

PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY - APRIL 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

The underlying progress report reflects the progress of the project over the first 4 months of 2011, which covers the period of the project extension as approved in December 2010¹. Paragraph 2 gives the narrative of the main activities and key-events over this period. This is followed by the analysis of the consolidated (cumulative) project outputs and results up until the end of April 2011 in comparison with the Results and Resources Framework as included in the approved Project Document (par. 3). The next paragraph discusses the budgetary/financial inputs (par. 4) and is succeeded by the final paragraph (5) in which a forecast is given with regard to tasks and activities ahead and, in which, furthermore, conclusions and recommendations are summarized.

In the last quarter of 2010 a project extension of 4 months until the end of April 2011 was proposed and approved along the lines of the applicable procedures (including explicit consent of UNDP HQ). With the related Budget Revision and the achievements of the preceding phase it was anticipated that the extension of 4 months would be sufficient for a smooth completion of the project with a launched MDG Progress Report in line with international standards and practices. At the moment of compilation of the underlying report it has become clear that the review and revision process of the draft cannot be completed before the end of April. Consequently a short additional non-cost project extension is deemed to be necessary; the motivation for this is given in paragraph 5.

2. KEY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS OVER REFERENCE PERIOD

2.1 DRAFT OF THE REPORT AND ITS REVIEW AND REVISION

At the end of December 2010 the National Report Cell in consultation with responsible line ministries as represented in the National Advisory Panel finalized for a major part the draft chapters and analyses for the Progress Report in a Korean version. The consolidation and integration of these, separately compiled, building stones of the report took another month until the end of January 2011. On 1 February 2011 the NRC presented the main conclusions and some translated excerpts of the Report in a meeting of the Technical MDG Report Team (representatives of resident UN Agencies in DPR Korea). The participants of the meeting praised the substantive work that has been carried out, but advised substantive modifications and the need to include more information about potential policy implications. A large number of concrete proposals were suggested during the meeting.

A next version in Korean was finalized in the first half of March and submitted for external translation into English. The full English zero draft of the main Report text was subsequently made available for review by the CTA, HDRU and Technical Team on 23 March 2011. The zero draft was immediately

¹ Because of practical considerations the underlying report covers 4 month including the first quarter of 2011 for which no separate progress report will be submitted.

submitted for pre-advice to the HDR Unit of APRC in Bangkok and later on distributed among the members of the Technical MDG Report Team for their review. After intensive consultations with HDRU, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA and UNDP, the CTA submitted the consolidated commented version of the first review round of the Report to the National Report Cell on 14 April 2011.

The technical annex with the metadata of the indicators (definitions and additional clarifications) was received on 7 April 2011. This document, with a more technical character, was reviewed by the CTA and returned to the NRC with comments on 20 April 2011.

The CTA has discussed the further planning of activities of the project with the National Project Director after the submission of the comments. He emphasized that the time needed for the completion of the reviews and revision would make it practically impossible to have a printed version ready by the foreseen date for the launch seminar (before 19 May 2011). The NPD opposed further postponement of the launch date and subsequently UNDP RR did send a letter to the Secretary General of NCC² with the advice to allocate sufficient time for the completion of the report and to consider the option to organize the launch back to back with the evaluation mission in June 2011. The reaction from Government side was that the editing of the report can continue until 19 May 2011 and the launch should be organized before the end of the month. The Government would like to have the project activities at its end (specifically for the implementing partner) finalized, but agreed to keep the project open until the end of June in order to facilitate the closing procedures including a mission for evaluation of the project and identification of potential follow-up projects in the framework of UNDP's CPAP 2011-2015.

It is agreed that an extension of the project until end of June 2011 is necessary although the project activities of the National Report Cell will be finalized before the end of May 2011. The procedures for formal approval of HQ and for the Budget Revision have been started.

2.2 OTHER ACTIVITIES

The licenses from the US authorities for the procurement of IT equipment were obtained, but the Government, did not accept the license conditions despite a further written clarification about the interpretation of the conditions from the side of the management of UNDP CO. Consequently only the items that are not subjected to license restriction will be made available to NRC. In a next stage will be decided how the received items will be handled.

The CTA has been involved in the drafting of the Terms of Reference for the Theme Group Monitoring and Evaluation and has participated in several Theme group meetings. He also continued the work on the collection of statistical data and the set up of a data base.

² Letter of 26 April 2011; see Annex 1.

3. PROJECT STATUS COMPARED WITH PRODOC RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK³

| Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: Enhanced capacity of Governmental agencies in the implementation of MDG based planning and evaluation for Human Development | | | | |
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| Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework: First MDG Progress Report published and required policy follow-up identified (4.1). From having statistical staff with limited exposure to latest statistical methodologies, staff will subsequently be able to apply the latest statistical methodologies in the generation of MDG-related data disaggregated by gender and region (4.2). | | | | |
| Applicable MYFF Service Line: 1- Poverty 1.1-MDG Country Reporting and Poverty Monitoring; Statistical capacities and analytical processes for regular MDG reporting established; Knowledge base for effective management of external assistance and critical external relationship strengthened. | | | | |
| Partnership Strategy Government, UNDP, UNCT and UNOPS | | | | |
| Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): 41525 Capacity building for Statistics related to the Millennium Development Goals | | | | |
| Intended Outputs | Indicative Activities | Output Indicators, Baselines, Targets | Responsible parties | Inputs ⁴ |
| A.1.National infrastructures for MDG- and Human Development Reporting established and operations supported for the draft of the first MDG Progress Report; staff trained in reporting on Human Development and Millennium Development Goals in line with current international standards and practices; skills of staff in implementation of relevant modern database management technologies upgraded; and staff exposed to international practices with respect to UNCT programming related to MDGs. | A.1.1. Establishment and operation of National Report Cell (NRC) A.1.5. Establishment and operation of National Advisory Panel (NAP) and Technical MDG Report Team | National Report Cell, Technical MDG Report Team, and National Advisory Panel established and fully operational; meeting reports, work plans and progress reports. <i>National Report Cell (NRC), Technical MDG Report Team (TMRT), and National Advisory Panel (NAP) established; Technical MDG Report Team has still to be formalized (nomination by UN RC). The 3 groups have been operational:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>NRC on a full time basis since June 2010; project office and training room equipped with procured furniture and air-conditioner. IT equipment still waiting for completion of procurement procedures related export licenses; nevertheless work could progress thanks to assistance of CBS. Work plans and monthly progress reports of NRC are available.</i> - <i>TMRT has been involved in the preparation for the Inception Workshop and has participated in the Inception Workshop.</i> - <i>NAP has been involved in the national consultations by the NRC for the Inception Workshop, has participated in the Inception Workshop and is consulted on a regular base by the NRC during the completion of the localized targets and indicators and the</i> | National Coordinating Committee for UNDP, Central Bureau of Statistics, UNOPS, UNDP and UN Agencies | National consultants (45,000 USD) and procurement equipment, software, office facilities and materials for NRC (55,000 USD) |

³ Status information per 30 April 2011 indicated in **blue bold italic.**

⁴ Budget adapted to BR of December 2010.

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| | <p>A.1.2. Training in aspects of MDG and HD reporting in line with international standards (NRC)</p> | <p><i>drafting of the report chapters.</i></p> <p>At least 4 DPRK staff trained abroad for at least 3 working weeks/ person in relevant aspects of Human Development and MDG Reporting.</p> <p><i>The training abroad found place in July 2010 and covered at the end only 1 week training in Vietnam. Originally scheduled second week at the UNDP Regional Center in Colombo was cancelled by the hosts at the last moment because of temporary closure of their office. A third week of training could not be arranged because of incompatibility of agendas. It was agreed to fill the gap caused by the cancellation and the shortening of the mission via training by the CTA. The training mission consisted of 6 DPRK-staff and the CTA. Detailed report is available</i></p> <p><i>In-country training of the NRC team is a continuous activity of the CTA either via formal training, on-the-job assistance or provision of relevant materials and documentation. Electronic versions of the training materials provided are available.</i></p> | | <p>International training NRC (40,000 USD)</p> |
| | <p>A.1.3. Training abroad for upgrading skills in latest database techniques including mapping (CBS)</p> | <p>At least 3 technical CBS staff trained in modern database management technologies and mapping during a training abroad of at least 2 weeks.</p> <p><i>Training abroad on relevant IT aspects over 2 weeks found place in December 2010 in respectively China and Cambodia. The main subjects of the training as organized in support of the project were (1) updates on modern database management technologies, (2) principles of Geographic Information systems and mapping, and (3) practicalities with respect to the usage of DevInfo application (in particularly the Exchange option and the Mapping option). Detailed mission report is available.</i></p> | | <p>International training CBS (40,000 USD)</p> |
| | <p>A.1.4. Field study tour abroad for senior NCC staff for study of country experiences with the UNCT programming process related to MDGs and Harmonization</p> | <p>At least 2 staff of NCC exposed to experiences of at least 4 countries with UNCT programming related to MDGs and Harmonization during a field study tour of at least 2 weeks.</p> <p><i>Field study tour for 2 senior officials of NCC took place in April 2010 and covered 4 countries during a tour of 3 weeks. Detailed report is available</i></p> | | <p>International training NCC (30,000 USD – moved to UNDP portion of Budget)</p> |

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| <p>A.2. Database system with social and economic data established and maintained; finalized and actualized data sets including corresponding analyses with respect to the 8 MDG-goals as well as other indicators relevant for the nation strategic development planning; MDG Progress Report compiled, printed in English and Korean, and presented; and policy implications identified.</p> | <p>A.2.1. Inception workshop installing NRC, Technical MDG Report Team, and NAP; identifying (localized) MDG goals and targets; and detailing contents of MDG Progress Report</p> <p>A.2.2. Uploading and maintenance of database and preparation of technical support documents including statistical tables on thematic issues.</p> <p>A.2.3. Research/authoring of chapters of the MDG Progress report.</p> <p>A.2.4. Review of drafted chapters and provision of advice for the MDG Report</p> <p>A.2.5. Finalization of authoring of</p> | <p>Inception workshop, of at least 2 days with participation of at least 15 participants of DPRK ministries and institutions, NRC-staff, Technical MDG Report Team, National Advisory Panel. Workshop report detailing national MDG goals/targets and outlines of MDG report defined drafted.</p> <p><i>Inception Workshop was held on 11 and 12 August according the plans. Detailed report, inclusive the results of subsequent bilateral meeting, is included in the Progress report per 30 September 2010.</i></p> <p>DevInfo Database uploaded and actualized with socio-economic data covering the 8 MDG-goals and other indicators relevant for measurement of progress in areas of national development priorities with disaggregation by gender and region.</p> <p><i>The configuration of the national version of DevInfo (KorInfo) has been completed and the uploading with statistical data has well advanced. The basic set could be completed before the end of the year, but regular updating will continue over time.</i></p> <p><i>The basic set of draft chapters of the MDG Progress Report in Korean could be completed. Further editing is deemed necessary in order to consolidate the work of the separate authors into one document.</i></p> <p><i>A start of the review has been made in the last quarter 2010 with the review of the drafted chapters, particularly by national institutions and ministries via a series of consultations organized by the National Report Cell.</i></p> <p><i>This was followed by intensive review by members of the Technical MDG Report Team and the Human Development Report Unit of the translated English version. Comments were returned to NRC respectively on 14 April (Report) and 20 April (Annex) 2011. Conclusion of reviewers is that a second review of a next version is needed.</i></p> <p><i>Can be started after review of the second draft version</i></p> | <p>National Coordinating Committee for UNDP, Central Bureau of Statistics, State Planning Commission, Line Ministries, Research Institutions, UNOPS, UNDP and UN Agencies</p> | <p>In-country training (20,000 USD)</p> <p>International personnel (10,000 USD)</p> |
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| | <p>MDG Progress Report</p> <p>A.2.6. Final contents editing of report</p> <p>A.2.7. Translation services Korean--English</p> <p>A.2.8. Publication: copy editing, design, printing, distribution</p> <p>A.2.9. Final seminar for presentation of MDG Progress Report; identification of policy implications and follow-up activities; evaluation of project</p> | <p><i>Reviewers have concluded that substantial re-editing of the Report and Annex is needed together with full redesign of the graphs.</i></p> <p><i>First round of translation completed. Second round to be executed after final contents editing (activity A.2.6.).</i></p> <p>MDG Progress Report completed and printed in Korean and English</p> <p>Final seminar of at least 2 days with participation of at least 15 participants of DPRK ministries and institutions, NRC-staff, Technical MDG Report Team, National Advisory Panel.</p> <p>Advise of Technical MDG Report Team with the final report assessment.</p> <p>Seminar report detailing: the overall assessment of the MDG Progress Report; the implications for development priorities; the evaluation of the project execution; and recommendations for follow-up activities.</p> | | <p>National consultant (5,000 USD)</p> <p>National consultant (5,000 USD)</p> <p>Printing and publication (50,000 USD)</p> <p>I</p> <p>In-country training (20,000 USD)</p> <p>International personnel (15,000 USD)</p> |
| A.3. Project management | <p>A.3.1. Project reformulation</p> <p>A.3.2. Project management</p> | <p>Project revised, managed and facilitated in line with applicable rules and regulations; 2 quarterly progress reports and 1 final progress report completed, submitted for tripartite review and approved.</p> <p><i>Project revised and approved.</i></p> <p><i>Project managed in coordination with UNOPS APO and UNDP DPRK CO. Regular status reports produced and presented. First quarterly progress report per 30 Sept 2010 as well as Annual Report 2010 submitted.</i></p> <p><i>A Monitoring and Evaluation review of the project is executed in September by the Senior Programme Advisor of UNDP CO DPRK. Tripartite Review Meeting took place in November 2010. Series of Budget Revisions were submitted and signed by the three parties.</i></p> | National Coordinating Committee for UNDP, UNOPS, and UNDP | <p>International consultant (30,000 USD)</p> <p>Chief Technical Advisor (180,000 USD)</p> <p>Miscellaneous (20,000 USD)</p> <p>Facilities and Administration (49,000 USD)</p> |
| PROJECT TOTAL 2010/2011 after BR December 2010 | | | | 734,770 USD |

4. BUDGET AND PROJECT DELIVERY⁵

As reported in the Progress Report per ultimo September 2010, a Budget revision was needed for the correction of the expenses of UNDP CO related to the organization in April 2010 of the field study tour of officials of NCC (transfer of 30,000 USD of budget in UNOPS portion to UNDP portion). The BR was signed by the three parties in October 2010

Another budget revision had been necessary for the extension of the project with 4 months until the end of April 2011. The Budget Revision that was signed in December 2010 after approval from UNDP RBAP included already a certain transfer of budget over 2010 to 2011 together with limited extra expenses for the partial coverage of the fees for international and national staff as needed for the 4 months project extension. The table on the next page gives the budget/expenditure details per 27 April 2011 and reflects the intermediate Budget Revision of December 2011.

The 'delivery' of the project until over the period until the end of April was 57%. Substantive next expenditures will be allocated for the printing of the report and the KorInfo database CD-Roms, the launch seminar, the evaluation/formulation mission in June, and the fee for the CTA. The extension until the end of June can be met within the available budgetary resources. The next BR revision will redistribute the available funds over the various budget lines in accordance with the revised AWP for 2011⁶.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the 4 month extension period the drafts of the Progress Report in English version are available, but –in the view of international experts- with a quality that is still below international standards. The project will support the further improvement of the report to a maximum and try with all means to meet the planning targets as set by the Government. The extension of the project until the end of June will be submitted via a Budget Revision to be signed by the three partners, NCC, UNDP and UNOPS.

Maarten Boon
Chief Technical Advisor
7 May 2011

⁵ See table on next page for the details of the budget and expenditure.

⁶ This BR will be prepared together with the revision needed for 2 month extension of the project (until ultimo June 2011) as is under preparation at the moment of finalization of the underlying progress report.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY : 2010 - 2011 (1 January- 27 April)

| | | Funds | Balances | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Activity ID | | Total Budget | Expenditure | Budget Balance |
| ACTIVITY 2 | 72100 Contractual Services-Companies | 0 | 1,014.30 | -1,014.30 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 0 | 81.14 | -81.14 |
| | | 0.00 | 1,095.44 | -1,095.44 |
| ACTIVITY 5 | 72100 Contractual Services-Companies | 0 | 4,676.00 | -4,676.00 |
| | 74500 Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 83.07 | -83.07 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 0 | 380.73 | -380.73 |
| | | 0.00 | 5,139.80 | -5,139.80 |
| ACTIVITY2 | 72100 Contractual Services-Companies | 110,000.00 | 66,390.31 | 43,609.69 |
| | 74500 Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 468.59 | -468.59 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 8,800.00 | 5,348.71 | 3,451.29 |
| | 76100 Foreign Exchange Currency Loss | 0 | 0.01 | -0.01 |
| | | 118,800.00 | 72,207.62 | 46,592.38 |
| ACTIVITY4 | 71400 Contractual Services - Individ | 70,000.00 | 47,677.05 | 22,322.95 |
| | 72100 Contractual Services-Companies | 0 | 415.00 | -415.00 |
| | 72200 Equipment and Furniture | 25,000.00 | 17,718.69 | 7,281.31 |
| | 72300 Materials & Goods | 5,000.00 | 990.03 | 4,009.97 |
| | 72800 Information Technology Equipmt | 25,000.00 | 13,837.97 | 11,162.03 |
| | 73400 Rental & Maint of Other Equip | 0.00 | 1,395.15 | -1,395.15 |
| | 74500 Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 439.91 | -439.91 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 10,240.00 | 6,597.90 | 3,642.10 |
| | 76100 Foreign Exchange Currency Loss | 0 | -3.93 | 3.93 |
| | | 135,240.00 | 89,067.77 | 46,172.23 |
| ACTIVITY5 | 71200 International Consultants | 35,000.00 | 0 | 35,000.00 |
| | 71300 Local Consultants | 20,000.00 | 0 | 20,000.00 |
| | 72100 Contractual Services-Companies | 75,000.00 | 9,405.70 | 65,594.30 |
| | 74200 Audio Visual&Print Prod Costs | 50,000.00 | 0 | 50,000.00 |
| | 74500 Miscellaneous Expenses | 0 | 39.58 | -39.58 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 14,400.00 | 755.62 | 13,644.38 |
| | 76100 Foreign Exchange Currency Loss | 0 | -0.01 | 0.01 |
| | | 194,400.00 | 10,200.89 | 184,199.11 |
| ACTIVITY7 | 71200 International Consultants | 248,000.00 | 220,105.94 | 27,894.06 |
| | 71600 Travel | 0 | 2,954.82 | -2,954.82 |
| | 72400 Communic & Audio Visual Equip | 0 | 224.61 | -224.61 |
| | 73500 Reimbursement Costs | 0 | 2,268.77 | -2,268.77 |
| | 74500 Miscellaneous Expenses | 17,120.00 | 1,599.45 | 15,520.55 |
| | 74600 Prepaid Project Expenses | 0 | 1,000.00 | -1,000.00 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 21,210.00 | 18,252.29 | 2,957.71 |
| | 76100 Foreign Exchange Currency Loss | 0 | 0.01 | -0.01 |
| | | 286,330.00 | 246,405.89 | 39,924.11 |
| ACTIVITY 5 (00327) | 71300 Local Consultants | 0 | 2,579.11 | -2,579.11 |
| | 75100 Facilities & Administration | 0 | 206.33 | -206.33 |
| | | 0.00 | 2,785.44 | -2,785.44 |
| TOTAL | | 734,770.00 | 426,902.85 | 307,867.15 |

Table: Budget/Expenditure Analysis⁷

⁷ Data are derived from ATLAS download by UNOP APO; data in the column Total Budget have somewhat been revised because of apparent errors. Data provided by PSU of UNDP CO show that its ATLAS update was not actualized.



26 April, 2011

Dear Mr. Ri Hung Sik,

Subject: Capacity Building on Statistics related to MDGs -
Status of MDG Progress Report, and Proposal on Key Project Activities

The project, Capacity Building in Statistics related to MDGs, is soon coming to a close with final activities, namely, the organization of a Seminar with the launch of the MDG Progress Report 2010 for DPR Korea; and a subsequent meeting for the review and assessment of the project and the identification of eventual follow-up projects. UNDP has been working to meet completing project activities in accordance with the latest provisions of the project and in response to recent discussions with NCC. However, a review of the progress and recent developments compel us to share with you a new perspective on managing the closure of this project.

I have noted that the Zero Draft of the English version of the Report as submitted to the Chief Technical Advisor on 23 March 2011 was considered as substantially improved compared to the preliminary version of the beginning of February by the Human Development Report Unit of UNDP in Bangkok and the experts of the resident UN Agencies in Pyongyang (Technical MDG Report Team). The overall conclusion of the reviewers was that the zero draft has great potential to evolve into a final report version that meets basic international quality standards. However, it is also their considered view that further revisions, corrections of errors and additions/explanations would be needed together with a substantive textual re-editing and redesign of the included graphs.

The MDG Progress Report 2010 of DPRK has high importance for the measurement of the progress of the MDGs in the country and for the identification of the areas that need acceleration via national policies supported by international development assistance. Therefore, we are highly committed to assist the Government to the maximum in the publication of this first report.

Viewed from this perspective, the current version still falls short of meeting basic international quality standards for MDG reporting. We would therefore urge that a further revision and review process be jointly undertaken. We estimate this process to require another four weeks with the end goal of producing a version that can be endorsed by the UN Agencies ready for final printing and dissemination. Deferring the printing and for the launch seminar until suitable date in June 2011 would be the most prudent approach in completing report.

Mr. Ri Hung Sik
Secretary-General
National Coordinating Committee for UNDP
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

United Nations Development Programme

조선민주주의인민공화국주재
유엔개발계획대표부



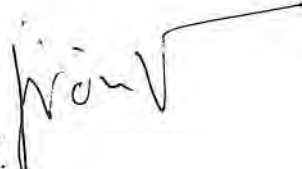
DPR Korea

In connection with the launch seminar, and as mandated by UNDP's programme policies and procedures on evaluations, we would also advocate the fielding of a mission of UNDP's Asia-Pacific Regional Centre to provide a more in-depth and internal review and evaluation of the current project, and assistance in the formulation of new projects as foreseen in the Country Programme Document.

An additional reason for reconsidering the terms of the project's completion is the incorporation of the one or two projects to be financed under the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund. The demands of local Country Office technical support, and the consequent fiduciary responsibilities and accountability would require keeping the MDG project operational concomitantly with the PGTF projects.

Together with my sincere thanks for your continued cooperation, I look forward to your response to this proposal at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Jérôme Sauvage
Resident Representative

cc: DG Central Bureau of Statistics
Larry Maramis, Senior Deputy Resident Representative