TERMINAL REPORT OF THE UNDA 5TH TRANCHE PROJECT

“Strengthening the Statistical Capacity of Central Asian Countries to Monitor the Progress toward the Millennium Development Goals”

(2006-2009)

FINAL
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1. Summary of your overall assessment of the project results (to be used for the website and other reports to the GA)

The objective of this project has been to strengthen the statistical capacity of member countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) to monitor demographic, social and economic progress toward the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Progress was achieved in all three domains critical to the monitoring of the MDGs, namely: (i) population and social conditions, (ii) health status of the population, and (iii) economic development especially Non-Observed Economy (NOE). The objective of the Project has been achieved to a large extent.

The main beneficiaries of the Project were the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and partially Afghanistan. The activities were implemented by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in close collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the Statistical Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Notable progress was achieved in the activities related to Population and Housing Censuses. The 2000 round of Population Censuses was the first for the beneficiary countries as independent states. As a result of training and cooperation under this Project, the 2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses is prepared to a large extent, according to the CES Census Recommendations\(^1\) in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. At this stage, however, the date of the next population Census has not yet been set by Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Despite numerous challenges related to the measurement of Non-Observed Economy (NOE), all the beneficiary countries estimate NOE on a regular basis and following international standards. According to a UNECE report\(^2\), the size of Non-Observed Economy varies from 12 to 30 % in the Central Asian countries. A starting point for this project was the need to improve calculations of gross domestic product (GDP) by better measurement of the informal sector. Under the Project the methodology of measuring NOE has been developed further and new surveys and data sources have been introduced by the countries. However, so far only Turkmenistan includes estimates of illegal activities in GDP owing to the unreliable and few data sources for illegal activities. Since the quality of the estimates of NOE is directly reflected in the exhaustiveness and comparability of

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National Accounts, continuous development of data collection methods, data sources and estimation methods is needed.

The goal of the Project to increase the capacity of countries to produce, disseminate and use statistics on the Health Status of the population has been achieved to a smaller extent. Nevertheless, visible results were obtained in a pilot study by the NSO of Kazakhstan, where Washington Group's extended set of questions on disability has been tested in 2009. Development of Disability Statistics supports the countries in the process towards signing and ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The approach based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) to disability is a completely new activity for the targeted countries, which explains the modest results for the other countries. Initiation of new statistics demand time and resources, as well as active support and contribution from policy makers, institutions, academia and the public. As a result of the training, the concepts and methods of Disability Statistics are well understood by the national statisticians of the beneficiary countries, and future activities to enhance the acquired knowledge are being planned.

The Project's actions have been carried out according to the Project document, with some modifications. Thus, the Training Workshop on Health Statistics initially planned in Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan was cancelled due to the unsuitability of the venue and replaced by the participation of four delegates from two countries to the UNESCAP Regional Workshop on disability data collection. Also, responding to the high demand for training on dissemination of MDGs, a Training Workshop on Dissemination of MDG Indicators and Statistical Information was organized in 2009 in Astana, Kazakhstan. An additional National Training Workshop was funded by UNFPA Turkmenistan in preparations for the 2010 Round of Population Census in Turkmenistan.

According to the evaluation report and the evaluation meeting of March 2009, the Project has had a positive impact on the statistical capacity of national statisticians with a focus on international standards, best practices and implementation of new methods. Furthermore, to ensure continuity, the targeted NSOs have expressed their interest in further training on monitoring of demographic, social and economic progress towards the Millennium Declaration, with a view to materialising the knowledge acquired under this Project.
2. Review of the performance indicators and activities as per logical framework of the project document.

**EA1 Increased capacity of the Central Asian countries to strengthen statistical services for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, including the organization of their next population censuses using regional ECE standards with specifications that are relevant to their national economic and social situation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.1.1: Quantitative Performance (Indicator(s) related to EA1)</th>
<th>(i) Number of Central Asian countries renovating the management of their next population censuses – 5 countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Number of countries participating and establishing statistical series and enhanced information datasets for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals – 6 countries</td>
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</table>

**Qualitative Results achieved for EA1:**

The expected accomplishments of this component have been achieved. All the beneficiary countries, where a decision to carry out a Population Census in the round of 2010, have renovated their management of Censuses. At this stage, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have not yet taken a decision on carrying out a Population Census. Nevertheless, the NSOs of the two countries consider the training provided by this Project of high importance for a comprehensive understanding of Census taking.

As a result of the training, all four NSOs carrying out the Census in 2009-2012, are paying more attention to the planning process; better collaboration with main users; training of personnel and organisation of field work; raising of public awareness; use of modern technologies; quality management and efficient dissemination.

All countries strive for improvements of official statistics, including MDG indicators. Additionally, publications on specific MDG indicators have been released by the countries, e.g. *Women and Men and Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation* by the NSO of Kazakhstan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During this Workshop various aspects of Census planning and management were discussed, paying attention in particular to measures for ensuring quality of Censuses (e.g. testing data collection, post enumeration surveys to confirm reliability and importance of staff selection and training).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Training Workshop on Dissemination of MDG Indicators and Statistical Information</strong> on 23 – 25 November 2009, in Astana,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due to the high demand for training on dissemination of MDGs, this activity was organized instead of an advisory mission to a single country. This way several countries were able to benefit from the training.

**A1.2**  
**Training Workshop on Census Technology** on 7 – 8 June 2007 in Astana, Kazakhstan with 40 participants from NSOs.

This training focused on the evaluation, selection and implementation of technological solutions for Censuses, e.g. technological and practical aspects of data coding, editing and imputing, dissemination and mapping of results with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

**A1.3**  
**Advisory Mission on the preparations of the publication and dissemination activities of the Population and Housing Census** and other statistical materials in January 2009 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Practical advice on the implementation of international standards and techniques for Census data processing and mapping was given to the NSO of Tajikistan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EA2</strong> New ECE guidelines for the 2010 round of population censuses implemented in Central Asian countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.2.1: Quantitative Performance (Indicator(s) related to EA1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Central Asian countries implementing ECE recommendations in the preparation of their next population censuses – <strong>4 countries</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualitative Results achieved for EA2:  
The expected results of the component have been achieved in all countries that are going to conduct the 2010 Round of Population Censuses. In the countries Census taking is, to a large extent, based on the CES Census Recommendations, which were published in 2006. According to the beneficiaries, the activities of this project have offered essential methodological support for the preparation of Population and Housing Censuses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.2.1 (Main activities completed in relation to EA2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training workshop on Implementation of New ECE Recommendations</strong> - Census Questionnaire Design on 12-16 March 2007 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with 37 participants from 7 NSOs and Regional Offices of the NSO of Tajikistan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the Workshop best practices on the design of the Census questionnaires were exchanged and Census related issues of migration, advocacy, planning and budgeting were discussed based on the CES Census Recommendations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.2.2 (Main activities completed in relation to EA2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advisory Mission on the preparations of the Population and Housing Census</strong> in August 2008 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Practical advice on the Census dissemination and tabulation plans was given to the NSO of Kyrgyzstan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### EA3 Strengthened capacity of Central Asian countries to produce and use statistics on the health status of the population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.3.1: Quantitative Performance (Indicator(s) related to EA3)</th>
<th>Number of Central Asian countries moving from administrative register-based data collection to household surveys in the measurement of the health status of the Population – 1 country (Kazakhstan)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative Results achieved for EA3:</td>
<td>As a first result, Kazakhstan carried out a survey on the access to health services and health status, as part of their household income and expenditure survey in 2008. Within the framework of a Development Account project on improvement of disability measurement and statistics, implemented by ESCAP, UNECE facilitated Kazakhstan to conduct field testing of a set of questions on disability. So far these activities were not extended to the other countries, but the experience will serve for their benefit of others given that sufficient funding is available in the future. In addition, household surveys on health issues, were carried out by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan studied health status of children. These additional surveys received practical support from other projects as well.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.3.1 (Main activities completed in relation to EA3)</th>
<th>UNESCAP Regional Workshop on promoting disability data collection through the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses on 8-10 April 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand with 4 participants from the NSOs. The participants considered the ICF-based approach to disability data collection important, and they expressed their need for practical training in the future.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.3.2 (Main activities completed in relation to EA3)</td>
<td>Training Workshop for Statisticians on Disability Statistics on 13-15 December 2006 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with 10 participants from NSOs. The participants considered the training interesting and important as it introduced best practices and developed knowledge on the methods to improve Disability Statistic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.3.3 (Main activities completed in relation to EA3)</td>
<td>Advisory mission to the Regional Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses on 10-12 December 2008 in Minsk by 1 UNECE resource person to 41 participants. Advice on international standards and contemporary technologies for using census for Health Status data was given to the beneficiary countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EA4 Development and implementation of common methodologies for better coverage by national accounts aggregates of the informal sector (grey and black economy) and other forms of non-observed economic activities in Central Asian countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I.4.1: Quantitative Performance (Indicator(s) related to EA4)</th>
<th>Number of Central Asian countries developing harmonized and comparable estimates of the non-observed economy in their National Accounts – 6 countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Qualitative Results achieved for EA2: | The target has been achieved, since all targeted NSOs estimate Non-Oberved Economy on a regular basis and follow international standards. The achievements include:  
- Development of methodology and increased use of labour force survey and financial reports in Kazakhstan;  
- Improvement of methods of data collection and new surveys on informal activities in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;  
- New surveys on misreporting by enterprises to avoid taxes in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.  
Due to the unreliable and few data sources for illegal activities, so far only Turkmenistan includes estimates of illegal activities into GDP as part of their calculations of Non-Oberved Economy. |
| A.4.1 (Main activities completed in relation to EA4) | **Training workshop for statisticians on Non-Oberved Economy** on 25-27 April 2007 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan with 16 participants from NSOs.  
International recommendations were discussed and the beneficiary countries presented their experiences in measuring NOE.  
**Second Training Workshop for transition economies on Non-Oberved Economy in National Accounts and the 1993 SNA update issues** on 21 - 22 April 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland with 22 participants from NSOs.  
The countries presented their practices in specific areas of NOE, e.g. illegal activities, business services provided by persons and underreporting. Best practices were discussed. |
| A.4.2 (Main activities completed in relation to EA4) | **Advisory Services to national statisticians on Non-Oberved Economy** on 14-16 November 2007 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan by 2 resource persons from UNECE providing advice for 24 participants, from the NSO of Tajikistan. During the mission a seminar was organised to provide knowledge on Non-Oberved Economy (NOE) to a wider audience. The first evaluation of the non-observed economy in Tajikistan was carried out in 2007 in TACIS program. During this Advisory Mission several issues about the preliminary results, measurement, misreporting, illegal activities and implementation of international standards were tackled.  
**Advisory Services to national statisticians on Non-Oberved Economy and the renewal of SNA**, in October 2008 in Baku, Azerbaijan by 2 resource persons from UNECE. A better understanding of the methodology for measuring NOE, misreporting and illegal activities and implementation of international standards was reached. |
| **EA5** Improved sub-regional cooperation among Central Asian countries in the area of statistics for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals through regional meetings/workshops |
| I.5.1: Quantitative Performance (Indicator(s) related to EA5) | Number of common statistical procedures involving upgrading the Millennium Development Goal statistical tracking and monitoring of indicators adopted by Central Asian countries – **some improvement in 6 countries** |
| Qualitative Results achieved for EA5: | The Project has promoted development and use of common procedures in line with international standards on Population Censuses, MDG indicators, Health Status and measurement of Non-Observed Economy. The project has led to increased cooperation between the NSOs promoted by the common Training Workshops, Meetings, Study Visits and exchange of experiences. Achievement of tangible results from the regional cooperation will require a longer period of time. |
| A.5.1 (Main activities completed in relation to EA5) | **Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics** on 16 June 2006 in Paris, France with 6 participants, (incl. 3 Heads and 1 Deputy Head of NSOs), and 2 resource persons from UNECE, 1 from CIS STAT and UNFP, and 2 from UNSD and ESCAP. The Director of the Statistical Division of UNECE presented the goals of this Project. The project plan was discussed and finalized.  

**Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics** on 15 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland with 11 participants, (incl. 3 Heads and 3 Deputy Heads of NSOs), and 5 resource persons from UNECE and 1 from ESCAP, EFTA and CIS STAT. The meeting focused on the activities of this Project and on the requirements for the legal framework for Censuses, and on how Global Assessments can benefit the development of national statistical systems.  

**Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics** on 13 June 2008 in Paris, France with 11 participants, (incl. 3 Heads of NSOs and 2 Heads of International Relations Divisions of NSOs), and 3 resource persons from UNECE, 2 from Eurostat and 1 from UNFPA, ECO and EFTA. Progress in the Project was reported, and experiences with regard to Censuses, Migration Statistics and data dissemination systems were exchanged. |
| A.5.2 (Main activities completed in relation to EA5) | **Three Study tours** to learn from best practices in Official Statistics were organized to the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). 4 representatives of NSOs (3 Heads and 1 Deputy Head of NSOs) were funded to CES in Paris, 13-15 June 2006. 6 representatives of NSOs (3 Heads and 3 Deputy Heads of NSOs) were funded to CES in Geneva, 12-14 June 2007. |
5 representatives of NSOs (3 Heads and 2 Heads of International Relations Division of NSOs) were funded to CES in Paris, 10-12 June 2008.

A.5.3 (Main activities completed in relation to EA5) External evaluation of the Project was conducted during January-March 2009 by Mr. Oleg Cara, Deputy Director of the National Statistical Bureau of Moldova. The evaluation report is attached to this terminal report.

Evaluation Meeting of the StatCapCA Project took place on 23-24 March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey with 9 participants, (incl. 1 Head and 2 Deputy Heads of NSOs, 1 Head of International Relations Division of an NSO, 1 resource person from Eurostat, UNESCAP and 3 from UNECE).

3. Statistical data

- **Number of workshops (participants, gender) and advisory missions**

Total of 171 persons were trained during seven training workshops (see table 1). This includes the participants to UNESCAP Regional Workshop on Disability Data and translation of materials of the workshop into Russian.

**Table 1**

*Training Workshops and participants*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Training Workshop</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Resource Persons</th>
<th>Participation of International Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Training Workshop on Dissemination of MDG Indicators</td>
<td>23–25 Nov 2009</td>
<td>Astana, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Training Workshop on Census Technology</td>
<td>7–8 Jun 2007</td>
<td>Astana, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>UNESCAP, UNFPA, CISSTAT, UNECE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Training Workshop on new ECE Recommendations - Census Questionnaire Design</td>
<td>12–16 Mar 2007</td>
<td>Dushanbe, Tajikistan</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>UNESCAP, UNFPA, Swiss Statistical Office, UNECE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>UNESCAP Regional Workshop on Disability Data Collection through the Census</td>
<td>8–10 Apr 2008</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>UNECE (ESCWA, UNFPA, UNESCAP, WB, UNESCO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Training workshop on Disability Statistics</td>
<td>13–15 Dec 2006</td>
<td>Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNESCAP, the World Bank, Washington Group, UNECE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Training workshop on Non-Observed Economy</td>
<td>25–27 Apr 2007</td>
<td>Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNESCAP, Eurostat, SNA93 Revision Group, UNECE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy in National Accounts</td>
<td>21–22 Apr 2008</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP, OECD, UNECE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>171</strong></td>
<td><strong>78</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Advisory Missions took place instead of the six Missions originally planned.


- **List of countries who benefited from interventions**

The beneficiary countries were Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, partially Afganistan. Indirectly many other countries benefited from the Project and funded their participation in the provided activities from other sources.

- **List of main partners in project implementation**

The Project was implemented by the Statistical Division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in close collaboration with the Statistics Division of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the Statistical Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The UN Statistical Division (UNSD) and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT) were involved in several activities.

During the Project, UNECE cooperated with International Organizations and National Statistical Offices:

i) UNFPA, Eurostat, the US Census Bureau, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Italian Statistical Bureau - in the area of population and demographic statistics;

ii) The World Bank, WHO and Eurostat, as well as the Washington Group on Disability Statistics - in the area of health status statistics;

iii) OECD, Eurostat and ILO - in the area of Non-Observed Economy.
4. Please elaborate on the following issues related to the project, both in terms of project design (i.e. materials, type of activities, expected accomplishments, objectives, etc.) and project implementation (collaborations, implementation structures, etc.).

   a) Good practices

The Training Workshops included country participation in the form of presentations and group work. In the opinion of the participants this brought the practical issues closer, increased understanding of the recommendations in practice and promoted learning from each other. In addition, the size of the Workshops, e.g. six to seven countries was optimal: Reasonable amount of participants enables active participation of all countries, and yet, the participation was large enough to facilitate good interaction.

After the Bangkok workshop Kazakhstan was selected to carry out a pilot of the UNESCAP-lead project on disability statistics. Kazakhstan tested a questionnaire developed by the Washington Group. The results of this pilot will be shared within the region thus promoting broader implementation of disability data collection. Other Central Asian countries will benefit from the practical experience of Kazakhstan, and may be able to implement disability data collection with the tested practice and process.

Several international and national agencies provide assistance to the Central Asian countries. It is necessary to coordinate the activities of different donors, in order to comply with the absorption capacity of beneficiary countries. During this project continuous effort has been made to cooperate closely with the main donors. Work has been done on the coordination of technical cooperation in statistics, under the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians, the UN Committee on Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and Eurostat. The SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics has offered regular forum for the concrete plans in the Central Asian countries. Judging by the outcome of this Project parallel activities of donors have supported achievement of results.

   b) Problems encountered

A Training Workshop on Health Status Statistics was originally planned for October 2007 taking place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Since this location turned out not to be feasible, the possible venue was discussed in the PWG Meeting on Statistics in June 2007. As a result, it was agreed that the Training Workshop should be held in Uzbekistan. However, in the course of preparations, this plan had to be given up due to the difficulties of the host. As a consequence, the planned Training Workshop on Health Statistics was compensated by participation of four delegates and one resource person from UNECE to an
UNESCAP Regional Workshop on disability data collection. Translation of the materials into Russian was financed by this Project.

Some countries, such as Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan reported difficulties in acquiring new equipment and modern technology for conducting Population Censuses. Many NSOs mentioned that financial constraints impede the implementation of the recommended practises. Over the last decade the National Statistical Offices of Central Asia have experienced a significant decrease in their human and financial resources.

c) Lessons learned (both positive and negative)

Even if the training aims at international comparability of statistics, national conditions have to be considered in order to find the best practical solutions. There are differences between countries in the availability and reliability of data sources both e.g. for MDG indicators and Non-Observed Economy (NOE). Not all indicators are relevant in the national context, and differences in the levels of experience of the NSOs need to be taken into account. For practical reasons, different methods continue to be used also after the provided training. However, countries are aware of international requirements and work towards better comparability of estimates. Therefore, continuous development of data collection methods, data sources and estimation methods is needed.

During the Project implementation, special efforts were made to encourage active cooperation and participation of all beneficiary countries. Since Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan did not participate in the First PWG on Statistics in June 2006, letters were sent by the Executive Secretary of UNECE to the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. As a result, Deputy Directors from the National Statistical Offices of both countries participated in the Second PWG on Statistics, organized in Geneva in June 2007. However, not all countries were able to participate in the third and fourth SPECA PWG on Statistics. As a conclusion, it is important to engage the beneficiary countries in planning the activities according to their needs in the early stages of project planning.

To support sustainable improvement of statistics production, attention need be given to dissemination procedures and technology. Due to the detailed structure of both results of Population Censuses and MDG indicators, best results in dissemination can be achieved with user database solutions. In order to create a self-sustained process of database dissemination in the countries, support for the necessary IT technology should be considered in future activities. Modernising statistics production processes would improve the ability to implement the internationally recommended practices.
5. Are some of the products or approaches generated by the project continuing to be used by the target audience or other groups?

It should be mentioned that the activities fulfilled in the frame of this Project offered to the beneficiary countries the essential methodological support for the preparation of Population and Housing Census. Additional consultancy and other assistance have been provided to NSOs also by other donors.

The use of modern technology will become more common in carrying out Population Census in Central Asian countries. Kazakhstan has used scanning for data entry in its previous Population Census. Now also Turkmenistan intends to implement new technologies. The NSOs of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will take first steps in using GIS elements, especially for visual dissemination of the Census results.

To ensure exhaustive estimates of GDP and that all potential areas of Non-Oberved Economy are covered the use of advanced tabular framework designed by Eurostat was introduced in the Training Workshops of this Project. This comprehensive framework is now applied by Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

6. Are there any plans to continue or to replicate any of the activities or initiatives of the project?

All Central Asian countries are interested in developing indicators of Health Status. Uzbekistan expressed its interest to study the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), and Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have requested assistance in the implementation of ICF and launching of studies on Disability Statistics. Development of Disability Statistics is a step towards the broader framework of Health Status Statistics. The Central Asian countries have requested for further work based on the experiences of Kazakhstan. These activities should be continued to support the countries in the process towards signing and ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As a follow-up to the project, UNECE will organize jointly with other international organizations a Training Workshop in 2010 for the National Statistical Offices and other MDG producing agencies in Central Asia and other Russian speaking countries. The workshop is planned to have a focus on Health and Mortality Statistics and national mechanisms for official statistics. The purpose is to address methodological issues in producing MDG-related Health and Mortality Statistics and use of statistics in development policies, and to raise awareness of good mechanisms for data sharing and improving the dissemination of MDG indicators. Several other activities have been planned for the next years to reduce the gaps observed in the assessment of capacity to produce MDG
relevant Statistics\textsuperscript{3}. The activities will focus on the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

UNECE cooperates with ESCAP in supporting effective use of information and communication technology in Population Census operations in the Russian speaking member countries of ESCAP. Assessments, workshops and meetings are planned for 2010-2011 so that the 2010 round of Population Census data become available faster, in higher quality, and for wider audiences than previously.

There are plans to continue the annual SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics, which was initiated during this Project. These meetings have increased cooperation between the Central Asian countries, provided feedback on the capacity building activities and information on topical development issues in the countries, and enabled better coordination of activities between the international organizations (IOs). Several international organizations have expressed their interest in continuing these joint meetings. Participation of IOs has been active, e.g. CIS STAT, UNFPA, UNSD, ESCAP, EFTA, ECO and EUROSTAT have participated in the SPECA Project Working Groups on Statistics.

7. Were supplementary funds raised during the course of the project to support the project’s objective and facilitate the achievement of the expected accomplishments?

One of the results of this Project was an agreement with the UNFPA Turkmenistan Country Organization to organize a National Training Workshop on the preparations for the 2010 Round of Population Censuses in Turkmenistan. The UNFPA Turkmenistan arranged and financed the training of about 15 census managers and staff members of the NSO of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat on 7-12 May 2007. The training was based on the materials produced for the Baku and Dushanbe Workshops, and the training was provided by three resource persons from UNECE.

In some of the areas supported by the Project, the countries have received additional assistance or requested complementary activities, which have contributed to the improvement of statistics. For example Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been assisted by the European Commission in TACIS projects on the estimation of Non-Observed Economy. Azerbaijan has received additional assistance in a TACIS project on Health Statistics, whilst Kyrgyzstan has been assisted by other projects on the preparation of the next Population and Housing Census.

Furthermore, there are plans to organize a workshop on Population Censuses for Central Asian countries in Geneva on 5-6 July 2010, back-to-back to the Joint UNECE-Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses. The workshop, jointly organized by UNECE and UNFPA, will focus on the Housing Censuses.

Some supplementary funds have been raised to enable participation of other countries or additional participants to the prepared capacity building activities. For example the UNFPA Country Organization funded additional participants to the Training Workshop on the Design of Census Questionnaires from Kazakhstan and Georgia.

8. List of additional information materials on project activities available, such as press clippings, media coverage, meeting reports, publications, websites etc. You may include important materials with this report as desired; if the information is available online, it would be particularly useful to send the relevant URLs. Reports of internal and/or external evaluations conducted should also be included.

**UNECE Library of Training Materials on Statistics**

Training materials on Censuses, MDGs, NOE and Health Statistics:
http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/TRAINSTATS

**UNECE Recommendations and Surveys of Country Practices**

CES Recommendations for 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

Survey on the Country Practices of 2010 Population and Housing Censuses

Non-observed Economy in National Accounts: Survey of Country Practices

Assessment of Capacity for Countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to Produce MDG-Relevant Statistics

**Materials of the Organized Meetings and Training Workshops**

**EA 1.1** Seminar on Measurement of Population and Social Conditions using Population Census, Baku, October-November 2006

**AE 1.1** Training Workshop on Dissemination of MDG Indicators and Statistical Information, Astana, November 2009

**AE 1.2** Training Workshop on Census Technology, Astana, June 2007
**AE 2.1** Training Workshop on new ECE recommendations, Census Questionnaire Design, Dushanbe, March 2006
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.03.census.htm

**AE 3.1** ESCAP Regional Workshop on promoting disability data collection through the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses, Bangkok, April 2008
Materials translated into Russian and links to the above Workshop

**AE 3.2** Training Workshop on Disability Statistics, Bishkek, December 2006

**AE 4.1** First Training Workshop on Non-Observed Economy, Bishkek, April 2007

http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.04.sna.htm#s1

**AE 5.1** SPECA PWG Meeting on Statistics in 2006, 2007 and 2008
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.06.speca.htm
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.06.speca.htm
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.06.speca.htm

**AE 5.2** Study tours to the Plenary Sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians for best practices in 2006, 2007 and 2008
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.06.ces.htm
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.06.ces.htm

**AE 5.3** Evaluation meeting of the StatCapCA Project, March 2009
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.speca.htm

**Progress Reports of this UN Development Account Project**

April 2006 – March 2007

April 2006 – February 2008
http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.57/2008/2.e.pdf

April 2006 – January, 2009