

DevInfo in Action

Jordan: Using DevInfo to Provide Wide Access to Development Data

While the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has witnessed fast-paced economic and social growth over the past three decades, the fruits of this economic development have not been evenly distributed among different areas within the country.¹ Recognizing the need for the production of detailed economic and social data at the sub-national level to support more equitable planning and development, the Jordan Department of Statistics (DoS) has taken key steps over the last few years to make this type of statistical data available to a wide range of decision-makers.

Of noteworthy mention is the fact that a number of these commendable statistical initiatives have involved the use of DevInfo technology to help achieve the Department's aims and objectives.

Multiple databases, adaptations in use

The DoS first turned to DevInfo in 2010 to house and disseminate the country's most recent human development data. With support from UNICEF Jordan, the DoS launched [JorInfo](#) on World Statistics Day - 20 October 2010 - making available [online](#) for the first time national socio-economic data on over 200 indicators derived from more than 300 sources. (Click [here](#) to download an informative presentation about the database.)



Following this launch, the DoS collaborated with the country's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and with UNDP to develop a new tool to help the government monitor and improve the well-being of all citizens: the [Living Standards Index \(LSI\)](#) database. The LSI database was conceived as a new approach to quantifying a multi-dimensional assessment of poverty for Jordan's citizens, providing policy-makers with a composite index that gives a more comprehensive picture of poverty and well-being.



At the line ministry level, Jordan's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology has chosen to publish its national information and communications technology (ICT) data online. Launched in 2010, [ICT Info](#) represents a key step in the Ministry's strategy for further promotion of the country's status as a suitable location for



¹Jordan Department of Statistics, National Statistical Strategy 2008-2013, p. 5, accessed at http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_e/main/linked-pdf/JordanStrategyDraft.pdf on 28 February 2012.

international business development and investment.

In addition, the Greater Amman Municipality, with UNICEF support, plans to launch a DevInfo database to track a set of child-friendly indicators for Amman, in accordance with UNICEF's [Child Friendly Cities](#) initiative.

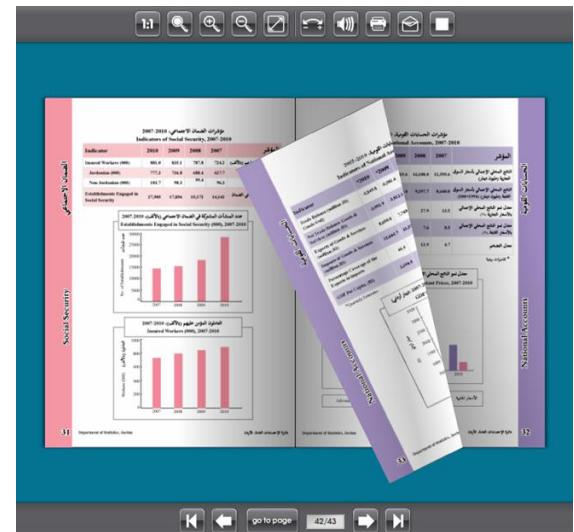
Wide-ranging dissemination

The DoS recognizes that a well-planned dissemination strategy is vital for ensuring that the data housed within these databases gets put to good use. To this end, the DoS has undertaken a wide-scale distribution of JorInfo CDs, as well as made the English version of JorInfo available to the public [online](#). Work is currently underway to publish an Arabic version of JorInfo in the coming days.

Additionally, DoS has organized several training workshops to familiarize end users with the database and its capabilities. Most recently, in November 2011, the Ministry of Communication and the National Information Technology Centre hosted a three-day JorInfo training workshop in Amman, which was attended by key staff from various government departments.

According to Miss Abeer AlRahil, DevInfo focal point at the DoS, "These types of awareness activities lead to new requests for database projects, as other ministries realize the value of the tool. For example, as a result of a recent training event, the DoS was approached by the Jordan High Council of Population to undertake work on a population database to house data for 885 indicators covering the period 1990 to 2010."

The DoS has also made excellent use of the animated flipbook feature in DevInfo to help disseminate key highlights from its annually published [Jordan in Figures](#) booklet, which covers the most important statistical indicators for the country. This eBook is available in both Arabic and English.



Jordan in Figures eBook

With DevInfo firmly embedded within the DoS, Jordan can certainly look forward to strengthening the use of data to support the country's rapid socio-economic development in the years ahead.

Data making a difference.

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