INTER REGIONAL MDG INDICATORS MEETING: SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE MDG MONITORING AND REPORTING

Armenia experience

National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

15 - 17 May 2012, Santiago, Chile

General

- **The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSS RA) is a state management body implementing functions aimed at the public interest that is independent from other state and local self-government bodies.**
- **The NSS RA is centralized and financed from the state budget.**
- **Mission: to compile and publish statistics for public use.**
- **The NSS RA includes the Central Statistical Office, Yerevan city and 10 Marz (regional) Agencies of Statistics.**
- **The Supreme Body of Governance: State Council on Statistics of RA consisting of 7 members and authorized to accept normative legal acts on statistics.**
- **Head: President of the NSS RA, who at the same time holds the post of the Chairman of the State Council on Statistics of RA.**
- **The Head and 6 members of the Council are appointed for 6 year terms by the RA President` s Decree.**

Main Functions

- **to collect, process, summarize and publish statistical data,**
- **to cooperate with state and local self-government bodies in collection of statistical information,**
- **to develop and improve statistical methodologies, and coordinate data collection and dissemination according to international standards and classifications,**
- **to organize statistical surveys,**
- **to carry out population and agricultural censuses every 10 years,**
- **to establish, maintain and update the business-register,**
- **to ensure data security and statistical confidentiality,**
- **to provide users with statistical information,**
- **to ensure the transparency and access to aggregated statistical data and metadata,**
- **to cooperate with international organizations and national statistical offices.**

Legal Basis

- **RA Law "On State Statistics" adopted 04.04.2000**
- **RA Law "On Population Census" adopted on 12.10.1999**
- **RA Law "On Agricultural Census" adopted on 27.11.2008**
- **State Statistical Work Programs:**
  - **three-year state statistical work program (Law)**
  - **annual state statistical work program**
- **Resolutions of the State Council on Statistics and other national and above-national normative acts.**
- **RA Law "On Civil Service" adopted on 04.12.2001. Provisions of the mentioned law have completely been acted for the NSS RA staff since 1 December 2002.**

MDGs

- It is not a secret that the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN in September 2000 are the most comprehensive and worldwide program of the 21st Century.
- The serious role of implementing the program is also preserved for statisticians both at the international and national levels. In this respect, the program work of National Statistical Offices is very important to form recording systems of the MDGs indicators, as well as exchange of statistical data and metadata with international organizations. It is extremely important to intensify a methodological coordination work by international organizations and strengthen a collaborative dialogue between them and National Statistical Offices. The work of countries statistical offices aimed at formation and coordination of information sources of the MDGs indicators is essentially important at the national level.
- The last task in transition and developing countries is still remaining sharp, because of those countries have still not completed processes of formation of administrative registers. In particular, for Armenia as a transition country compilations of the MDGs indicators by regions is still a task, because of registers at the community level have still not been established.

Status of the MDGs Indicators

- MDGs Indicators – 48
- Armenia MDGs Indicators for 2010 – 36, out of which
- Compiled by administrative registers – 16
- Compiled by the National Statistical Service - 20
- Data Collection Sources:
- ILCS – Integrated Living Conditions Survey
- DHS – Demographic and Health Survey
- LFS – Labour Force Survey
- 2001 Population Census (2011 Population Census results would be available in October 2012)
- NSS RA – National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
- AR – Administrative Register

Improvement of data availability

- Armenia improved data availability through the focus surveys such as Integrated Living Conditions Surveys, Labour Force Surveys, Health and Demographic Surveys, Time Use Surveys, supported by international organizations and donors.
- Intensively worked with administrative registers, supported to establish new administrative registers (in the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA and Ministry of Agriculture of RA) and to increase a quality of existing registers (extension of coverage, methodological issues, etc.), to promote an interrelation between different administrative registers, in particular on development of single identification codes and classifications.
- Actively participated in seminars, workshops on MDGs.
- Posted the Table "Armenia MDGs Indicators" at www.armstat.am NSS RA`s website in 2008.

Work Progress on MDGs

- Activities towards the MDGs are implemented within the NSS RA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA joint program – To enhance the capacity of government partners in roll-out of ArmeniaInfo at the national and marz level for monitoring and reporting progress on the MDGs and the SDP.
- The Program objective is to present Armenia`s MDGs indicators in the ArmeniaInfo database format that will be accessible to users such as government and non-government organizations, international, research and educational institutions and persons.
- MDGs indicators database has been developed in the DevInfo format, updated with data for 1999-2010 and posted at www.devinfo.info.
- Thanks to that project the DevInfo was introduced and the ArmeniaInfo database incorporating indicators for Armenian's MDGs was developed within the NSS RA, and then www.armdevinfo.am website was created to host the ArmeniaInfo database in 2010 (Armenian and English).
- In 2011 the *ArmeniaInfo* database at www.armdevinfo.am website has been enlarged by the MDGs regional indicators, and supplemented with social and economic indicators by the country and regions.

Training Courses and other activities for 2009-2010

- 1-8 June 2009 - Training course on DevInfo 6.0 User & Database Administration: 30 participants from the NSS RA and other state institutions as main users: Ministry of Economy of RA, Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA, Ministry of Emergency Situations of RA and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of RA.
- 26-30 October 2009 - Training course on DevInfo 6.0 User & Database Administration for the staff of NSS RA`s regional agencies.
- 18-22 October 2010 -Training of Trainers (TOT) on DevInfo 6.0 User/Database /Administration Modules.
- In 2010 the NSS RA was provided with hardware and software necessary for the developing the website www.armdevinfo.am and ensuring the web-enabling MDGs indicators database.
- 21-26 June 2010 - Armenian Delegation`s Study visit to Serbia, 11 participants: NSS RA – 3, Ministry of Territorial Administration of RA – 4, Ministry of Labour and Social Affaires of RA – 2, UNICEF – 2.
- Handbook "Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals", UN, 2003 has been translated into Armenian and posted at the NSS RA`s website

2011 Activities (mostly by the UNICEF financial support)

- NSS RA`s 2 staff members participated in the training course at expert level "DevInfo 2011 Advanced Lab Training", 28-31 March 2011, New Delhi (organized by "AVALON" Information Systems Private Limited).
- *ArmeniaInfo* project offered skill-building training activities for the staff of NSS RA`s regional agencies and regional administrations on "*ArmeniaInfo – User and database administration"* and creation of new databases in two regions of Armenia:

  11-15 July 2011 in Lori region

  26-30 July 2011 in Tavush region

Manual "ArmeniaInfo – DATABASE FOR USERS" was developed and published, and posted at www.armstat.am website facilitating the use of ArmeniaInfo system and offering a step-by-step guide for rules and features of the ArmeniaInfo database administration system.

In 2011 within the *ArmeniaInfo* project the UNICEF has provided the NSS RA with hardware and software: 11 computers, software, printer and other equipment.

2011 Activities – cont.

- To familiarize the public with the ArmeniaInfo database the Presentation on ArmeniaInfo database administration system (www.armdevinfo.am) was organized on 22 November 2011

  in Dilijan city, Tavush region - 120 participants from the NSS RA`s Central Office and all regional statistical agencies, ministries, government and local government, scientific society, international organizations, NGOs, etc. It was a big event to present to public at large the significance, opportunities and promising programs offered by the ArmeniaInfo database administration system, on which the press release has been issued and posted at the web.
- 2 presentations on ArmeniaInfo database administration system (www.armdevinfo.am) were organized within the NSS RA:

  8 December 2011 for students and teachers of 7 Universities

  15 December 2011 for representatives of 11 Ministries.

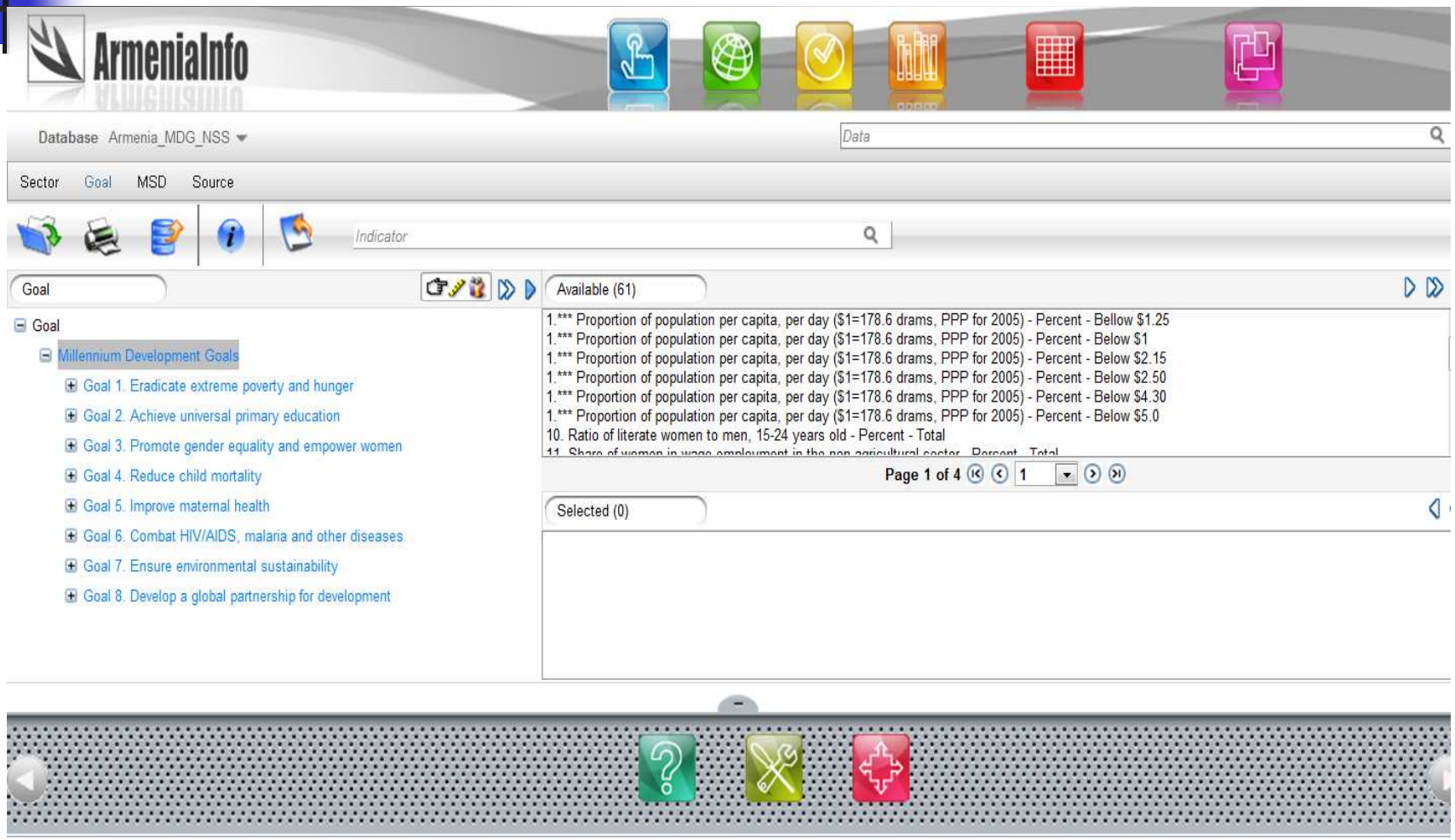
ArmeniaInfo database administration system

- Information systems play an important and significant role in the Armenian economy and social development by providing various modern opportunities and up-to-date tools for processing, producing and disseminating information. That objective is served by the publicly accessible and available *ArmeniaInfo* database administration system designed by the NSS RA.
- *ArmeniaInfo* database administration system provides a holistic framework to organize, maintain and present MDGs, main social, demographic, economic and environmental indicators. It facilitates the provision of country specific information to public authorities and local governments, NGOs, educational and scientific institutions, international organizations and media, as well as offers easy ways to submit database enquiries, create tables, charts and maps, which can be exported to MS Word, MS Excel and MS Power Point applications.
- Presently, the *ArmeniaInfo* database is expanding in terms of regional indicators collected and posted at www.armdevinfo.am website making the *ArmeniaInfo* database more efficient for its users.

  By visiting www.armdevinfo.am website and choosing any indicator for Armenia's MDGs, it is possible to obtain from the database any visual description of the indicator at the national or regional level in the form of table, chart and map (which can be downloaded).

ArmeniaInfo
Database Armenia_MDG_NSS 2010
ArmeniaInfo
start
Internet
100%

MDGs


ArmeniaInfo
Database Armenia_MDG_NSS
Data
Sector Goal MSD Source
Indicator
Goal
Available (61)
Goal
Millennium Development Goals
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality
Goal 5. Improve maternal health
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability
Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development
1.*** Proportion of population per capita, per day ($1=178.6 drams, PPP for 2005) - Percent - Bellow $1.25
1.*** Proportion of population per capita, per day ($1=178.6 drams, PPP for 2005) - Percent - Below $1
1.*** Proportion of population per capita, per day ($1=178.6 drams, PPP for 2005) - Percent - Below $2.15
1.*** Proportion of population per capita, per day ($1=178.6 drams, PPP for 2005) - Percent - Below $2.50
1.*** Proportion of population per capita, per day ($1=178.6 drams, PPP for 2005) - Percent - Below $4.30
1.*** Proportion of population per capita, per day ($1=178.6 drams, PPP for 2005) - Percent - Below $5.0
10. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old - Percent - Total
Page 1 of 4
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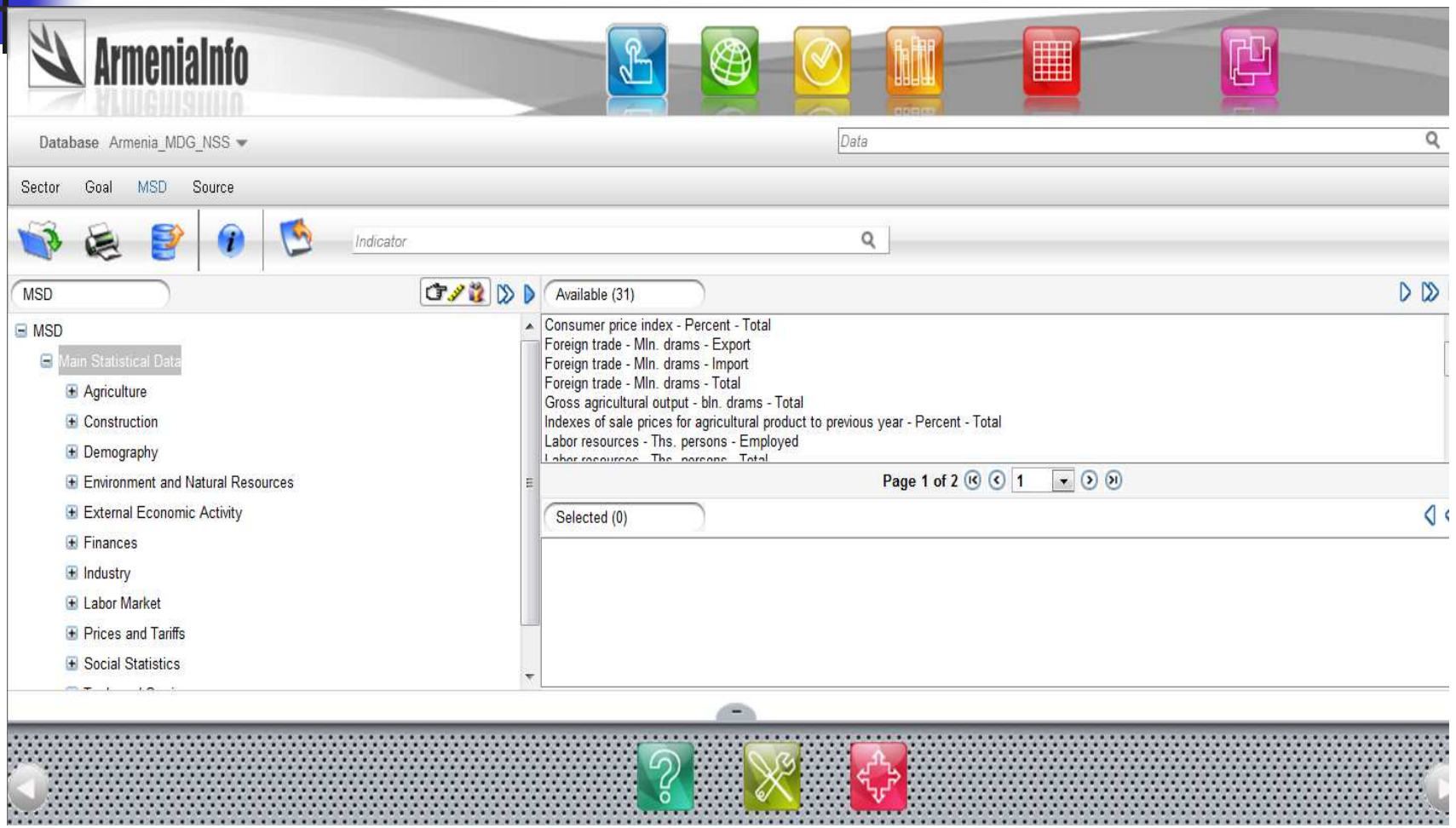
Main Statistical Data



Activities for 2012 (UNICEF is the leading Agency)

- To maintain the ArmeniaInfo database and server
- To update the ArmeniaInfo database at the national and regional levels
- To develop databases forTavush and Lory regions
- To present the ArmeniaInfo database and its features (at the regional level) to stakeholders (Government, NGOs, international agencies, civil society)
- To strengthen the NSS RA`s capacity/Purchase of hardware and software; Study visit to any Statistical office to exchange of experience in DevInfo Application; Training on use and database management at the regional level (Syunik, Shirak, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor); Revised Handbook "Indicators for Monitoring of MDGs, UN" shared on website;

  2 Sessions on use of ArmeniaInfo for decision makers, media, NGOs, etc; Session Presentation ArmeniaInfo database for Turkmenistan delegation (14.03.2012), Tajikistan delegation will visit the NSS RA in September.
- To develop database with ILCS and add to the ArmeniaInfo database/template is developed; data and metadata are incorporated.

Problems

- Lack of quality of administrative registers
- Lack of administrative registers at the community level
- Lack of resources at the regional level especially – human resources, funds and equipment
- Lack of corporative network to complete online the ArmeniaInfo database by regional statistical agencies

Challenges

- To form information sources (in particular, administrative registers at the community level)
- To consider and use alternative measures and data sources
- To ensure disaggregated data by national and sub-national levels
- To estimate data quality, to reduce data gaps, discrepancies
- To strengthen the national statistical capacity
- To improve methodologies, definitions, classifications and tools for information collection, grouping and dissemination of MDGs
- To improve knowledge of producers and users of MDGs, to educate data users
- To organize an additional training for DevInfo use at the regional level
- To provide hardware & software to regional statistical agencies
- To support for database administration in the NSS RA`s Central Office and regional statistical agencies

Library and Internet

- The library is rich with all the statistical products of the NSS RA, statistical publications of other countries and international organizations, methodological handbooks, text-books, legal documents, etc.
- The statistics library is open to the general public.
- Library`s electronic catalogue is accessible from the Internet
- Internet: http://www.armstat.am/www.armstat.info/www.armdevinfo.am

Thank you

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