

Media Release

Workshop on Database System Monitoring Millennium Development Goals Achievement Opens in Riyadh

RIYADH, 26 September 2005—An opening ceremony was held yesterday at UN House in Riyadh, attended by dignitaries, senior officials of government ministries, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and the media, to inaugurate a training workshop on a computerized database system known as DevInfo which supports the regular monitoring of progress made towards realizing the principles and goals adopted in the Millennium Declaration, recently reaffirmed at the World Summit at the United Nations in New York.

The workshop is an undertaking backed by all UN agencies present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, hosted by UNDP, under the auspices of the UN Resident Co-ordinator Dr. El-Mostafa Benlamlah. Both the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa as well as the Gulf Area Office of UNICEF supported the workshop by providing technical expertise, funding and information materials to the participants.

Also participating were Dr. Mutasem Mohammed, Assistant Director of the Computer Directorate of the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Government of Syria, who shared his government's experience in establishing and using first ChildInfo and now DevInfo in Syria, as well as Ms. Maram Barqawi, an IT specialist from the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, who is the technical expert and master trainer for this workshop.

DevInfo is a database system that provides a method to organize, store and display data in a uniform format to facilitate data sharing at country level across government departments and UN agencies. DevInfo has been adapted from an earlier database system developed by UNICEF called ChildInfo, which UNICEF then adapted to the version called DevInfo and offered to the UN system and the countries as a tool for reporting on progress made towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.