

UNDESA Launches Capacity Building Activities with the Overlapping Generations Macroeconomic Model in South Africa, Indonesia, and the Philippines

As part of the project “Rebuilding Better and Greener from the COVID-19 Pandemic through Enhanced Design and Implementation of Sustainable National Recovery Strategies Based on Policy Simulations,” UNDESA has initiated capacity-building activities using the Overlapping Generations Macroeconomic Model (OG Core) in South Africa, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

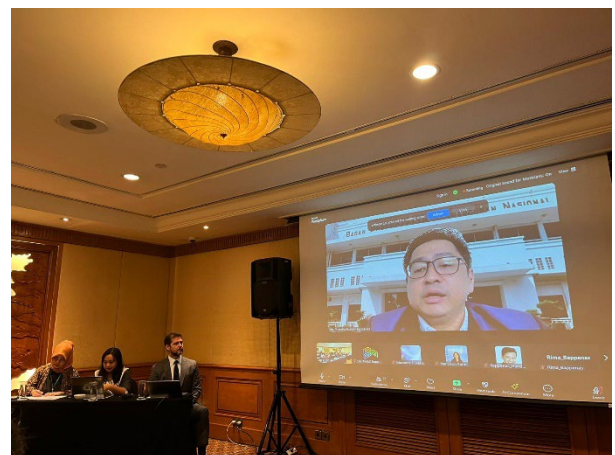
This project, funded by the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (UNPDF), aims to enhance the ability of government agencies to utilize data and analytical techniques effectively, supporting sustainable development strategies and informed decision-making processes through quantitative modeling tools. The OG Core model is an open-source macroeconomic tool designed to assess the impact of economic policies on different population groups and generations over time.



Three inception workshops were organized to launch the project and introduce the OG Core model in each country. The 2-day workshops took place on 1-2 August in Cape Town, 6-7 August in Jakarta, and 12-13 August in Manila. These events focused on presenting the project's objectives, introducing the OG Core model to participants and stakeholders, showcasing its application to policy analysis, and presenting the first version of the country-tailored models.

The workshops were well-attended by a diverse group of government officials, academics, representatives from research organizations and private sector. In South Africa, 29 participants

attended the workshop, while 44 attended in Indonesia, and 47 in the Philippines. Additionally, the mission team met with key government stakeholders in each country to present the project and work toward establishing an interinstitutional team to collaboratively adapt the model and explore potential policy simulations.



The workshops and meetings were successfully organized by the Economic Policy and Analysis Division (EAPD) with the support of the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) and national stakeholders. These include the Trade Law Centre (TRALAC) in South Africa, the Institute for Development of Economics and Finance (INDEF) and the Ministry of National Development and Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS), as well as the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE) and the Ateneo School of Governance in the Philippines.



CLEWs Modelling Activities continue in Namibia

A workshop on Climate, Land, Energy, and Water Systems (CLEWs) was held in Swapkomund, Namibia from 27-30 August to provide a refresher course of the country tailored model and conduct policy scenario analysis. The main objective of the workshop was to guide participants in the development of scenarios to inform the National Development Plan (NDP6). Thematic groups were established to work on three key policy issues: 1) Agricultural modernization and food security; 2) Biomass power plant as an alternative to electricity imports and 3) water security.

The implementation of the CLEWs methodology and institutional arrangements is being carried out as part of the UNPDF project, in collaboration with the Namibian government, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) Namibia, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO Namibia), the World Food Programme (WFP Namibia), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Namibia), the University of Namibia (UNAM), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA).



UNDESA and ESCWA Collaborate to Implement WEFM Tool in Jordan and Tunisia

In April 2024, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) formalized an agreement to support selected Arab states in macroeconomic forecasting and policy simulations. The aim is to enhance decision-making around financing social expenditures and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the World Economic Forecasting Model (WEFM).

Following this agreement, ESCWA has made significant strides in customizing the model to meet the specific needs of Jordan and Tunisia, and started developing a user-friendly interface and comprehensive user manual for the WEFM.

In Jordan, progress has been bolstered by official government support. The Ministry of Finance has expressed strong interest to conduct training on the WEFM tailored to Jordan in late 2024, with planning for the event set to begin soon.