

DevInfo Applied in the 'One UN' Context in Rwanda (August 2007)

The 'Land of a Thousand Hills' has seen significant improvements since the devastating 1994 genocide. Nonetheless, Rwanda faces challenges towards meeting its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the results remain mixed.

In January 2007, Rwanda was selected as one of the eight pilot countries for the 'One UN'. This was done to accelerate progress in achieving the MDGs by establishing a consolidated UN presence with 'One Programme', 'One Budgetary Framework', 'One Leader' and 'One Office'. In parallel, the UN Country Team (UNCT) started elaborating its second United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008-2012, providing necessary programmatic coherence for the



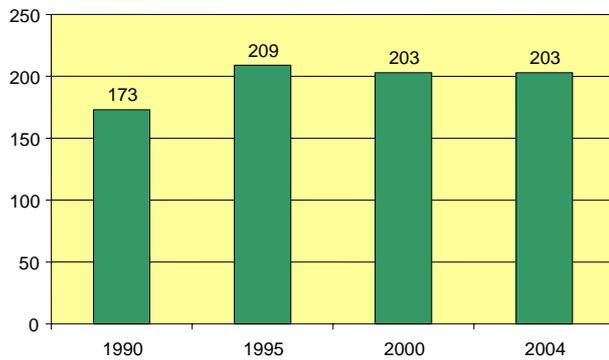
DevInfo v5.0 training in progress

implementation of the 'One Programme' model. The objective of the 'One UN' pilot is to provide an effective and clear response to the needs of the government of Rwanda and its development partners and to help them meet their MDGs.

DevInfo plays an important role in fostering coherence in the area of data management within the UN and provides access to relevant data. Recently, a five day training workshop was organized from 25-29 June 2007, in Kigali to discuss the role of DevInfo as an MDG progress tracking and decision making tool in the 'One UN' context. Professionals from the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (INSR), UN agencies and DevInfo technical resource team consisting of Hugues Petrel, Consultant, DevInfo Support Group, New York and Astrid Marschatz, Project Manager, United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO) participated in the workshop.

Training on DevInfo v5.0 User Interface (UI) and Data Administration (DA) modules assisted participants to have a better understanding of the DevInfo technology and to make optimum use of the system. New features of DevInfo Rwanda v2.0 database, its content, maintenance and future use were discussed at length during the course of the workshop. The new database which is being developed by INSR, with support from the UN system, will increase access to quality disaggregated data for use in policy and socio-economic planning. It will be used to monitor the MDGs, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS II) to be implemented in 2008 and Vision 2020, the country's long-term development plan.

Rwanda is one of the poorest countries in the world. It ranks 158 out of 175 countries listed in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI). The country was greatly affected by the genocide, having destroyed much of its social, economic and human resources. Approximately 60 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line with over 40 per cent living in absolute poverty. One in five children dies before their fifth birthday due to

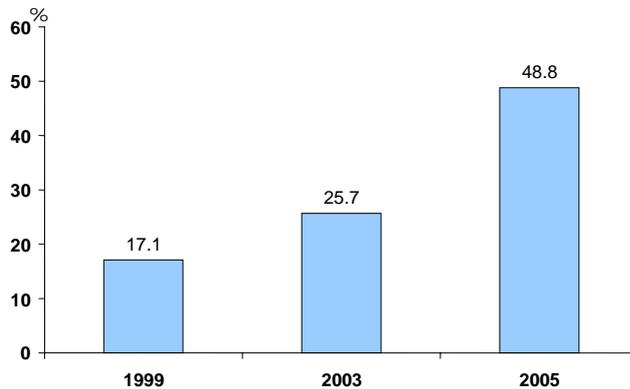


Under-five mortality in Rwanda

malaria, the leading cause for infant and child mortality. Forty-two per cent of Rwandan children under five years old are malnourished and more than 400,000 children are out of school. Rwanda has one of the world's largest proportion of households headed by children (i.e. children raising children) with an estimated 101,000 children heading some 42,000 households. About 9 per cent of the adult population is HIV-positive.

On a more positive note, the country shows encouraging signs of fulfilling its education MDG despite having suffered major setbacks. With over 2,000 primary schools now established and implementation of compulsory free primary education, the country is most likely to reach full primary school enrolment by the end of the decade. At present, women comprise nearly 50 per cent of the lower house of

the parliament, the Chamber of Deputies, the largest proportion in any parliament in the world. But still, a lot more has to be achieved. Use of DevInfo Rwanda v2.0 database technology will provide access to up-to-date quality data for monitoring progress of MDGs within the country and assist the government in strategic decision-making processes.



Seats held by women in national parliament in Rwanda

At the closing ceremony, Interior Minister, Director of the Statistics Office, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNICEF Representative were present. They expressed satisfaction with the event and their commitment to the development of DevInfo Rwanda v2.0. It is expected that the new database would be finalized by 31 December 2007 before the new UN program and EDPRS II begin in January 2008. It would also include level 5 maps (sector) as well as some feature maps in DevInfo compatible format.

Sources:

- http://www.undg.org/docs/7566/AMarschatz_KGL_Jun07_Travel_Mission_Report.doc
- http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/23867_20292.html