Collective for Research and Training on Development Action (CRTD-A)
Independent Resource and Information Services (IRIS)

Development e -Brief
April 23, 2004

Once again, a warm welcome to the third edition of the Development e-Brief. We apologise for the tardiness of this edition of the e-Brief, but we hope that everyone enjoyed their Easter break.

We would also like to remind all that each sub-section is bookmarked for ease of use.

Happy Reading!

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NEWS

1. <u>ICT:</u>

- **Cooperation on Technology Transfer and Networking.** At a two-day forum an Italian Minister emphasized the need that requires Mediterranean countries to work together to improve public services. ESCWA Weekly News: 22/03/04. (www.escwa.org.lb)

- **Algeria on the Brink of Allowing VOIP services.** www.developmentgateway.org//ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=395989&version_id=241520&from=alert

- **A week of ICT Development –AME Info:** 'Bridging the Digital Divide': this was the concern for a week of the UN Information Technologies and Communication Task Force. Industry leaders and experts discussed with government leaders and representatives how best to bridge the ICT divide. www.ameinfo.com/cgi-bin/cms/page.cgi?page=print&link=25517

- **The World Bank Supports Knowledge and Learning in the Region**. The Middle East and North Africa knowledge hub in Marseilles was opened using state of the art information and communication technologies. www.worldbank.org\

- **Italian Government Proposes e-Government Initiatives for Iraq**. www.developmentgateway.org/node/130619/news/item?item_id=949360

- **An e-Government Centre is planned in Bahrain.** www.developmentgateway.org/node/130619/news/item?item_id=932303

2. <u>GENDER:</u>

- **UN Executive Secretary Mervat Tallawy Promotes Women's Issues**. At a conference in ESCWA on International Women's Day, the Executive Secretary called on Arab governments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. ESCWA Weekly News: 22/03/04 (www.escwa.org.lb)

- **Debate on Women and Gender Equality.** ESCWA took part in this debate which took place in New York in February. It was announced that there will be a 'Status of Arab Women Index' that will be developed soon. ESCWA Weekly News: 15/03/04 (www.escwa.org.lb)

3. TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:

- **Knowledge for development forum**. This took place on March 14-16, and was designed to engage countries of the region in a dialogue about how to engage countries of the region in a dialogue about how to take advantage of knowledge based economies. Case studies from Jordan, Lebanon and others were given. www.worldbank.org

4. NGOs:

- **Both the UN and the international quartet for the Middle East** are ready to assist Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza strip. GDB Newsletter; 18/03/04

- **Disability Statistics Measures were discussed in Brussels in February**. With the aim of improving disability statistics in the Arab region, and developing international disability measures. ESCWA Weekly News; 15/03/04. (www.escwa.org.lb)

- **Arab International Forum on Rehabilitation and development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.** The meeting, that took place in Beirut, discussed the preparatory activities that preceded it as well as other related considerations. ESCWA Weekly News; 15/03/04. (www.escwa.org.lb)

- **During More than three years of 'Intifada**', most economic and social indicators in the West Bank and Gaza have shown steep declines, despite a modest recovery in 2003. http://1nweb18.worldbank.org/mna/mena.nsf/Countries/West+Bank/8830DA075FD4A1EC85256CC9006F9B7F?OpenDocument

- **Did you Know? You can share documents, news, events & other knowledge on dgPoverty (Development Gateway).** To learn more go to: www.developmentgateway.org/node/130670/sdm/docview?docid=856480

5. **POVERTY:**

- **Global Learning Conference.** A conference in Shanghai on May 25-27, will address the needs of poor communities in various countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Yemen, in order to step up efforts to reduce poverty by assessing best practices. http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE?EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20183082~menuPK:34463~pagePK:64003015~piPK:64003012~thesitePK:4607,00.html

REPORTS & BOOKS

1. **ICT:**

- **Micro-Finance and ICTs: Exploring Mutual Benefits and Synergy** .This is a commentary and analysis of how development in most countries requires a synergy of progressive policy making, access to finance, a culture of change and enabling Infrastructure. www.developmentgateway.org//ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=395343&version_id=241053&from=alert

2. **GENDER:**

- **The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality**. The final 48th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women Agreed conclusions on "the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality". www.peacewomen.org/un/ecosoc/CSW/CSW2004.html

- "**Empowering the Next Generation: Girls of the Maqattam Garbage**". This document explores the challenge of both extending earning opportunities and access to valued social roles. www.developmentgateway.org//youth/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=392589&version_id=23927&from=alert

- **Socialisation to Gender Roles and Marriage among Egyptian Adolescents**. This paper explores gender role socialisation and marriage attitudes using nationally representative survey data. www.developmentgateway.org//youth/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=394036&version_id=240232&from=alert

- **Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals**. This paper by the World Bank, presents the case for bringing a gender perspective across the whole range of Millennium Development Goals. www.worldbank.org/gender/resources/gendermdg.pdf

- **Empowering Women, developing Society: Female education in the Middle East and North Africa**. This policy brief was produced by the Population Reference Bureau, and outlines education's benefit s to women, families and societies. www.developmentgateway.org//gender/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=393601&version_id=239948&from=alert

3. **TRADE/ECONOMICS/MICROFINANCE:**

- **Integration of an Essential services package (ESP) in child and reproductive health and family planning with a micro-credit program for poor.** In 1992, an early pilot project initially integrating a micro credit program for poor women with a family planning and expanded program for immunization and subsequently an essential services package in reproductive and maternal health. www.developmentgateway.org

4. **NGOs:**

- **The Bank and Donors must change,** says Jeff Sachs, "in order to reach the MDGs". If these are to be met then both donors and the World Bank must change the way they do business. www.developmentgateway.org//poverty/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=393586&version_id=239938&from=alert

- **Between Grassroots and governments: civil Society.** This is a report which relates civil society's experiences with locally identified priorities for poverty reduction. www.developmentgateway.org//poverty/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=393944&version_id=240170&from=alert

- **UNDP releases report on Lebanon and Globalization.** This report aims to raise public awareness by inciting action on human development concerns. www.clao.com/dnews96.html

- **Targeting of Transfers in Developing Countries**. This paper deals with cases from 47 countries, amongst them Egypt, to examine options that are available for targeting aid. http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce

5. **POVERTY:**

- **Poverty Mapping Document**. This document deals with selected African countries, including Egypt, and is a collection of poverty maps for these selected African regions.
www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/ESPD/PovertyProfiles.pdf

- **The Impacts of Poverty Maps: Past Experiences and new Applications**: These are the results from a workshop held in Brussels. The report summarizes applications of poverty maps amongst other things.
www.povertymap.net/publications/doc/brussels_2003/background.pdf

- **Social Expenditure and the Poor in Egypt.** This paper investigates the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of public social expenditure in Egypt. To download the full text, log in using the following: username: gdnet, password: mena.
www.eces.org.eg/publications/login.asp?L1=4&12=1&13=102&File_name=ECESWP89.pdf

6. **YOUTH:**

- **World Youth Report 2003:** This report provides an overview of youth around the world. It also tries to outline the main challenges and opportunities youth face in today's society.
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/

WEBSITES

1. **GENDER:**

- **Gender Equality: Fighting Poverty by Empowering Women.** This is a development gateway special drawing attention on the cultural undercurrents of gender based poverty.
www.developmentgateway.org//ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=394412&version_id=240457&from=alert

2. **NGOs:**

- **New country briefs for both Lebanon and Iraq are available from the World Bank:**
  Lebanon:
  http://1nweb18.worldbank.org/mna/mena.nsf/countries/Lebanon/DD1F4FEEEFA05C2A85256CC9006C6A80?OpenDocument
  Iraq:
  http://1nweb18.worldbank.org/mna/mena.nsf/countries/Iraq/C19BB3EFC8E289BC85256E52005AA394?OpenDocument

- **WSIS Civil Society Bureau.** The role of the Civil Society Bureau is to facilitate civil society participation in the WSIS process.
  www.developmentgateway.org//ict/dg-contribute/item-detail?item_id=395436&version_id=241124&from=alert

- **Project Information Documents from the World Bank:**
  Iraq –Emergency Education Reconstruction:
  www.wds.worldbank.org/servlet/wds_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=00160016_20040310101015

CRTD-A: NEWS & EVENTS

1. **FIRST LDG ST MEETING:**

- The first St meeting was held on April 20th in the World Bank in which approximately 30 people from the NGO, Private and Public sectors attended. The meeting focused on the contents of a future workshop as well as the clarification of the LDG project.

2. **GENDER, CITIZENSHIP & NATIONALITY PROGRAMME:**

- A joint CRTD-A/KIT international course on Gender, Citizenship and Participatory Governance will be held in Beirut from 30th August to 9th September. For more info: info@crtd.org

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