Concept Note and TOR
In-Class Regional Workshop
Population Characteristics within the SDGs Framework 2030
22–26 April 2018

I. Workshop Rationale
At its meeting in June 2017, the UN Economic and Social Council endorsed the 2030 sustainable development indicators. The total number of indicators listed in the global framework of SDGs indicators is 244 (232 after taking out the repeated ones). It is imperative that meeting the requirements for measuring the numerical indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires partnership among all stakeholders at the national, regional and international level, especially in the field of capacity-building of statistical staff in charge of measurement tasks and the preparation of periodic reports on the progress of countries towards achieving these goals.

As in many other countries, producing the indicators represents a major undertaking for the Arab national statistical offices that will be responsible for delivering a large subset of the indicators, especially those pertaining to socio-economic and demographic measures ranging from educational attainment and reproductive health to gender and poverty statistics.

A recent study conducted by AITRS has found that the number of numerical indicators of SDGs is 173 and can be classified into fourteen domains including the domain “Population and their Characteristics”. This training workshop falls within this context. The Population Characteristics domain includes a large number of indicators to be measured which in turn intersect with at least ten of the seventeen SDGs (not shown here). It’s to be noted that the regional Task Force on ICPD based SDG indicators which is composed of Government officials, ESCWA, LAS, and UNFPA adopted a list of 39 priority indicators for the Arab region, which were further endorsed by the ESCWA’s SDG data group. This workshop may use these indicators as a source for exercises and deliberations.
II. Workshop Contents

Knowing the size of the population at large and of population groups at any point of time is necessary not only to estimate their basic and non–basic needs, but because this information constitutes the denominator for calculating many other statistical indicators. In addition to various population sizes, falls under the contents of the workshop many demographics including age characteristics by sex; characteristics of their marital status; education, health and economic conditions such as income, wages, activity sectors, occupation, employment and unemployment; dwellings characteristics and its available infrastructure services regarding water, energy, sanitation, waste, public transport, communications; and the effects of natural disasters on the population.

Thus, this workshop is designed to help countries strategize on sourcing data to provide accurate and periodic information for measuring the SDGs indicators related to the multidimensional population characteristics through censuses and major household surveys. In addition to measuring the above mentioned characteristics and their changes and differentials, other areas will be measured too such as reproduction; mortality; migration; poverty; subsidization; under– and–mal nutrition; population food security; health insurance; maternal and child mortality and morbidity; mortality from communicable and non–communicable diseases; antenatal and delivery care; immunization; family planning; educational outputs; education enrolment by stages and age of learners; school characteristics; marital status; child marriage; gender and empowerment of women; and violence against women including exposure to domestic violence.

III. Workshop Objectives:

(1) Identify the traditional and modern sources that provide accurate data to measure the quantitative indicators of SDGs and report on the progress made towards achieving them.

(2) Understand the strengths and limitations in various data sources that will be used to submit reports on the countries’ progress towards achieving the ICPD based SDGs.

(3) Focus on hands–on identification and extraction of data on various population characteristics.

(4) Review the indicators on population characteristics and their different sources according to the SDGs 2030 requirements.
Create a template for a base year to help develop a national strategy that ensures the availability of all requirements needed for measuring the quantitative indicators of ICPD based SDGs up to the year 2030.

IV. Target Audience and Prerequisites
The workshop targets analysts working with socio-economic and demographic data on a routine basis at the Arab NSOs who have been in service for not more than ten years to ensure that they keep up with until the end of the third decade of current millennium, especially those who are currently in departments or units concerned with demographic and family issues a/or population censuses and multi-topic household surveys. Instructors assume familiarity with basic demographic methods and indicators. Participants should also be comfortable with Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

V. Expected Outcomes
By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Fully understand the SDGs indicators especially the ICPD based indicators.
- Be able of finding and extracting data on indicators pertaining to population characteristics within the SDGs framework and the tier system for ICPD based indicators.
- Develop a template with baselines to help monitor progress in subsequent years toward achieving ICPD based SDGs.

VI. Workshop Modalities
Through lectures, individual and group exercises and class discussion, participants will learn about data from censuses and surveys—such as the Demographic and Health Survey, Living Standards Measurement Study, and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, among others—to identify appropriate sources for SDG indicators. During the workshop, participants will develop a baseline template to plan for the collection of data used to monitor SDG–related indicators. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own laptops to use when creating the template according to a resource guide they will receive. English is the workshop language and instant translation will not be provided.

VII. Organizers, Instructors and Administrative Supervisors
AITRS and the Arab States Regional Office of UNFPA in Cairo organizes this workshop in collaboration with the U.S.A Bureau of Census in Washington D.C. The workshop supervisors
are: Dr. Issa Masarweh – Demographic Expert at AITRS; Dr. Fabián Romero, Demographic Statistician, Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Branch, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau; and Dr. Isam Taha, Regional Programme Specialist, United Nations Population Fund, Arab States Regional Office UNFPA.

The administrative team from AITRS are:

- Mr. Hayder Janabi hayder@aitrs.org, IT Officer.
- Ms. Mayada Laith mayada@aitrs.org, Workshop Secretary.
- Mr. Suhail Saleh Suhail@aitrs.org, PR Officer.

VIII. Logistic Matters

AITRS according to its annual budget and regulations covers the travel cost of one participant from his state to Jordan as well as the cost of his/her accommodation. The NSOs or the donor agencies should bear the cost of any additional participant. The participants attending all workshop sessions will be granted a certificate of participation in the workshop.

The workshop will take place in Geneva Hotel in Amman which is half hour drive from Queen Alia International Airport. Participants can use the taxis or buses available at the airport to get to the hotel.