



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN



Department of Statistics (DoS) / Jordan
Speech of H.E. the Director General of Statistics
on the occasion of World Statistics Day
Amman - Jordan

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Attendants

It is a pleasure for me to meet you this morning in this important day at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in order to join Lebanon and the world in celebrating the World Statistics Day.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, this celebration is witnessed world wide in recognition and gratitude of various countries to their national statistical institutions (NSIs) for the services provided by these institutions , whose main task is producing official statistics and providing them to planners, decision makers, researchers, journalists and media personnel at the national, regional and international levels. The aim is to enhance statistical awareness and sustain confidence of the public in official statistics. Furthermore, this event represents a tool of appreciation and support to the work of statisticians in their various positions and their cultural levels.

The Department of Statistics (DoS) / has witnessed remarkable advancements since its inception the last 60 years of its age. The (DoS) began field and office work with a humble number of workers in the fifties of last century till their number crossed more than 600 employees in the first decade of this millennium. At present time, the number has reached about 1000 employees. The (DoS) has focused its attention on strengthening the institutional capacity and to increase the scope of topics of statistics to serve the increased needs of data users. Accordingly, the Jordanian Statistical Training Center was established in order to enrich the needs of the (DoS) and other statistical data producing partners with courses and training programs that contribute greatly to enhance the capacity and upgrade the competencies of employees in the production and analysis of statistical data.

In line with the adopted policy in covering various aspects of the economic, social and demographic phenomena, the (DoS) has carried out many surveys for the first time during the first decade of this millennium for producing official statistics that have not been previously tackled such as the Newly Created Jobs Survey, Use of Information Technology at Households and Establishments and the Poverty Study. The organizational structure has been updated where 22 divisions were introduced such as the Poverty Statistics Division and the Gender Statistics Division to keep pace with the economic and social developments and to implement new surveys

and studies, therefore, the number of directorates reached 13 consisting of 57 divisions.

Poverty is considered as one of the most important social and economic concern, since it is the cause for the emergence of many other social problems. It has become a source of interest to many official and non – official parties, the local community institutions and the relevant international organizations for monitoring and measuring poverty in a methodized framework based on field studies and analytical research. There is a growing official interest in monitoring and control of poverty in Jordan. The government is keen to study the status of poverty and conditions of the poor in addition to their distribution, size and their social, demographic and economic characteristics for designing development programs and providing the necessary support for this category of population. It is noteworthy that Jordan is one of the states that have ratified the agreement pertaining to achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The first of these goals is the eradication of poverty and hunger.

The Gender Division is one of the newly introduced divisions in this decade to promote the integration of the concept of gender in the national statistical system and to create a gender – classified database reflecting the status of man and woman digitally, in a manner characterized by credibility, transparency and a clear picture of the status of man and woman in all social and economic activities in addition to increasing awareness on the importance of using gender - classified data for the purpose of qualitative analysis.

The (DoS) also launched the Input - Output Tables Project. These tables aim mainly at making a quantum leap in the process of statistical data collection and compilation at the sectoral level and clarifying the interlaced relationship between various economic sectors. This can help decision – takers and policy – makers to make appropriate decisions in addition to identifying the leading sectors in the development process and the growth engines of the Jordanian economy.

To conclude, I congratulate and thank every body at the occasion of the WSD, wishing all progress and prosperity to our statistical institutions, hoping for further cooperation between the Arab statistical agencies and the colleague world agencies.