of the essential factors for success of the system is the inter-agency coordination that lies behind it. SNIEG is a set of State units organized into subsystems, coordinated and supervised by INEGI and articulated through the National Information Network, for the purpose of producing and disseminating information that is of national interest. SNIEG has a National Advisory Council comprising executive committees and specialized technical committees, including the MDG Information System. The committee includes INEGI, which serves as technical secretariat, the Office of the President as chair of the committee, and the National Population Council (CONAPO) as recording secretary. It also has members and guests from various national institutions that produce and use Millennium statistical information. The committee is organized around eight thematic roundtables tasked with revising the conceptual and methodological aspects of the indicators, reviewing the information sources, contributing statistical series (indicators and databases), and updating the methodologies.

One of the challenges facing the system is to ensure continuity of the Specialized Technical Committee for the MDG Information System so as to guarantee timely updating of the information and allow the incorporation of information disaggregated by federative entity and by urban/rural area.

³⁰ The specific requirements for the developer are: Windows 2003, WebSite Professional 3.1, Deerfield as web page server; Access 97 (Microsoft); CGI (Common Gateway Interface); Visual Basic 5.0 (Microsoft); HTML; Javascript; internet navigator (INEGI, 2012).

VI. Alignment of the MDGs with national development plans: adapting targets and indicators to the national context

Development plans are an essential programming tool that allows countries to guide the actions of their governments and inhabitants. As Armijo notes, in recent years Latin American countries have been reassessing their national development plans or strategic guidelines as key tools for bringing coherence to the development planning process, seeking to make policies more effective (Armijo, 2012). This has led to the construction of better development plans, thanks in part to greater articulation between plan and budget, but also to the strengthening of results tracking and evaluation systems by incorporating concrete targets and indicators for better monitoring of the commitments assumed (Armijo, 2012). There is now greater use of targets set by presidential offices and indicators for monitoring management and assessing its effectiveness and efficiency.

In this context, various countries have been striving to achieve coherence between their national development plans and the MDGs, incorporating into them targets and indicators that are part of the MDG monitoring framework, or making achievement of the Millennium targets a strategic objective. As well, various countries have added complementary indicators and more demanding targets, where the situation in the base year (1990) was more favourable and consistently with national development strategies. In general, the development plans of countries in the region include among their priorities the reduction or eradication of poverty and better distribution of income, which means that they quite naturally fit with Millennium Development Goal 1. The inclusion of priorities in the areas of health, housing, education and employment is also quite widespread.

The MDGs have in this way become focal points of national policy, thus underscoring government commitments to move towards universal targets in the areas of poverty, education, health, gender and environment, and highlighting the need to strengthen systems for permanent evaluation, tracking and monitoring.

A case in point is the Plurinational State of Bolivia, where the National Development Plan, *Bolivia Digna, Soberana, Productiva y Democrática para Vivir Bien* ["a decent, sovereign, productive and democratic Bolivia for well-being"] shares the basic principles of the MDGs and establishes targets

that in some cases go beyond those set for the MDGs. In the case of Ecuador, the *Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir* ["National Plan for Well-being"] embraces the MDGs but also includes social inclusion and diversity. Still another example is Brazil, where there are appreciable similarities between *Brasil 2022* and the MDGs.

The following paragraphs describe the examples of Colombia and Costa Rica. Noteworthy in Colombia's case are the government's efforts to strengthen systems for evaluating, tracking and monitoring progress against the targets established in its development plans, including the improvement of national statistics for monitoring the MDGs. In the case of Costa Rica, the government has made efforts to align the MDG targets with those established in the National Development Plan, in a context that seeks to improve the National Planning System and to articulate the agendas of the various institutional sectors involved in the planning exercise for achieving the targets. This has led to greater coordination in the production, dissemination and use of statistical information on social, health and environmental issues, among others.

A. Colombia: strategic targets for achieving the Millennium Development Goals

As mentioned in section IV, Colombia has to date produced three MDG reports at the national scale, the third of which was the result of a participatory process led by the National Planning Department. Noteworthy in this case are the government's efforts to strengthen systems for evaluating, tracking and monitoring progress against the targets established in its development plans, including the improvement of national statistics for monitoring the MDGs.

Various activities have served to make political leaders, users, statistics producers and the general public aware of the importance of having high-quality statistical information as input for guiding the allocation of resources and promoting the actions needed to meet the Millennium Summit targets.

Since Colombia formally adopted the MDGs in 2005, the government has been committed to improving statistical information, convinced that policies must be based on high-quality data for performing a proper diagnosis and preparing methods for monitoring and evaluating the results. It has also demonstrated great capacity for adapting to changes in the monitoring framework defined internationally, while adjusting targets and indicators to domestic circumstances. The work has focused on identifying limitations in the availability of timely and high-quality information required for measuring and monitoring each of the indicators, and on improving the quality and availability of information, particularly with respect to statistics on poverty, education, health and basic sanitation, refining its methodologies for collecting and processing information. This is in addition to the efforts that UNDP has been making with local governments to improve local development plans, including a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of information in order to ensure proper tracking and monitoring.

The first major step taken by the Colombian government was to adopt the MDGs via the document referred to as "Conpes Social 91" of 14 March 2005, "Targets and Strategies of Colombia for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals – 2015". That document confirms Colombia's commitment to achieving the MDGs, and submits the national targets and strategies set for that purpose to consideration by the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES).³¹ The document presents the global targets and the targets specific to Colombia, within a general strategic framework for

³¹ CONPES is the highest national planning authority and advises the government on all aspects relating to the country's economic and social development. To this end, it coordinates and guides the agencies responsible for economic and social management within government, through the study and approval of general policy documents presented in session. The National Planning Department serves as Executive Secretariat of CONPES and Conpes Social, and therefore has the responsibility of coordinating and presenting all the documents for discussion in session.

making Colombia more equitable, with special emphasis on the regional and local spheres, including strategies for achieving each of the MDG targets. The document also includes methodological notes for each of the proposed indicators.

Subsequently, with a view to identifying ways of speeding achievement of the MDGs, the targets and indicators were included in the “National Development Plan: Communitarian State: Development for All (2006-2010)”.³²

The actions proposed in this plan are in line with Conpes Social 91, the technical document which sets out the country's long-term commitments in the social area and which highlights the need for executing agencies to establish criteria for prioritizing investments for specific regions and groups. Among foreign-policy objectives, specific mention is made of the need to achieve the MDGs, and in various areas the recommendations contained in Conpes Social 91 for achieving the MDGs (for example in health) are adopted, including gender equity as a specific target within the special dimensions of development. It is also explicitly stated that territorial entities must include in their development plans the Millennium targets to which the national government is committed, as well as actions proposed for achieving them. The plan itself stipulates the need to improve the quality and coverage of information at both the national and regional levels for monitoring development policies. The Millennium indicators are included within each of the goals and strategies of the plan, establishing the baseline and the four year target.

In 2011, the National Social and Economic Policy Council was asked to consider document Conpes 140, introducing changes to Conpes Social 91 of 2005 with respect to the inclusion of new indicators, the adjustment of baselines, and targets for some of the indicators initially adopted, and changes to information sources. In amending the Conpes Social 91 document, the intent was to have the Conpes Social formalize, in line with the Millennium Declaration, the government's commitments flowing from the update of the baselines and corresponding targets for some of the indicators. The situation with each of the MDGs presented by identifying the universal target and the revised national target or targets, as pertinent, together with updated indicators for monitoring progress, specifying the baseline, the information source and the 2015 target. In this way, the indicators and targets set in Conpes 140 are incorporated into the National Development Plan 2010-2014, "Prosperity for All", as part of the sector targets that comprise the plan.

As a result of these government commitments, a number of national institutions producing information on the MDG indicators have taken steps to improve their statistical data. These steps include:

- Reprocessing the indicators derived from household surveys, and basing them on data from the 2005 population census, as well as the construction of population forecasts at the national, departmental and municipal level (DANE)
- Creation of the “Mission for linking the employment, poverty and inequality series”, and recalculation of the baselines and targets (DNP, DANE)
- Recalculation of the indicators, baseline and target for overall malnutrition among children under 5 years, to reflect new guidelines from WHO
- Adjustments to the data and change in the baseline for education indicators, reflecting methodological changes in the EH [Household Survey] and the updated population framework from the 2005 census
- Selection of more appropriate information sources: change of source for the indicators measuring educational coverage, moving from EH to the National Information System on Basic and Intermediate Education (changes in the baseline and year of reference)

³² For most of the indicators the base year established for these targets was 1990 (consistent with the Millennium Declaration), or the year for which information was available that best reflected the baseline situation for each of the goals.

- Changing the information source for the under-5 child mortality indicator, which was previously calculated with information from the National Demographics and Health Survey and is now based on vital statistics records, which provide annual data; the baseline is also changed accordingly
- Adjustment to the methodological notes for some of the indicators

As well, the government entities responsible for each goal, DANE, the National Planning Department and the United Nations entities, conducted a review and analysis of the respective data or technical information for each indicator, the baselines, the series and the current situation in light of newly available information, as well as the adjustment to the targets required in the light of the commitments in the Millennium Declaration.

With this adjustment, there are changes from the initial calculation of the data for the 1990 baseline for some indicators. Similarly, for the indicators derived from the vital statistics records, there are now series available for the period 1998-2008, which better reflect the status of indicators such as infant and child mortality. In turn, the proposed targets will have to be re-estimated in the light of the newly estimated baselines.

B. Costa Rica: inclusion of the Millennium Development Goals in the National Development Plan

While Costa Rica adopted the MDGs early on and published its first country report in 2004,³³ the process was only recently institutionalized with the preparation of a second report, which was published in 2010 and coordinated by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, the agency that also has the lead in producing the National Development Plan and coordinating the National Evaluation System (SINE).

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy had in fact been pursuing work in recent years to improve the National Planning System and thereby strengthen communication and coordination both within the Ministry and between it and the other institutions involved in national planning (MIDEPLAN, 2012). At the same time, steps were taken to strengthen strategic planning and results-based management as mechanisms for giving government a greater impact on national development. Thus, results-based management became the focus for formulating targets and organizing monitoring processes, representing a shift from the conventional focus which was based on targets and process indicators (MIDEPLAN, 2012).

The MDG country report was prepared within this framework through a participatory process coordinated with the different players in the public sector involved in planning and generating information on the various MDG issues. The MDGs are now integrated into the national planning process, and achieving them is an integral aspect of the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies (MIDEPLAN, 2010).

The main targets were in fact incorporated into the “Jorge Manuel Dengo Obregón” National Development Plan 2006-2010, in an exercise that sought to generate consensus among the various social stakeholders and to foster dialogue among the sector, institutional and regional technical teams, with broad participation by all national bodies responsible for implementing and executing the proposed actions. Regional and sector-based working groups were established and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, as leader, was successful in enlisting and coordinating more than 100 public institutions. The broad participation of various sectors of society lent consistency and legitimacy to the plan (MIDEPLAN, 2012).

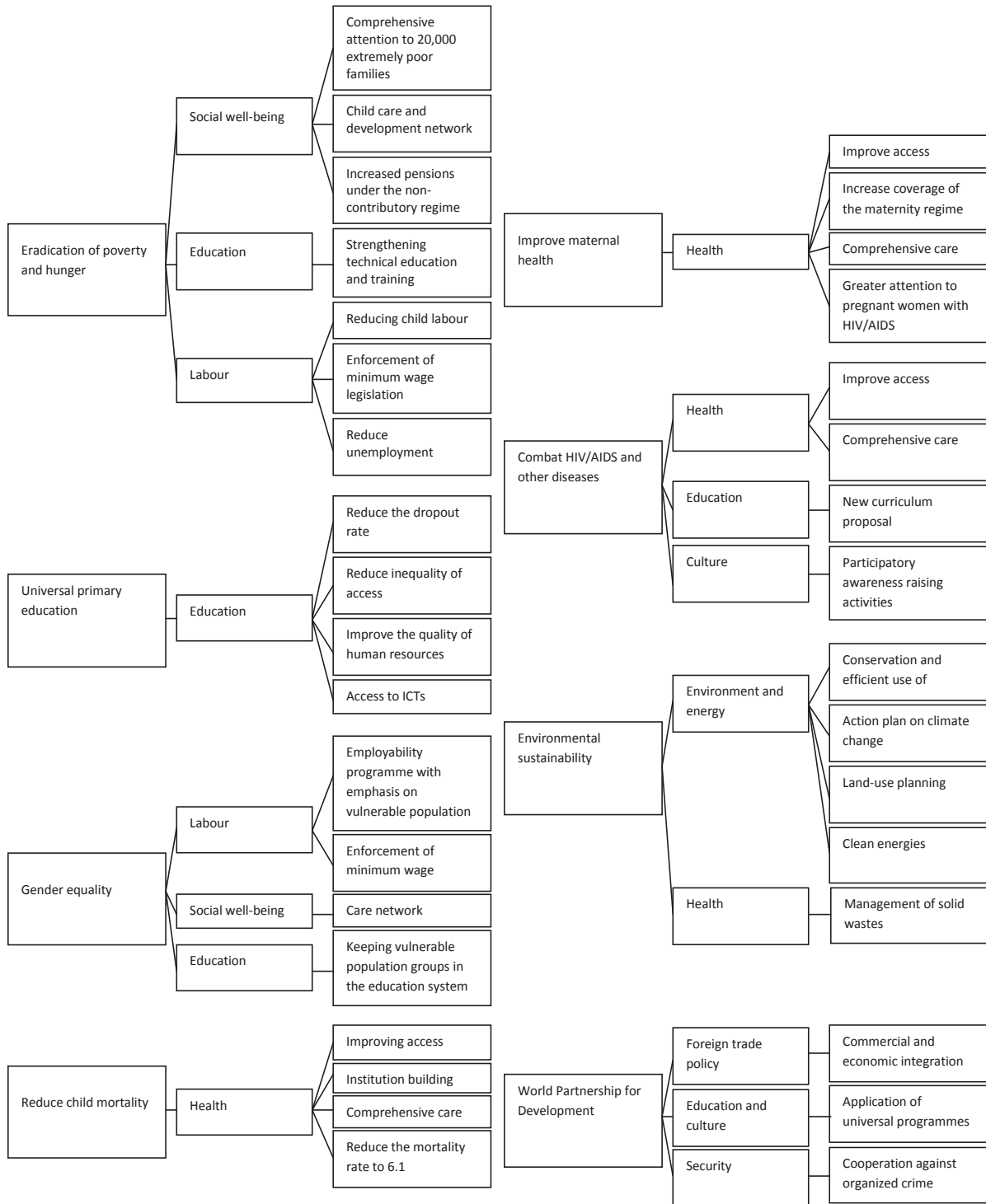
³³ Costa Rica's first MDG report was published in 2004 under the leadership of the Social Council of Government with the participation of civil society and the support of the United Nations system in Costa Rica.

The National Development Plan 2011-2014 includes specific steps to achieve the MDG targets, and it reflects a strong political commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MIDEPLAN, 2010b).

The National Development Plan is based on four broad themes: social well-being; citizen security and social peace; environment and land-use planning; and competitiveness and innovation. For each of these themes, concrete targets and monitoring mechanisms are defined in order to identify progress, thereby ensuring transparency and strengthening accountability. Each of these guiding themes for development includes actions for achieving the targets set under each of the eight MDGs.

The plan also includes a special chapter on the MDGs, summarizing the country's progress towards the goals and systematizing the strategic proposals for achieving them. The targets have been expanded, supplemented or adjusted in recognition of the country's cumulative achievements, as reflected in stable trends in such areas as education and health, and pointing the way forward in social and environmental policy. These actions must become part of the agendas of the various institutional sectors that participate in the National Development Plan planning exercise: the National Development Plan represents a large-scale effort based on a comprehensive vision and on inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination for moving forward in achieving the targets, including the mainstreaming of the MDGs (MIDEPLAN, 2010).

DIAGRAM 8
SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE MDGS CONTAINED IN THE “MARÍA TERESA OBREGÓN ZAMORA” NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2014
 [Text translated from original Spanish]



Source: Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Government of Costa Rica. “María Teresa Obregón Zamora” National Development Plan 2011-2014, San José, Costa Rica, 2010.

Conclusions

The experiences presented in this document reveal the important progress that countries of the region have made in monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals. That progress reflects a broader effort to improve the monitoring and evaluation of public policies and strategic national programmes (including those linked to the MDGs), by improving statistics and disseminating methodologies, broadening the disclosure of information, encouraging coordination among sectors, and enhancing transparency and accountability in achieving the targets.

As mentioned above, Latin American countries have in recent years shown a renewed interest in preparing better national development plans that articulate the agendas of the various institutional sectors and link national policies to international commitments, while strengthening systems for monitoring and evaluating results. Within this framework, a number of countries have sought to align their national development plans more closely with the Millennium Development Goals, incorporating into those plans targets and indicators that are part of the MDG monitoring framework, making it a strategic objective to meet the Millennium targets, and/or establishing complementary indicators and more demanding targets in the light of a more favourable base year (1990) and in accordance with individual countries' challenges. Recognition of the need for better information in support of policymaking has encouraged the improvement of national statistics and an increase in their production and dissemination, as well as greater coordination in the production, dissemination and use of statistical information on the Millennium Development Goals.

Looking specifically at the inter-agency coordination needed to ensure ongoing production of national statistical information, this document highlights initiatives at coordination among the various institutions that produce, compile and use statistical information. Those initiatives have involved setting up MDG platforms, committees or round tables that have not only made it possible to articulate work on the various topics included in the Millennium Development Goals but have also served to sensitize government officials and civil society to the importance of high-quality information as an aid in formulating plans and policies. There remains the challenge, however, of bringing the national statistical offices into these processes earlier and more permanently, and maintaining these coordination processes that have been implemented for producing the MDG country reports. The processes identified as successful have not only been given a permanence that extends beyond the production of a specific progress report but have also revealed the need to have a coordinating agency capable of national

motivation and leadership and of forging strategic links with international agencies offering technical and financial support.

This improved coordination has also trickled down to the subnational levels, when the MDG monitoring has been implemented at the provincial and municipal scale. This has helped to strengthen the analytical and monitoring capacities of institutions that operate locally and also to mobilize resources for achieving the targets. Local governments themselves, in most cases supported by the United Nations system (UNDP technical and financial support has been especially important here) have prepared their own MDG reports, establishing local coordination committees and partnerships with agencies operating at the national scale. These processes have generally posed a great challenge for local governments, even those that have strategic development plans, as the design of those plans does not generally extend to preparing medium- and long-term targets or using indicators to measure progress.

From the experience acquired in monitoring the MDGs at the local level in some countries of the region, the UNDP country offices (especially those in Argentina and Colombia) recommend enlisting various local players from the outset (NGOs, the private sector, the academic world etc.) to conduct an inclusive assessment of the specific challenges, propose realistic and consensus-based targets, and ensure ownership of the MDGs and a commitment on the part of the entire community to meeting the targets. It is also advisable to establish and train an interministerial technical team, coordinated by a social planning institution or an ad hoc interministerial body, with executive functions, suitable administrative structure and human resources, and availability for the task. Building and managing partnerships with the national government and international cooperation agencies to help achieve the MDGs is also highly recommended. In addition, it is suggested that the targets and indicators adopted by the country should be adapted to provincial or municipal circumstances, given disparities within the territory in terms of development and the availability of information for monitoring. To this end, the preparation of an initial baseline document on the MDGs is recommended, which may contain information from departmental or municipal governments. Conducting an assessment of local information systems is also highly desirable, and should include recommendations for improving them. Lastly, as at the national scale, an adequate exit strategy should be designed in order to enable cooperation agencies to withdraw in due course without disrupting future work.

There has also been impressive progress in disseminating information on achievement of the MDGs. More than ten countries in Latin America have instituted online information systems for tracking and monitoring the MDGs, thus providing government officials, development programme managers and other users with a tool for systematically measuring and analysing progress towards the targets and more effectively managing policies for achieving them. This document highlights some national initiatives at building online platforms that offer the public quick and effective access to statistical databases or complete information systems with systematic documentation for a set of indicators. The technologies used for implementing these information systems vary among countries, and there is no standard pattern for their development – this is, in fact, often determined by the cooperation agency supporting the process. There is growing use of open software that allows the systems to keep running with scarce public resources. One point to note is the need to ensure that the systems are sustainable over time: this requires a strong political commitment to allocate resources for their permanent administration, constant updating, and implementation of the new utilities and tools that keep emerging with technological progress, such as the incorporation of geographic information systems (GIS) and the mass export of data via SDMX. Websites provide much information on the countries' performance in relation to the various Millennium targets, and they have become a widely used tool for disseminating data and statistical metadata.

Finally, it is important to highlight the progress that countries have made in producing information and publishing methodological notes on the MDG indicators. This has enabled countries to improve the coherence of statistical series over time and to guarantee comparability across territories, encouraging the unification of concepts and statistical terminology as a vehicle for better communication and understanding among all stakeholders in the statistical system. Despite this progress, the information included in the metadata is not always sufficient for a thorough understanding of the possible discrepancies between national and international data or for clarifying the possibility of regional

comparability of the indicators – further work in this area is essential. In addition, it has been noted that countries have encountered difficulties in producing metadata because of the need for agreement among all stakeholders on issues such as the source and method of calculation for some indicators. Therefore, several successful national experiences have been highlighted, where efforts have focused on technical exchange and institutional agreements among the parties concerned, thus helping to strengthen existing inter-agency agreements, foster collaborative work among the various government bodies, and reinforce national statistical capacity. The imminent adoption of the SDMX initiative by countries of the region makes it even more important to focus efforts on generating common metadata for the exchange of statistical information.

Bibliography

- Armijo, Marianela (2012), “Planes Nacionales de Desarrollo en países de América Latina y el Caribe: análisis preliminar de sus propuestas para el desarrollo”, [en línea], versión preliminar, Santiago de Chile, marzo http://sispalc.cepal.org/Sispalv2/Documentos/Planes_Nacionales_Desarrollo.pdf, Instituto Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Planificación Económica y Social (ILPES), Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe.
- Cervera Ferri, José (2005), *El seguimiento de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio: oportunidades y retos para los Sistemas Nacionales de Estadística*, serie estudios estadísticos y prospectivos, N°39 (LC/L.2458-P), Santiago de Chile, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), diciembre. Publicación de las Naciones Unidas, N de venta: S.05.II.G-204.
- CNCPS (Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales Presidencia de la Nación Presidencia de la Nación), Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Argentina-, [en línea], <http://www.politicassociales.gov.ar/odm/index.html>. (Consultado en septiembre de 2012).
- CNCPS (Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales Presidencia de la Nación (2007). *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Metadata. Adaptación Argentina 2007. Definición, cálculo y análisis de indicadores*”. Buenos Aires.
- CNCPS (Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales Presidencia de la Nación), PNUD Argentina (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo) (2009), *Guía para contribuir al logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en el nivel local. Una herramienta de planificación para el desarrollo local*. Buenos Aires, agosto.
- ____ (2010), *República Argentina. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Rendición de Cuentas 2010*. Buenos Aires.
- ____ (2012), *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: Metadata argentina. Versión revisada en 2011. Definición, cálculo y análisis de indicadores*. Buenos Aires.
- Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social, República de Colombia, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (2005), *Metas y estrategias de Colombia para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio - 2015*, documento Conpes Social 91. Bogotá, marzo.
- ____ (2011), *Modificación a Conpes social 91 del 14 de junio de 2005 “Metas y estrategias de Colombia para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio – 2015”*, documento Conpes Social 140, Bogotá, marzo.

- Consejo Nacional de Políticas Sociales de Uruguay (2010). *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio*. Addendum al Informe País Uruguay 2009. Una Mirada a la desigualdad. Buenas Prácticas para el logro de los ODM. Montevideo, noviembre.
- DANE (Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística de Colombia), FONDANE (Fondo Rotatorio del DANE) (2009), Informe al Congreso de la República Julio de 2008 - junio de 2009. Bogotá.
- _____ (2011), *Informe al Congreso de la República Julio de 2010 - junio de 2011*. Bogotá.
- DNP (Departamento Nacional de Planeación) (2010), *Fichas Metodológicas Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio 2010*. Bogotá.
- _____ (2011), Bases del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2010 – 2014 “Prosperidad para Todos”. Más empleo, menos pobreza y más seguridad. Asunción, Bogotá, Colombia.
- DNP (Departamento Nacional de Planeación), Presidencia de la República de Colombia, Naciones Unidas (2008), *República de Colombia. Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Segundo Informe de Seguimiento 2008*. Bogotá.
- DNP (Departamento Nacional de Planeación), Presidencia de la República de Colombia (2007), *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo: Estado Comunitario: desarrollo para todos 2006-2010*, Bogotá.
- Gabinete Social de la República de Panamá, Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Panamá (2009). *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Tercer Informe de Panamá 2009*. Ciudad de Panamá.
- Gabinete Social, Presidencia de la República de Paraguay (2011). *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio 2010. Primer Informe de Gobierno*. Asunción, Paraguay.
- Garcés, Cesar (2011), “Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en México” ponencia presentada en el sexto seminario regional: Indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en América Latina y el Caribe”, México D.F., 1 y 2 de diciembre.
- Gardner, Jesica (2012), “Introduction: Handbook on metadata for MDGs” ponencia presentada en la reunión interregional de indicadores ODM: Compartiendo experiencias para mejorar el monitoreo y reporte de los ODM, Santiago de Chile, 15 al 17 de mayo.
- GNUD (Grupo de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo) (2003), Reporte Nacional de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Guía para la elaboración de reportes, octubre, [en línea], <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/MDG%20Reporting%20Guidelines/2.%20Spanish.pdf>.
- _____ (2009), Adición a la segunda Guía para la elaboración de informes de los países sobre los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, noviembre, [en línea], <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/MDG%20Reporting%20Guidelines/3.%20Spanish.pdf>.
- Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela (2010). *República Bolivariana de Venezuela. Cumpliendo las Metas del Milenio 2010*. Caracas, Venezuela (República Bolivariana de).
- Gobierno de Chile (2008), *Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Segundo Informe del Gobierno de Chile*, Santiago de Chile.
- Gobierno de El Salvador, Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador (2009), *El Salvador. Segundo Informe de País. Sin excusas... Alcancemos los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en el 2015. Bases para el Plan de Cumplimiento*. San Salvador, El Salvador.
- Gobierno de Honduras, Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Honduras (2010), *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio Honduras 2010. Tercer Informe de País*, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
- Gobierno de la Republica de Cuba (2010), *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Tercer Informe 2010*, La Habana, Cuba.
- INEGI, [en línea] <http://www.inegi.org.mx/inegi/contenidos/servicios/sdmx/default.aspx>, (Consultado en agosto de 2012).
- INEGI (2012), “Especificaciones técnicas de los Sistemas” (2012), ponencia presentada en el Taller de Desarrollo de las Herramientas Informáticas para la Administración la y Difusión de la Información de los ODM”, El Salvador, 20 al 22 de junio de 2012.
- INEI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática), Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Perú (2010), *Perú. Evolución de los Indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio al 2009*. Lima, Perú.
- INEI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática), Dirección Técnica de Demografía e Indicadores Sociales, Dirección Ejecutiva de Indicadores Sociales (2009). “Perú: Evolución de los Indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio al 2008”.
- MIDEPLAN (Ministerio de Planificación Nacional y Política Económica de Costa Rica) (2007), *Gobierno de Costa Rica. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2006-2010 “Jorge Manuel Dengo Obregón”*, San José de Costa Rica.
- _____ (2010), *Gobierno de Costa Rica. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2011-2014 “María Teresa Obregón Zamora”*, San José de Costa Rica.

- _____ (2012), *Informe de Labores 2010-2012*. Dra. Laura Alfaro Maykall. Ministra de Planificación y Política Económica, marzo, San José, Costa Rica.
- MIDEPLAN (Ministerio de Planificación Nacional y Política Económica de Costa Rica), Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Costa Rica (2010), *Costa Rica. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. II Informe País 2010*. San José, Costa Rica.
- Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo de República Dominicana (2010), *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Informe de Seguimiento 2010. República Dominicana*, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana.
- Ministerio del Poder Popular de Planificación y Finanzas de Venezuela (2012), Memoria y Cuenta 2011. Tomo I: Memoria, [en línea], <http://www.derechos.org/ve/pw/wp-content/uploads/Memoria-MPPPF-2011.pdf>, Caracas, enero.
- Movimento Nacional pela Cidadania e Solidariedade (2012), Diretrizes do funcionamento do Movimento Nacional pela Cidadania e Solidariedade, aprovado no Encontro Nacional do MNCS/NP, Curitiba (PR), 23 e 24 de agosto de 2012. <http://www.nospodemos.org.br> (Consultado en septiembre de 2012).
- Naciones Unidas, Consejo Económico y Social (2010), “Indicadores de desarrollo para el seguimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Informe del Secretario General”, E/CN.3/2011/23, Comisión de Estadística 42º período de sesiones, 22 al 25 de febrero de 2011, Nueva York, Estados Unidos.
- _____ (2011), “Indicadores de desarrollo para el seguimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Informe del Secretario General”, E/CN.3/2012/29, Comisión de Estadística. 43º período de sesiones, 28 de febrero al 2 de marzo de 2012, Nueva York, Estados Unidos.
- ONE (Oficina Nacional de Estadísticas República de Cuba) (2008). *Evaluación en cifras de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio 2006-2008*. La Habana, Cuba.
- ONE (Oficina Nacional de Estadísticas de Cuba), Sistema de Naciones Unidas en Cuba (2008), *Evaluación en cifras. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio a nivel local. Una mirada desde la región oriente de Cuba*. La Habana, Cuba.
- Ortega Venzor, Alberto (2009). Los Estándares Estadísticos Internacionales y la Armonización de las Estadísticas Nacionales. INEGI, México. Documento presentado a la Conferencia Estadística de las Américas. Bogotá.
- Pardo, Ronald (2009), “Lecciones y desafíos del CIMDM: generación de información, análisis y promoción de políticas orientadas al logro de los ODM”, ponencia presentada en el seminario regional: Avances y desafíos en materia de conciliación estadística de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en los países de América Latina, 5 y 6 de noviembre, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Petetta, Daniel (2011) “Experiencias y prioridades nacionales en ODM”, ponencia presentada en la 2da Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo de ODM Conferencia de Estadística de las Américas, 14 y 15 de Julio, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- PNUD Argentina (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo), CARI (Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales), Comité Provincias (2008), *Las provincias argentinas en el escenario internacional. Desafíos y obstáculos de un sistema federal*. Buenos Aires.
- PNUD Colombia (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo) (2006) “ODM en el nivel local en Colombia”, documento de Proyecto, [en línea], http://www.pnud.org.co/img_upload/3635346361636163616361636163/00053103_ODMS.pdf, Bogotá.
- PNUD Colombia (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo), [en línea], <http://www.pnud.org.co/sitio.shtml?apc=a-c020101--&m=a&e=C>
- PNUD Colombia (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo), Presidencia de la República de Colombia (2008a), *Caja de herramientas para la implementación de los ODM en los territorios. Medir para avanzar: Una guía práctica para construir indicadores locales en los ODM*. Bogotá.
- _____ (2008b), *Caja de herramientas para la implementación de los ODM en los territorios. Medir para avanzar: Una propuesta de construcción colectiva en los territorios..* Bogotá.
- PNUD El Salvador (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo) (2005), Informe 262. Indicadores municipales sobre desarrollo humano y Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, San Salvador, El Salvador.
- Presidência da República - IPEA (Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada), SPI/MP (Secretaria de Planejamento e Investimentos Estratégicos) (2010), *Objetivos de Desenvolvimento do Milênio. Relatório Nacional de Acompanhamento 2010*, Brasília, Brasil.
- Presidencia de la República de México (2011), *Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Informe de Avances 2010*. Estados Unidos Mexicanos. Ciudad de México.

- Quiroga Rayén, Stockins Pauline, Azocar Irene (2010), *Vacios y discrepancias estadísticas en los indicadores ODM: hacia una estrategia regional de conciliación estadística para América Latina y el Caribe*, serie estudios estadísticos y prospectivos, N70 (LC/L.3176-P). Santiago de Chile, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), abril. Publicación de las Naciones Unidas, N de venta: S.10.II.G.150.
- Red ODM Brasil, [en línea], <http://www.portalodm.com.br>, consultado en septiembre de 2012.
- Redatam Informa. Software para procesar y mapear datos de censos y encuestas para análisis local y regional. Redatam SP R+ 25 años. 25 años de desarrollo del software REDATAM (2011), LC/L.3429, vol. 17, Santiago de Chile, CELADE, División de Población de la CEPAL, diciembre.
- Reyes, Luis Jerónimo (2009), “República Bolivariana de Venezuela: La coordinación institucional, estado actual y avances en el planeamiento del próximo Informe País”, ponencia presentada en el 1er encuentro de países miembros del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Seguimiento de los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio de la Conferencia Estadística de las Américas de la CEPAL, 28 al 30 de septiembre, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Rodríguez, Laura (2012), “Monitoreo y reporte de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. La experiencia de Argentina”, ponencia presentada en la reunión interregional de indicadores ODM: Compartiendo experiencias para mejorar el monitoreo y reporte de los ODM, Santiago de Chile, 15 al 17 de mayo.
- SAXgr S.R.L. (Strategy Advisors for Government Reform) (2010) *Evaluación Nacional de la Declaración de París - Fase 2 - en Bolivia*, Informe final de la evaluación nacional de la declaración de París, fase 2, diciembre, [en línea] <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/15/47082924.pdf>.
- Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia, República de Guatemala (2010). *Tercer Informe de Avances en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio*, noviembre, Ciudad de Guatemala.
- Secretaria-Geral da Presidência da República de Brasil, [en línea], <http://www.odmbrasil.gov.br/> (Consultado en septiembre de 2012).
- SENPLADES (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, Gobierno Nacional), PNUD Ecuador (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo), CISMIL (Centro de Investigaciones Sociales del Milenio) (2007), *II Informe Nacional de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio - Ecuador 2007. Alianzas para el Desarrollo*. Quito, Ecuador.
- Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Nicaragua (2004), *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio y metas nacionales de Nicaragua. Escenarios de inversión social al 2015 para alcanzar los objetivos en educación, salud, agua y saneamiento*, Managua, Nicaragua.
- UDAPE (Unidad de Análisis de Políticas Sociales y Económicas de la Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia), CIMDM (Comité Interinstitucional de las Metas de Desarrollo del Milenio) (2010), *Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en Bolivia. Sexto Informe de Progreso 2010*. La Paz, Bolivia.
- UDAPE (Unidad de Análisis de Políticas Sociales y Económicas de la Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia), [en línea], Sistema de Monitoreo y Seguimiento a los ODM en Bolivia, http://www.udape.gob.bo/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=104. (Consultado en septiembre de 2012).
- UN Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (2012), *Realizing the Future We Want for All. Report to the Secretary-General*, Junio, Nueva York, Estados Unidos.
- Unidad Técnica del Gabinete Social de la Presidencia de la República de Paraguay (2010a), *Propuesta para el desarrollo socioeconómico con equidad, igualdad y universalidad. Paraguay para todos y todas. Propuesta de Política Pública para el Desarrollo Social 2010-2020*. Asunción.
- _____(2010b). *Paraguay para todos y todas. Propuesta de Política Pública para el Desarrollo Social 2010-2020. Propuesta para el desarrollo socioeconómico con equidad, igualdad y universalidad*, Asunción, Paraguay.



UNITED NATIONS

Series

ECLAC

Statistics

Issues published

A complete list as well as pdf files are available at

www.eclac.org/publicaciones

80. Good practices in monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals: national lessons from Latin America, Pauline Stockins LC/L.3564, August 2013.
80. Buenas prácticas en el monitoreo y reporte de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: Lecciones nacionales desde América Latina, Pauline Stockins LC/L.3564, diciembre de 2012.
79. La medición del bienestar a través de indicadores subjetivos: Una revisión, Pablo Villatoro, LC/L.3515, julio de 2012.
78. La viabilidad de erradicar la pobreza: Un examen conceptual y metodológico, LC/L.3463, marzo de 2012.
77. Elementos para una metodología de medición del sector informal en las cuentas nacionales, Documento de Trabajo, LC/L.3462, marzo de 2012.
76. Contribución al crecimiento económico de las tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones y de la productividad en la Argentina, el Brasil, Chile y México, Claudio Aravena, Carolina Cavada y Nanno Mulder, LC/L.3439, enero de 2012.
75. Servicios de Intermediación Financiera Medidos Indirectamente en el SCN 2008, Grupo de trabajo en Cuentas Nacionales, LC/L.3398, octubre de 2011.
74. Propuesta de indicadores complementarios para el monitoreo de los ODM: Indicadores de acceso a las Tecnologías de la Información y las Comunicaciones, Mariana Balboni, César Cristancho, Pauline Stockins y Daniel Taccari, LC/L.3371, (US\$ 10.00), septiembre de 2011.
73. Escalas de equivalencia en los países de América Latina, Haydee Alonzo, Xavier Mancero, LC/L.3325-P, N° de venta S.11.II.G.44, (US\$ 10.00), abril de 2011.
72. Elementos para el desarrollo de una estrategia informática en las oficinas responsables de compilar las cuentas nacionales, Mariam Cover, LC/L.3237-P, N° de venta S.10.II.G.40, (US\$ 10.00), agosto de 2010.
71. Comparación del Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales 1993 y el Sistema de Cuentas de Salud, Federico Dorin, Amparo Gordillo-Tobar, LC/L.3303-P, N° de venta S.11.II.G.25, (US\$ 10.00), marzo, 2011.
70. Vacíos y discrepancias estadísticas en los indicadores ODM: hacia una estrategia regional de conciliación estadística para América Latina y el Caribe, Rayén Quiroga, Pauline Stockins, Irene Azócar, LC/L.3176-P, N° de venta S.09.II.G.150, (US\$ 10.00), abril, 2010.