

33037

ECA/MRAG/94/95/MR

MISSION REPORT
REPORT ON MISSION TO WHO HEADQUARTERS GENEVA TO
ATTEND UNICEF/WHO SPONSORED WORKING GROUP MEETING ON
MULTIPLE INDICATOR SURVEYS FOR MONITORING MID-DECADE GOALS
12 - 13 DECEMBER 1994

By

Parmeet Singh
Regional Adviser on Management and Organisation of Nationals
Statistical Systems

February 1995
Addis Ababa

I. Introduction and Mission Assignment

The Regional Adviser has been collaborating with UNICEF Headquarters and UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) on promotion amongst countries of UNICEF/ESARO sub-region, of initiatives to collect data which these countries need to monitor their stipulated national plans of action and the Mid-Decade Goals; and also assisting these countries to undertake variates of multiple indicator cluster surveys to obtain this data - or parts of this data not available from other sources. Such collaboration with UNICEF is covered under the provisions of Memorandum of Understanding between ECA and UNICEF. Regional Adviser's report on his November 1994 mission to UNICEF/ESARO refers.

The Adviser has already participated in joint missions with Unicef/ESARO to Uganda and Zambia. Both these missions were successful in establishing arrangements with Statistics Department of Uganda, and Central Statistical Office of Zambia, to integrate the required collection of data in their respective on-going household survey programmes. He is programmed to undertake similar joint missions to Swaziland, Ethiopia and Madagascar in the first quarter of 1995 and to South Africa, Eritrea and Malawi in the second quarter of 1995.

The Working Group Meeting in Geneva was convened jointly by UNICEF and WHO to consider how the Multiple Indicator Survey Questionnaire modules developed by UNICEF Headquarters might be appended to the national household surveys; and to identify the regional and national institutions that could take a lead in fielding such surveys, in first half of 1995. The meeting had essentially a very specific capacity building country orientation Attachments 1, 2, and 3 refer.

II. The Working Group Meeting

Agenda for the Meeting and list of names of participants are set out on Attachments 4 and 5 respectively.

The Adviser briefed the meeting on initiative of the data collection arrangements in Uganda and Zambia, and contributed to the briefing on Kenya. He also intimated the meeting on the contribution that ECA could make - other than himself, in ensuring the initiatives success: indeed he strongly recommended ECA's more substantive participation. He was invited to chair second half of the meeting Attachment 6 refers.

III. Mission Assessment and follow-up

The Adviser's participation in the meeting was fully justified, given its objectives, scope and content matter. He contributed significantly in the meeting's deliberations. The ultimate objective of this collaboration between ECA and UNICEF is to secure a more substantive participation of ECA in this initiative. Such participation is being sought because ECA does have the capability and is the most appropriate organization in the region to play this role. Secondly, this initiative is well placed to enhance capability and capacity of the countries in the region and ECA's participation will ensure that this objective is optimized.

The adviser has since the meeting exchanged communications with UNICEF Headquarters on this objective - Attachments 7 and 8 refer.



ATTACHMENT 1

ECA/MRAG/94/95/MR

Téléphone Central/Exchange: 791. 21.11
Direct 791.

In reply please refer to:
Prière de rappeler la référence:
Your reference:
Votre référence:

18 November 1994

Dear Mr. Singh,

You are cordially invited to attend a one and a half day meeting, organized by UNICEF and WHO, on 13-14 December 1994 in Geneva to review plans and procedures for conducting Multiple Indicator Surveys to assist countries where data are lacking or out-of date, in reporting on progress toward the Mid-Decade Goals as articulated at the World Summit for Children. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce to a small group of experts a complete set of guidelines that have been developed to produce nationally representative and statistically robust estimates of the mid-decade goal indicators in country settings where the required data are not otherwise obtainable or are out-of-date.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to familiarize the participants with the methodology, to receive their critical comments on it, and to discuss plans for implementing the surveys. Participants at the meeting are expected to serve as a core group of technical resource persons for the multiple indicator surveys in the coming year.

We look forward to your participation in what promises to be a lively and stimulating inaugural meeting, concerning a very important monitoring initiative. Please confirm your acceptance (or convey your regrets) by fax to UNICEF (212 303 7959) at your earliest convenience; we regret that we will be unable to cover any of the costs involved. We will send information on agenda and other arrangements within the next few days.

With very best regards,

Leila Bisharat
Director
Planning and Coordination Office
UNICEF New York

Dr H. R. Hapsara
Director
Epidemiological Surveillance and
Health Situation and Trend
Assessment. WHO Geneva

From: Gareth Jones (g.jones@igc.apc.org)

Subject: Household survey meeting

ATTACHMENT 1

UNICEF
UNICEF

FAX MESSAGE SENT VIA EMAIL

DATE: November 20, 1994

REF: gj94b37

TO: Mr. Parmeet Singh, Regional Advisor,
MRAG/ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
FAX: 251-1-51.05.12

FROM: Gareth Jones, Statistics & Monitoring, Planning, H-13G,
UNICEF, New York
FAX: (212) 303-7959 [or (212) 888-7465 if first busy]

MESSAGE:

Page 1 of 1

Dear Parmeet,

Multiple indicator cluster surveys - meeting in Geneva

While I expect you will be away from the office at this time, I am sending this fax for your attention as soon as you return.

UNICEF and WHO are asking a small group of people with experience with surveys in different regions of the world to attend a meeting in Geneva on December 13 and 14. The aim of the meeting is to apprise all of the approach being taken by UNICEF for filling gaps in data for monitoring progress towards the goals, and to discuss the approach and how best to implement it in different regions and countries.

Can you attend such a meeting?

Please sent me a fax on your return and I will contact you with further details.

Looking forward to hearing about your activities in Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Best regards,

Gareth.

*on Singh,
this is a great
initiative*

20/11



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. S.K.B. Asante, Coordinator
ECA - MRAG

DATE: 25 November 1994

THROUGH:

FILE STAT/UNICEF/hb

FROM: Robin Andrianasolo, Chief
Statistics Division

TEL. EXTENSION 167

SUBJECT: Multiple indicator cluster surveys meeting in Geneva

.....

As you will note from the attached facsimile message from UNICEF and addressed to Mr. Parmeet Singh, UNICEF and WHO are planning to organize a meeting in Geneva on 13 and 14 December 1994 to appraise the approach taken by UNICEF for filling gaps in data for monitoring progress towards social goals and to discuss the ways and means of implementing it in different regions and countries.

I believe that Mr. Singh could make useful contribution to this meeting for the following reasons:

- He has extensive experiences in household surveys as former Coordinator of the NHSCP Programme at the UN Statistical Division;
- He is currently involved in cooperation with UNICEF in promoting collection of data to monitor NPA and Mid - Decade goals; and
- ECA should be seen as playing a leading role in such coordination efforts.

If you share my views, I would like to request you to process the necessary clearance with PPCO for Mr. Singh's attendance in the meeting.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

cc: Mr. Cummings-Palmer
Mr. Parmeet Singh ✓

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

SKBA/ra

DATE: 28 November 1994

REF: ECA/MRAG/94

TEL.: EXT.: 763

TO: Mr. Robin Andrianasolo, Chief,
Statistics Division

FROM: S.K.B. Asante, Coordinator,
ECA-MRAG 

SUBJECT: Multiple indicator cluster surveys meeting in Geneva

Thank you for your memorandum STAT/UNICEF/hb of 25 November 1994 relating to the above meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva on 13 and 14 December 1994.

I entirely share your views on the subject and strongly feel that, with his accumulated experience in this field, Mr. Parmeet Singh could certainly make an impressive impact as UNECA's representative at the meeting. As this meeting is not reflected in an approved travel plan for the fourth quarter of the year (1994), an amendment would be made to enable Mr. Singh to participate in this important meeting.

cc: Mr. Parmeet Singh ✓
Mr. Cummings-Palmer

(SNG-TRV.GNV)





United Nations Children's Fund
Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

3 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017
212 326-7000
Telex: 175989

November 22, 1994

Mr. Parmeet Singh
Regional Adviser
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Dear Parmeet,

I assume that Gareth Jones has by now talked to you by telephone and that he was able to extract from you an acceptance of our invitation to attend the informal, but most important meeting on Multiple Indicator Surveys for the Mid-Decade Goals in Geneva, on 13-14 December. Although this will be an informal occasion, intended to bring together key resource people to familiarize them with one another and with the methodology that has been developed, it is important because it represents the one opportunity in the near term for us all to meet one another and it will produce the beginnings of an agenda for the coming year. I attach the text of a recently signed Executive Directive on the Multiple Indicator Surveys for your information.

Do let us know what we can do to help in facilitating your travel plans.

I look forward to seeing you in Geneva.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leila Bisharat".

Leila Bisharat
Director
Planning and Coordination Office



ATTACHMENT 4

UNICEF**3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017**

ECA/MRAG/94/95/MR

DEC 05 1994

From: Mead Cain	Fax No: 212 303 7959	Date: 5 December 1994
To: Parmeet Singh ECA-MRAG	City/Country:	Number of Pages: 3, including cover sheet.
	Fax Number: 251 1 51 05 12	
Subject: Draft agenda for Geneva		

Message

Dear Dr. Singh,

Would you please review this draft agenda and give us your comments at your earliest convenience? You will note that you are slotted to make a brief presentation on "Lessons from the Kenya experience" along with Gareth Jones. Your contribution might either focus on the recent Kenya survey, or draw on your wider experience with interagency cooperation (or lack thereof) in implementing household surveys. Hopefully you and Gareth will have time to put your heads together on this on Monday in Geneva, or via fax before hand.

I look forward to seeing you in Geneva.

Best regards,

Mead Cain

**MULTIPLE INDICATOR SURVEYS FOR MONITORING MID-DECADE GOALS:
MEETING OF TECHNICAL RESOURCE PEOPLE**

13-14 DECEMBER 1994, WHO GENEVA

Sponsored by UNICEF AND WHO

AGENDA

TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER: WHO, 'M' BUILDING, ROOM 505

9:00-9:15 Welcome

**Dr. H. R. Hapsara, Director, Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Situation
and Trend Assessment**

9:15-9:30 Welcome, background, and objectives of the meeting

Dr. Leila Bisharat, Director, Planning and Coordination Office, UNICEF

9:30-9:45 Discussion and questions

9:45-10:15 Introduction to the questionnaire modules

Dr. Patricia David, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

10:15-10:45 Discussion

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-11:30 Survey design, sampling, and field operations

Dr. Cesar Victora, Evaluation Office, UNICEF

11:30-12:00 Discussion and questions

12:00-12:15 Data entry and analysis

Dr. Laurence Grummer-Strawn, Centers for Disease Control

12:15-12:30 Discussion

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:30 Lessons from the Bangladesh multiple indicator survey

Dr. Sharad Sapra, UNICEF Dhaka

Dr. Anthony Turner, United Nations Statistical Office

2:30-2:45 Discussion

2:45-3:15 Lessons from the Kenya experience
Dr. Parmeet Singh, Regional Advisor, ECA-MRAG
Dr. Gareth Jones, UNICEF New York

3:15-3:30 Discussion

3:30-3:45 Use of the data: Reporting, programmes, and policy
Lella Bisharat
Sharad Sapra

3:45-4:00 Discussion

4:00-4:15 Coffee Break

4:15-5:00 Next steps: Moderated discussion

WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER:

9:00-12:00 Individual meetings and consultations; continuation of previous days discussion if necessary

MULTIPLE INDICATOR SURVEYS FOR MONITORING MID-DECADE GOALS:

Meeting of Technical Resource People

13-14 December, 1994

WHO Geneva

L.N. Balaji
Chief, Monitoring Research & Planning
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New Delhi 110003 India.

Steve Bennett
Lecturer
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Department of Epidemiology & Population Sciences
University of London
Keppel Street
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United Kingdom

Leila Bisharat
Director
Planning & Coordination
UNICEF
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Mead Cain
Consultant
Planing & Coordination
UNICEF
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Hafedh Chekir
Regional Advisor
Demographic Analysis
UNFPA-CST
Amman Jordan.

Patricia David
Lecturer
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Department of Epidemiology & Population Sciences
University of London
99 Gower Street
London WC1E 6AZ

Michael Deming
Chief, Epidemiologic Support Branch
Technical Support Division
International Health Programme Office
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Hubert Dixon
Chief, HST/ESM
WHO
Geneva, Switzerland.

Mamadou Djiré
Demographer
Center for Applied Research in Population & Development (CERPOD)
INSAH/CILSS
Boite Postale 1530
Bamako, Mali.

Roushdi El-Heneidi
Director
UNFPA European Liason Office
Palais des Nations
CH 1211
Geneva 10
Switzerland

Fatih El-Samani
Regional Health Adviser
UNICEF MENARO
Amman, Jordan

Odile Frank
HST/ESM
WHO
Geneva
Switzerland

Tom Griffin
Director
Statistics Division, Rm. C456
UN Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
Geneva CH-1211
Switzerland

Laurence M. Grummer-Strawn
Epidemiologist
Division of Nutrition (MS K25)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

H.R. Hapsara
Director
Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Situation and Trend Assessment
WHO
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Terrel Hill
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3 UN Plaza
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Gareth Jones
Senior Adviser (Statistics & Monitoring)
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Cesar Victora
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Pascal Villeneuve
Programme Officer
Africa Section
UNICEF
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

ATTACHMENT 6

ECA/MRAG/94/95/MR

**UNICEF**
**3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017**

From: Leila Bisharat, Director Planning and Coordination Office	Fax No: 212 303 7959	Date: 8 December 1994
To: Dr. Parmeet Singh Regional Advisor ECA-MRAG	City/Country:	Number of Pages: 1, including cover sheet.
	Fax Number: 251 1 51 05 12	
Subject: Material for Geneva Meeting		

Message

Dear Parmeet,

You will have seen from the agenda that the scheduled sessions all fall on Tuesday the 13th. We have left the morning of Wednesday the 14th to accommodate possible spill-over of discussion from the previous day. One reason that there may be spill-over is that we want the participants to come prepared to discuss in specific terms the current and planned survey activities of their institutions, where applicable, and in their regions, in the coming year. We would like them to think about where multiple indicator survey questionnaire modules might be appended to national household surveys, and the regional and national institutions that could take a lead in fielding multiple indicator surveys in the first half of 1995. We ask them to come prepared with the names of experts in their institutions and regions who could provide technical assistance to the multiple indicator survey initiative in 1995. And, finally, we ask them to be prepared to tell us what they see as their own role in the survey initiative in the coming year.

There will be opportunities for touching on these matters in the time scheduled for discussion on the 13th, and in final session, "Next steps". However, given the importance that we attach to the participants' input on survey implementation plans, we will gladly schedule time for additional discussion as needed.

I look forward to seeing you in Geneva.

With very best regards,

ATTACHMENT 7

ECA/MRAG/94/95/MR



UNICEF
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

From: <i>Urooj Khan for</i> Leila Bisharat, Director Planning and Coordination Office	Fax No: 212 303 7959	Date: 26 December 1994
To: Dr. Parmeet Singh Regional Advisor ECA-MRAG	City/Country:	Number of Pages: 1, including cover sheet.
	Fax Number: 251 1 51 05 12	
Subject: Material for Geneva Meeting		

Message

Dear Parmeet,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to attend the Geneva meeting of technical resource people on such short notice. Thank you also for your substantial contributions to the meeting, as moderator, as representative of ECA-MRAG, and as an expert with unparalleled experience in national household surveys. Your emphasis on the real problems that we face in implementing multiple indicator surveys in the next year, the importance of working in cooperation with Central Statistical Offices, and of capitalizing on opportunities for piggy-backing the MDG questionnaire modules on other planned surveys were valuable contributions to the discussion.

I am very pleased and relieved to know that a memorandum of understanding exists between ECA and UNICEF which sanctions your participation in the mid-decade goal monitoring and multiple indicator survey initiatives. I consider your involvement in these initiatives in Africa vital to their success. Will you be available in 1995 to serve as an intermediary with statistical offices in west as well as east Africa?

With very best regards and best wishes for the new year.

FAX



FORM

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Post Office Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

P.O. Box 5834
New York, N.Y. 10163
U.S.A.

Palais des Nations
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Genève 10 Suisse

Page: 1 Of 1

Date: 27 December 1994

Fax Line: (251-1) 51-05-12

Ref:

To: **Dr. Leila Bisharat, Director
Planning and Coordination Office,
UNICEF Headquarters, New York**

Fax # 1 - (212)- 303-7959

From: Parmeet Singh, Regional Adviser
ECA - MRAG
Addis Ababa

Dear Leila,

Thank you very much for your fax of 26 December 1994. It was timely, since I was thinking of communicating with you anyway. Your fax has given me an added excuse to do so. Your complements are much appreciated - but I feel they are a little premature because the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey initiative has yet to succeed.

I am not sure whether the one day meeting in Geneva emerged with any tangible ideas on how this success was to be achieved. I was intending to raise this with you and with Gareth in the meetings that I was hoping to have with both of you respectively - on Wednesday morning. Unfortunately my travel arrangements did not permit this.

I would be happy "to serve as an intermediary with statistical offices in West as well as East Africa." You know how your country/regional offices are geared up for this initiative - and only you can ascertain chances of their success. I feel the initiative calls for close monitoring and technical backstopping as and when required. Can/will your country/regional offices do this? While not wanting to impose ECA on endeavours of your country/regional offices I feel ECA could make a useful contribution - but to do so ECAs participation needs to be "systematically structured." I have shared this perception with ESARO (Mahesh Patel) also.

For now, and since I am under pressure at my end to finalize my work plan for the first quarter of 1995, I have been in touch with ESARO (Mahesh Patel) for a "precise" request regarding my own participation. I am hoping to hear from him if not this week at least early in the new year.

Warm wishes for a happy

