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What is DevInfo?

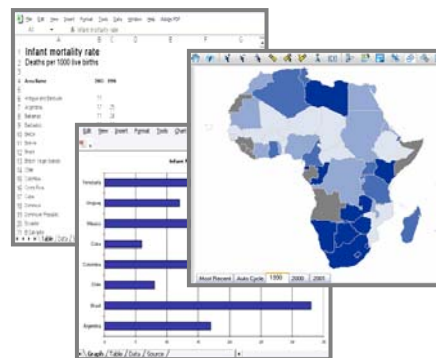
Overview

DevInfo is a database system that harnesses the power of advanced information technology to compile and disseminate data on human development. In particular, the system has been endorsed by the UN Development Group (UNDG) to assist countries in monitoring achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It facilitates data sharing at the country level across government departments, UN agencies and development partners by providing methods to organize, store and display data in a uniform way. By the end of 2006, more than 90 national, regional and global DevInfo adaptations had been developed around the world.

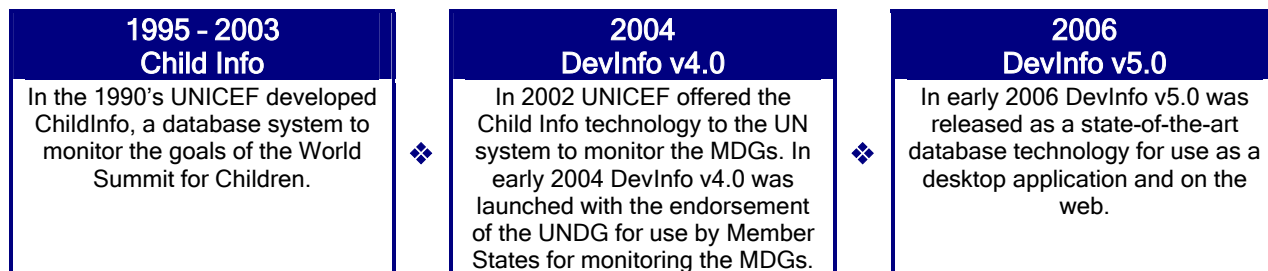


Some of DevInfo's most noteworthy characteristics are:

- * simple and user-friendly features to produce tables, graphs and maps for inclusion in reports, presentations and advocacy materials
- * royalty-free distribution to all Member States and UN agencies for deployment on both desktops and the web, making it accessible to a wide audience
- * country-specific branding and packaging options for the user interface and the contents of the databases supported by the system, encouraging broad ownership by national authorities
- * compliance with international statistical standards in the areas of indicators (SDMX ISO/TS 17369:2005), data sources (DDI/Dublin Core), and digital maps (ISO 19115:2003), thus supporting open access and widespread data exchange across multiple organizations, platforms and systems (click [here](#) to learn more about these standards and DevInfo's application of them)



The development of DevInfo



Use of DevInfo at the global and regional level

DevInfo has been adapted by several UN agencies for the dissemination of regional and global databases. In 2005 and 2006, for example, the UN Statistics Division produced MDG Info, which contains the official UN data set for the MDGs (click [here](#) to access the online version of MDG Info 2006). Other global and regional adaptations by UN agencies include UN Habitat's Urban Info, UNHCR's RefInfo, ILO's IPEC Info and UNICEF's SOWC Info.



Use of DevInfo at the national level

DevInfo is often used by UN Country Teams as an umbrella data system for creating a UN Common Database for the CCA-UNDAF, and further to help governments in the collation and dissemination of human development data. As a common data repository containing baseline and other information, the DevInfo database facilitates monitoring change and progress over time towards achieving the MDGs and other objectives in the UNDAF or other national plans.

Click [here](#) to view information on DevInfo implementation by country and region.

Country example: Tanzania

Following the need to have a common database in the country which would enhance accessibility of existing data, especially those related to sustainable human development issues, and facilitate wider use of newly collected data, the National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania adapted DevInfo to develop the Tanzania Socio Economic Database (TSED). Among TSED's main advantages are:

- * The database is user friendly and very easily accessible.
- * It contains information on over 300 indicators organized by sectors, goals, themes and sources, and disaggregated by sex, area of residence and administrative area down to ward level, where available.
- * TSED is government-owned and is housed in the National Bureau of Statistics.
- * As a tool for data storage and dissemination, it is fully institutionalized within the framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan (PRSP) and the Poverty Monitoring System (PMS).



Click [here](#) to access the online version of TSED.

DevInfo and other systems

DevInfo as part of the data cycle

A number of software tools are currently in use in the UN system and among national counterparts to help improve data processing, analysis and application for evidence-based policy development. A wide range of well-established UN and non-UN initiatives exist in this regard at the global, regional and country level, including specific sectoral initiatives for monitoring individual goals or topics, often mandated by governing boards. DevInfo is in no way an attempt to supplant or replace such efforts.

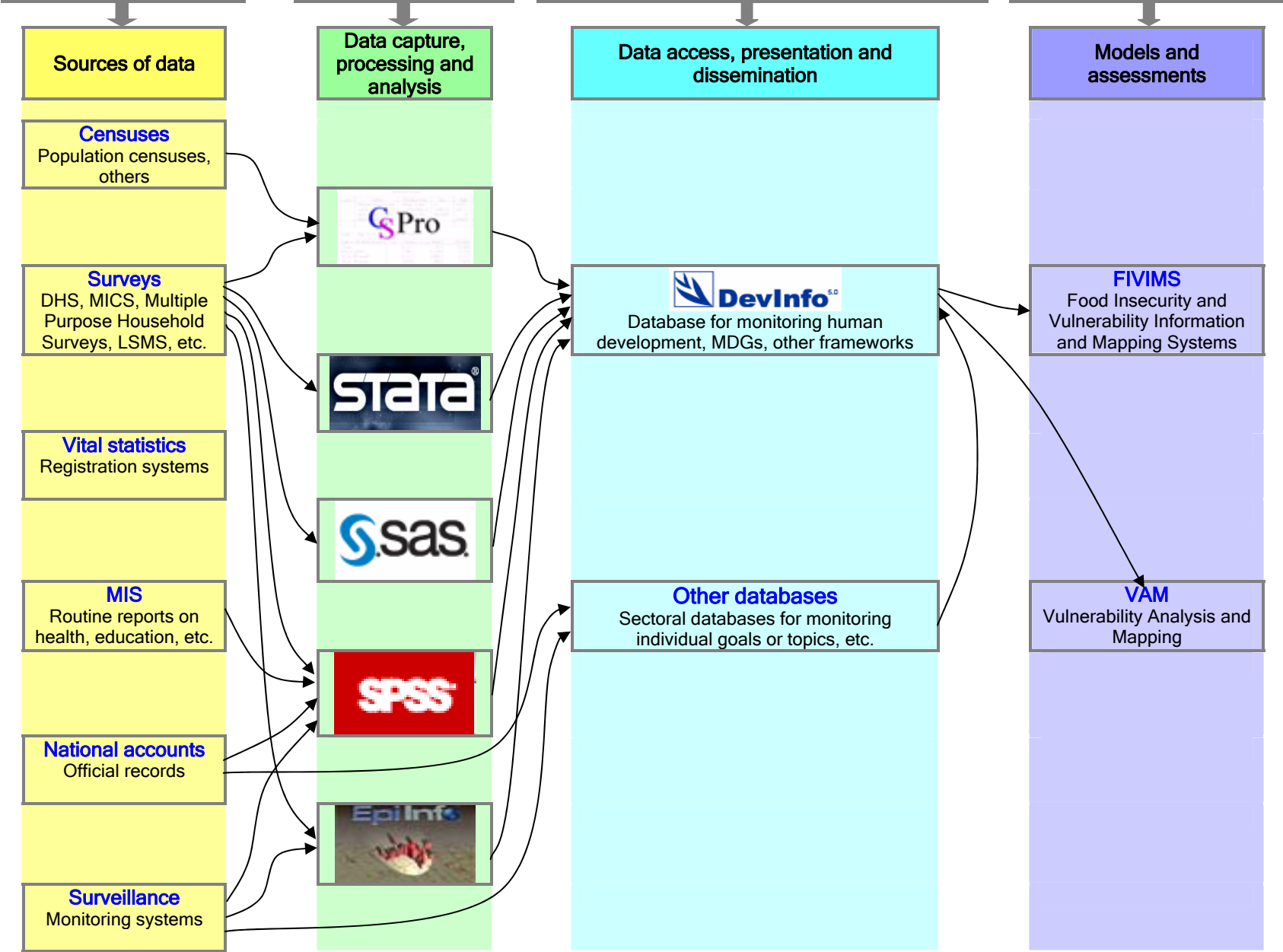
Human development data normally go through a cycle which includes the following phases: collection, capture, processing, analysis, presentation and dissemination. A variety of existing systems are intended to fulfill the distinct requirements of each of these phases. As a general purpose database system, DevInfo is designed to help in the phase of dissemination and presentation of data. Thus, DevInfo is a complement to other systems for data handling, and it can be an important element in a broader data dissemination strategy which forms part of the data cycle. This complementarity is represented in the simplified chart below.

Human development data come from different sources such as censuses, surveys, vital statistics, routine reports, national accounts and surveillance systems.

Statistical software packages such as CPro, STATA, SAS, SPSS and Epi Info are helpful for data capture, processing and/or analysis.

The **DevInfo** system helps collate data from different sources and increase their accessibility. It also serves as a tool for the presentation and dissemination of indicators. Data can be brought into DevInfo from common statistical programs and can be exchanged between DevInfo and common standard databases. Thus, **DevInfo complements existing systems for data handling.**

Data available in DevInfo databases can be used as inputs in other information systems and frameworks.



Technical linkages between DevInfo and other systems

In order to facilitate the 'communication' between DevInfo and other systems, a series of data exchange modules have been developed, among which are tools for exchanging data into DevInfo from the following applications:

- [CSPro](#)
- [SPSS](#)
- [Epi Info](#)

Similar tools are currently being developed for:

- [SAS](#)
- [STATA](#)

Data exchange modules also exist for these common standard databases:

- [UNAIDS' Country Response Information System \(CRIS\)](#)
- [UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys \(MICS\)](#)
- [UNOCHA's Who does What Where \(3W\)](#)
- [Development Assistance Database \(DAD\)](#)

DevInfo is compliant with emerging international standards to enhance the data exchange with other systems. ISO-compliant metadata makes it possible to compare data across international settings. DevInfo uses the SDMX standard for storing metadata on indicators. Metadata on data sources is compliant with the Data Documentation Initiative standard. Metadata on the digital maps adheres to the ISO 19115 standard recommended by the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group. Click [here](#) to read more about DevInfo's application of these international standards.

Enhanced Mapping Features in DevInfo v5.0

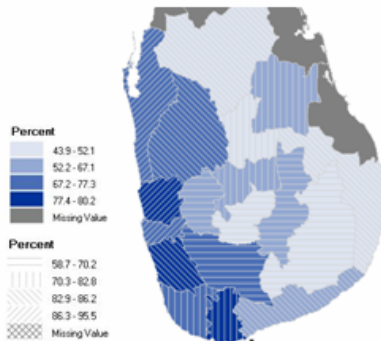
The following examples illustrate some of the enhanced mapping features available in DevInfo v5.0. For more technical details, click [here](#) to view the 'DevInfo v5.0 Digital Mapping Technical Note'.

Themes

The DevInfo v5.0 map wizard allows users to associate multiple themes to one geographical area and so present different indicators or subgroups on the same map. The following four types of themes can be applied to maps: • Color • Hatch • Dot Density • Chart.

- **Hatch theme**

Proportion of households with access to improved sanitation and sustainable access to safe drinking water
Percent

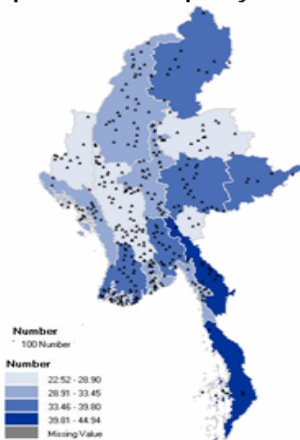


By applying a color theme to the 'Proportion of households with access to improved sanitation' and a hatch theme to the 'Proportion of households with sustainable access to safe drinking water', we can present both indicators on the same map. This helps us determine whether those areas where households have the lowest access to improved sanitation are also the ones where households have the lowest sustainable access to safe drinking water, or whether different areas exhibit different priority needs in terms of water and sanitation.

Source: MDG Info Sri Lanka (census.sltidc.lk/).

- **Dot density theme**

Pupil-teacher ratio and primary schools

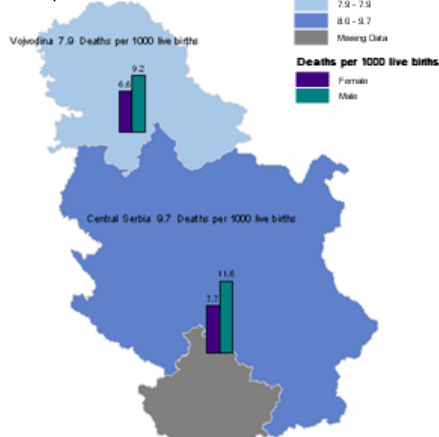


We apply a color theme to the 'Pupil-teacher ratio (primary)' and a dot density theme to 'Primary schools' in order to show both indicators on the same map. This helps us see which regions have the highest and lowest pupil-teacher ratios at the same time that we see the availability of primary schools in each region.

Source: UN Database Myanmar (www.devinfo.info).

- **Chart theme**

Under-five mortality rate
Deaths per 1000 live births



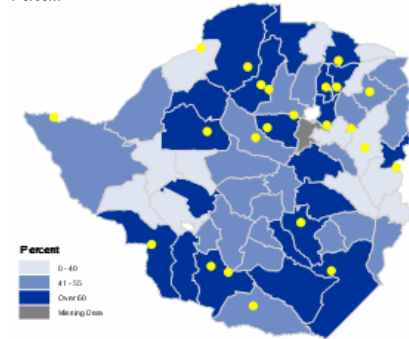
In order to see the 'Under-five mortality rate' for the Total, Female and Male subgroups, we use a color theme for the Total subgroup and a chart theme for the Female and Male subgroups. This way we can present the data values corresponding to all subgroups on one map. This, in turn, allows us not only to see the disparities between regions for the Total, Female and Male subgroups, but also to look at the disparities between the sexes within each region.

Source: DevInfo Serbia (www.devinfo.info).

Features

We can associate layers for features such as roads, rivers, cities, hospitals and schools to a thematic map to convey relevant information and improve the map's visual impact.

Polio 3 immunization coverage
Percent



A map applying a color theme to 'Polio 3 immunization coverage' helps us see which regions are in most need of improved coverage. Adding a layer showing the main cities could suggest to us whether these cities are the most appropriate locations to run an immunization campaign if the aim is to help those regions in greatest need.

Source: Zimdat (www.devinfo.info).

Inset

Insets may be considered as satellite maps besides the main map, and they are handy tools to bring small isolated areas into focus.

Land area covered by forest
Percent



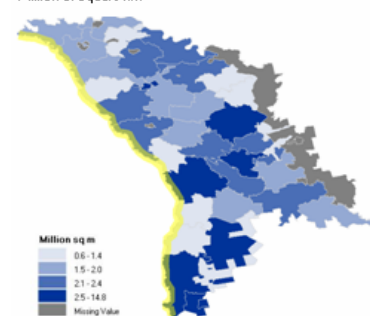
A color theme shows us the varying degrees of land area covered by forest in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The inset feature allows us to zoom in on a group of some of the smaller islands in the Caribbean and show the details that are not easily visible in the map of Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole.

Source: MDG Info 2006 (www.devinfo.info).

Buffer

The buffer feature enables the user to create buffer areas around a point or line and specify the buffer size to assess impact in an influence zone. This technique can be used extensively for many conditions - e.g. to understand the association between the prevalence of childhood leukemia and the proximity to nuclear power stations. This technique also provides answers to questions such as "How many villages are covered within a 3 km radius of public health centers?"

Dwelling stock
Million of square km

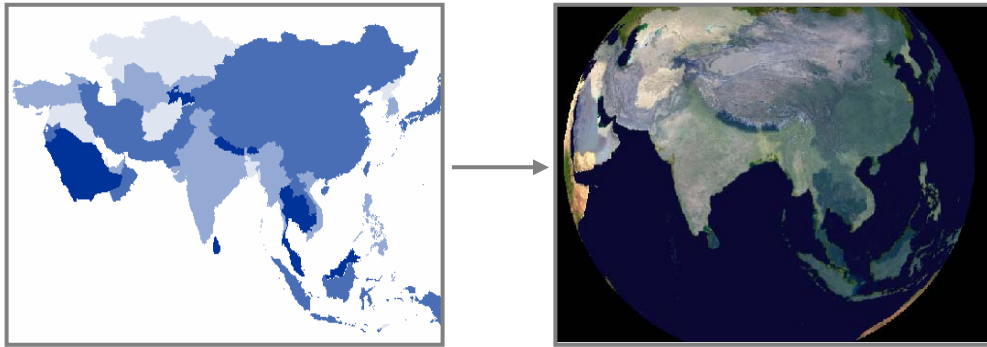


By drawing a buffer around the Prut River in Moldova we can look at which areas in the country could potentially be affected by a general flood along this river.

Source: DevInfo Moldova (www.devinfo.info).

Raster image

A raster image is useful for describing continuously varying features such as soil type, elevation and temperature. DevInfo v5.0 uses World Wind to overlay the DevInfo map image on the raster image.

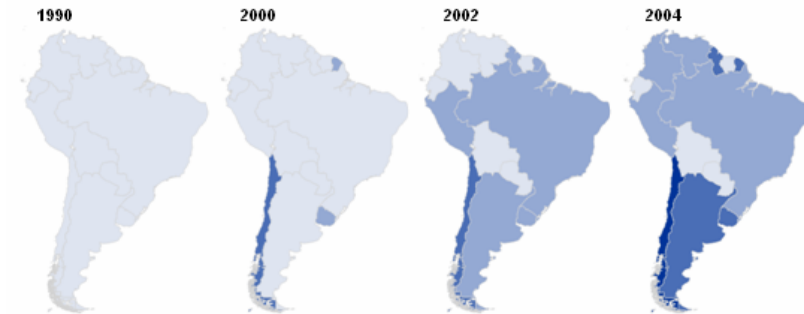


DevInfo map image overlaid on the raster image

Time series

DevInfo v5.0 can auto-generate thematic maps for the same indicator and areas, and different time periods, thus showing trends in indicators over time.

Internet users
Per 100 population



By creating a map time series showing selected periods between 1990 and 2004 we can see the situation of each country in South America at different points in time. In addition, we can observe how the relative number of internet users is not only growing in the region as a whole, but it is doing so at a rapidly increasing rate.

Source: MDG Info 2006 (www.devinform.info).

Note: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

DevInfo Reports Feature

The Reports feature in DevInfo v5.0 simplifies the process of creating multiple table presentations. It helps save the selected Indicator-Unit-Subgroup combinations and your table formatting options and apply these to other areas and/or time periods in the same database or to other databases. In applying the saved options you can thus generate standard reports in table format. The report files containing the saved options are stored in .xml format so you can even share them with others for them to apply.

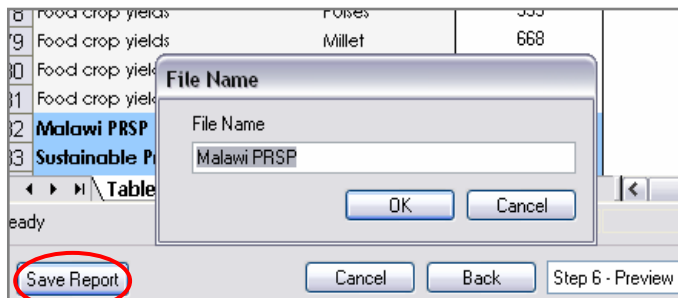
The DevInfo Reports feature is particularly useful when table reports have to be generated on a regular basis.

Example: Monitoring the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Malawi

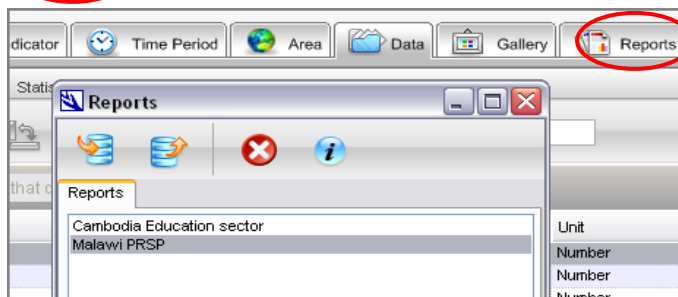
MASEDA (Malawi Socio-Economic Database) contains data for monitoring human development in Malawi and it includes indicators for monitoring the MDGs, the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy and the World Summit for Children. In order to generate periodic PRSP reports ...

Indicator	Subgroup	Value
Human Capital Development		
GOAL 2.1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		
Sustainable Pro-Poor Growth		
GOAL 2.1.1 Basic Education: Improve		
Primary school enrollment	Total	5187935
Primary school enrollment	Girls	1544586
Primary school enrollment	Boys	1643323
Improve Health Status		
GOAL 2.2 Essential Healthcare		
Health registration infrastructure	Total	27
Sustainable Pro-Poor Growth		
GOAL 4.1 Increase agricultural production		
Food crop yields	Sorghum	1277
Food crop yields	Pulses	555
Food crop yields	Composite Ma	1245
Food crop yields	Millet	668
Food crop yields	Local Maize	688
Food crop yields	Hybrid Maize	1582
Food crop yields	Rice	1672

... we use the DevInfo Table Wizard to create one table containing the PRSP indicators and reflecting the format we want for the reports.



In the Table Wizard we save these selections as a Report ...



... and then apply these saved options to data from different years ...

Indicator	Subgroup	Value
Human Capital Development		
GOAL 2.1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		
Sustainable Pro-Poor Growth		
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Food crop yields	Hybrid Maize	1582
Food crop yields	Rice	1672
GOAL 4.2 Develop and adopt sustainable		
Healthy distribution of total land area	Total	48
Healthy distribution of total land area	Total	78
Cross cutting		
GOAL 5.2 Reduce gender inequality		

... to automatically produce reports that contain the PRSP indicators and display the same format but contain data for the different years.



Source: MASEDA (www.maseda.info)

Example: Monitoring the MDGs in Pakistan

To prepare MDG reports for a country, in this example Pakistan, for various years, we create the table for one period by selecting the MDG indicators, the period and the country, and formatting the table as desired using the DevInfo Table Wizard. We then save these report options and simply apply them to the other periods. This will automatically create the tables containing the MDG indicators and displaying the same table format for the other periods.

Indicator	Data
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger Target 1. Reduce, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day	
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education Target 2. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women Target 3. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	1.01
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality Target 4. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	1.72
Goal 5. Improve maternal health Target 5. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	1.84
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases Target 6. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	1.3
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability Target 7. Halve global environmental degradation, between 2000 and 2015	1.5
Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development Target 8. Develop further an open, rule-based, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	1.5
Goal 9. Increase access to science and technology Target 9. Enhance scientific research and innovation, and expand the number of scientists and engineers worldwide, by 2015	1.5
Goal 10. Revitalize the global economic architecture Target 10. Strengthen the implementation of the World Trade Organization, with a view to achieving development through trade	1.5
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Target 11. Develop sustainable cities and human settlements	1.5
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Target 12. Halve global resource use in per capita terms by 2015	1.5
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Target 13. Reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2015	1.5
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Target 14. Reduce by 50% the amount of marine debris by 2015	1.5
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, conserve and enhance freshwater ecosystems and enhance resilience Target 15. Increase significantly the area of protected terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems	1.5
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions Target 16. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	1.5
Goal 17. Strengthen partnerships for sustainable development Target 17. Enhance global solidarity and cooperation	1.5

Indicator	Data
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Source: MDG Info 2006 (www.devinfo.info/mdginfo2006).

Example: Generating an MDG report for the Mercosur

To prepare an MDG report for a group of countries, in this example Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela), we create the table for one of the countries by selecting the MDG indicators, the periods and the country, and formatting the table as desired using the DevInfo Table Wizard. We then save these report options and simply apply them to the other countries. This will automatically create a table for each of the other countries containing the MDG indicators and displaying the same table format.

Indicator	1990	2000	2004
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger Target 1. Reduce, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day			
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education Target 2. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling			
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Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases Target 6. Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS			
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability Target 7. Halve global environmental degradation, between 2000 and 2015			
Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development Target 8. Develop further an open, rule-based, non-discriminatory trading and financial system			
Goal 9. Increase access to science and technology Target 9. Enhance scientific research and innovation, and expand the number of scientists and engineers worldwide, by 2015			
Goal 10. Revitalize the global economic architecture Target 10. Strengthen the implementation of the World Trade Organization, with a view to achieving development through trade			
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Target 11. Develop sustainable cities and human settlements			
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Indicator	1990	2000	2004
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Goal 17. Strengthen partnerships for sustainable development Target 17. Enhance global solidarity and cooperation			

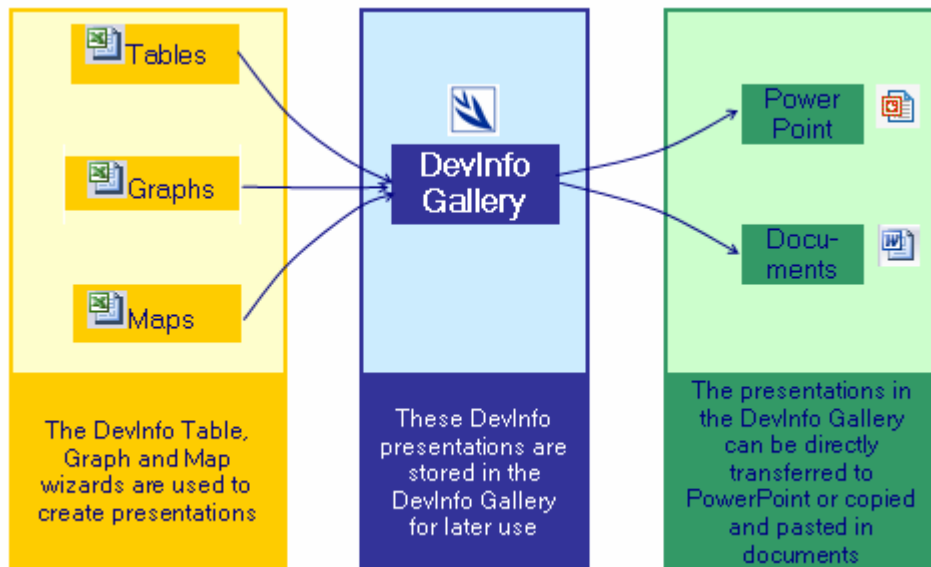


Source: MDG Info 2006 (www.devinfo.info/mdginfo2006).

The DevInfo Gallery

The DevInfo Gallery helps manage the Table, Graph and Map presentations created in DevInfo.

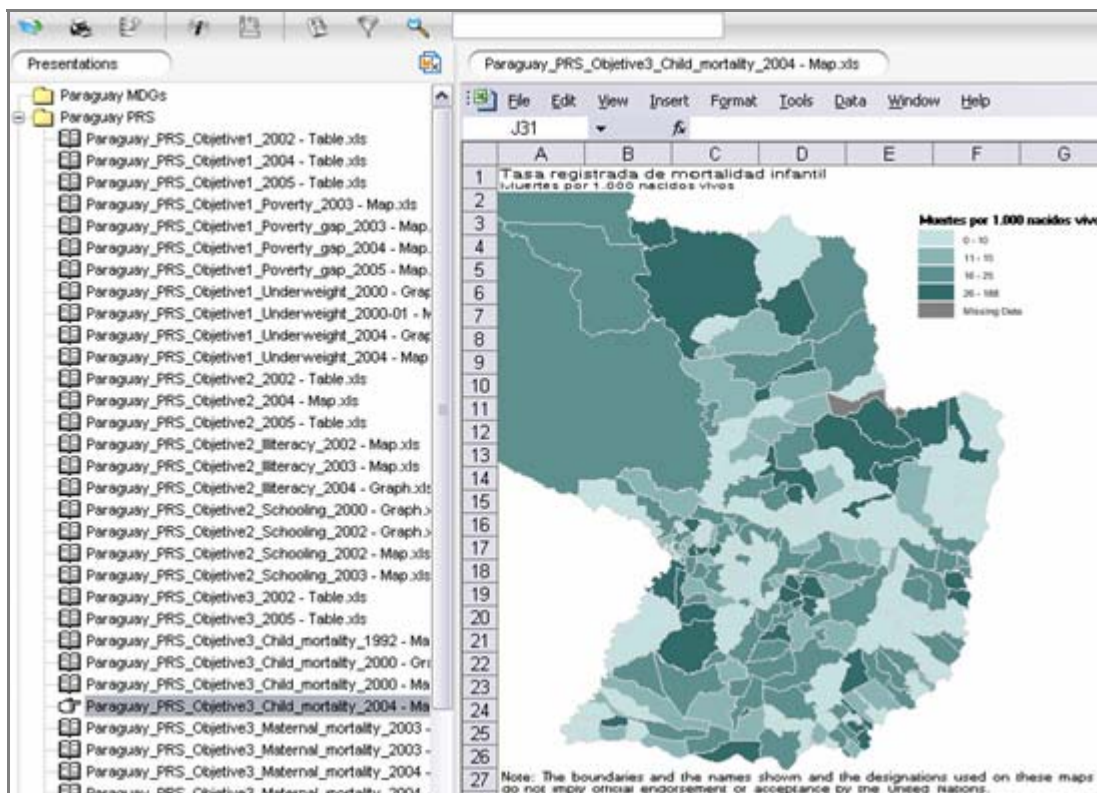
Whether using a desktop or an online version of a DevInfo database, all presentations created using the DevInfo wizards can be saved in the Gallery for later reference, use and direct transfer to PowerPoint.



It is possible to store objects in the Gallery in different folders, making it easy to organize the DevInfo presentations by sector, theme, goal, area, etc.

Example: Gallery for presentations on the National Poverty Reduction Strategy in Paraguay

ParInfo contains data for monitoring human development in Paraguay, including data to monitor the MDGs and the country's National Poverty Reduction Strategy. In this example, Table, Graph and Map presentations on the four objectives of the PRS have been prepared and are stored in a corresponding folder in the DevInfo Gallery. These ready-made presentations can be retrieved from the DevInfo Gallery anytime to create eye-catching and powerful PRS presentations, reports and advocacy material.



Source: ParInfo.

Online DevInfo Galleries

DevInfo Galleries can also be web-enabled, making it possible for users to access DevInfo presentations in electronic libraries over the internet. Click [here](#) to view a sample of online DevInfo Galleries.

As shown below, DevInfo v5.0 allows text searches to help users browse through an online Gallery. The results of a search are displayed as thumbnails which can be enlarged and then copied to reports or presentations.

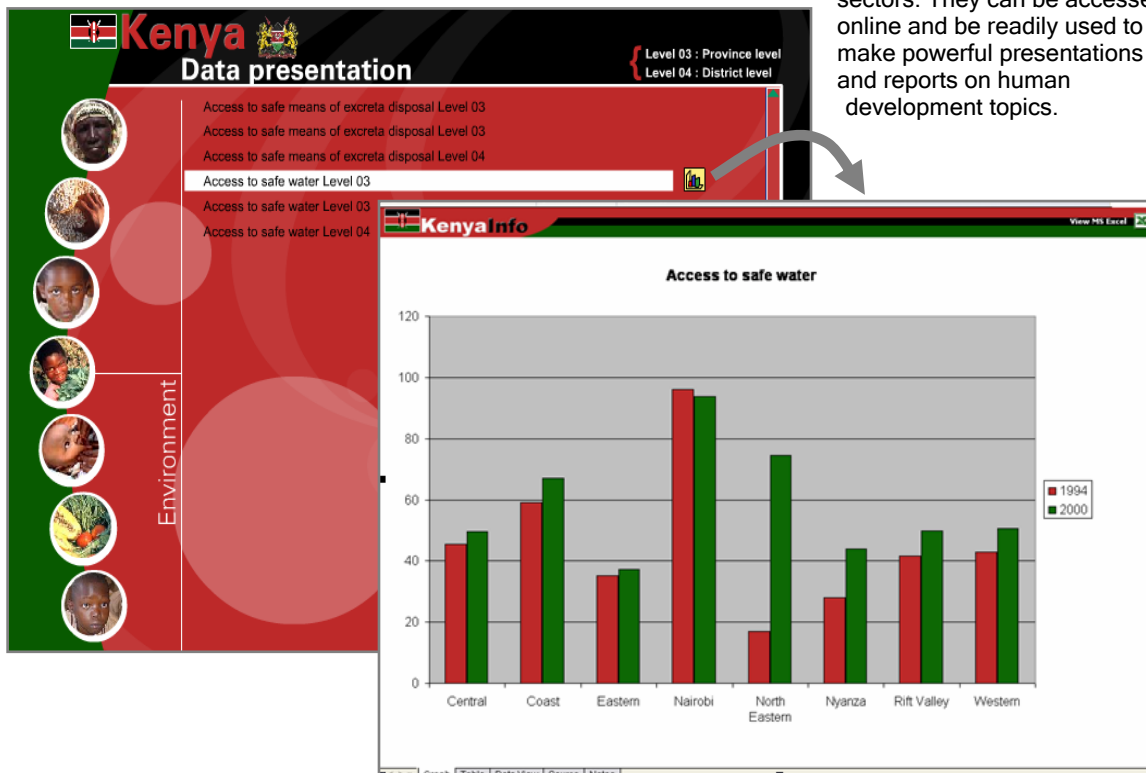
The screenshot shows the DevInfo web interface with the search term 'primary enrolment' entered. The results are displayed as a grid of eight map thumbnails, each with a descriptive title below it. The thumbnails represent different geographical regions and their primary enrolment ratios for males and females between 2000 and 2005.

Thumbnail Description
west and central africa_net enrolment ratio in primary education - male - 2000-2005 - map
west and central africa_net enrolment ratio in primary education - female - 2000-2005 - map
south asia_net enrolment ratio in primary education - male (2000 - 2005) - map
south asia_net enrolment ratio in primary education - female (2000 - 2005) - map
latin america and caribbean_net enrolment ratio in primary education - male (2000 - 2005) - map
latin america and caribbean_net enrolment ratio in primary education - female (2000 - 2005) - map
eastern and southern africa_net enrolment ratio in primary education - male - percent - map
eastern and southern africa_net enrolment ratio in primary education - male - 2000-2005 - map

Example: KenInfo

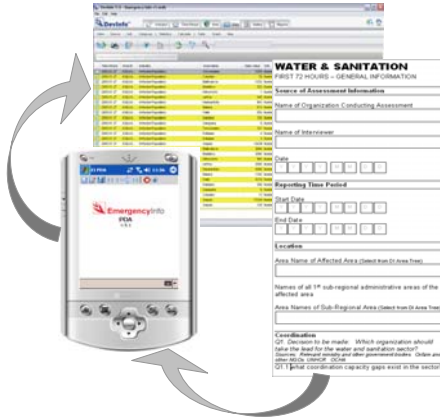
The KenInfo Gallery presents data on human development indicators in the form of graphs and maps for national and sub-national levels of Kenya. These graphs and maps for key indicators are organized under sectors.

They can be accessed online and be readily used to make powerful presentations and reports on human development topics.



Source: KenInfo (www.devinfo.info/galleries/keninfo/).

EmergencyInfo is a system based on DevInfo database technology that is designed to help people respond better in emergency situations. It combines the advanced data access and presentation features of DevInfo with new data capture technologies. EmergencyInfo helps to bridge information gaps within the first 72 hours of an emergency and provides support for rapid data collection, situation assessment, standard monitoring reports and disaster preparedness.



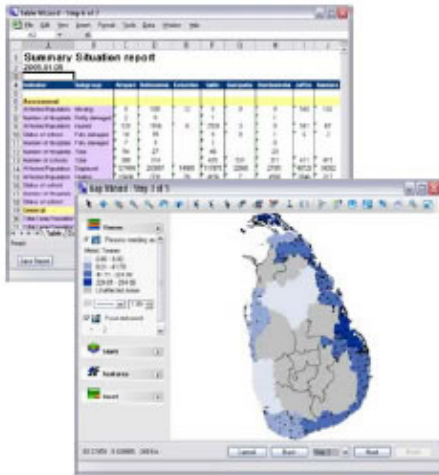
Rapid data collection

The DevInfo Form Generator helps create and edit rapid assessment forms for use on hand-held computer (Personal Digital Assistant - PDA) memory cards. These forms can be deployed in many languages. EmergencyInfo uses PDAs to quickly capture data from widespread affected areas and multiple sources on the scope of an emergency. The built-in PDA calendar automatically fills in the time while the built-in GPS automatically records the latitude and longitude.

The data captured on PDA memory sticks can be transferred by plugging the PDA into a desktop computer or by sending the data by e-mail. Data can also be captured through web-based surveys using the same forms.

Assessing situations and monitoring progress

Once the data are imported from the PDA into a DevInfo database, the DevInfo data access features can be used to search for data by indicators, sources, areas and time periods to assess the needs of the affected population. The DevInfo wizards facilitate the presentation of the information through tables, graphs and maps.



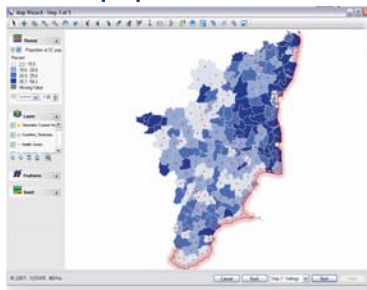
With a few clicks, you can create a situation report (SITREP) using the table wizard and save the report format for reuse.

Highly informative maps can also be created using the new advanced features of the map wizard:

- Buffering can be used in the analysis of affected populations by geospatial estimations.
- More than one variable can be viewed at once, which facilitates the analysis of resources against problems.
- In addition to colors and patterns, thematic maps can be rendered by dot-density.
- Mapping of facilities (schools, health facilities), infrastructure (roads) and topographical features (rivers, elevation) allows information to be easily and rapidly accessed and analyzed.
- Time series maps can be generated to effectively monitor the response to a disaster.

The DevInfo Gallery can be used to store presentation outputs and disseminate information over a local network. Web-enabling the Gallery would allow to share information over the internet with a wider audience.

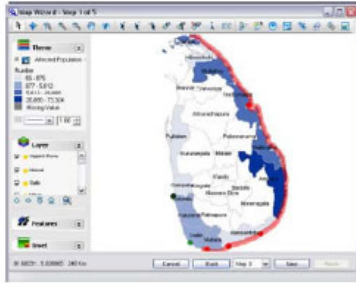
Disaster preparedness



DevInfo 5.0 provides features that make it relevant beyond immediate relief monitoring. The new buffer feature can be used to make a rough estimate of the number of persons in an affected area or at risk of being affected. This feature can be used to create a buffer along roads, coastlines or around the epicenter of a vulnerable or an affected area to help design effective disaster response plans.

Country example: Sri Lanka

In recent years, Sri Lanka has been subject to two large-scale emergencies of very different nature: the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, and an escalation of the civil conflict since August 2006. In both cases, EmergencyInfo has fit the need of the humanitarian community for a flexible system that can rapidly collect, store and disseminate data in a user-friendly and locally-defined format, with the aim of helping an evidence-based programmatic response to the situations.



In the context of the first emergency, EmergencyInfo has been used in the regular monitoring of tsunami-affected populations residing in “transitional” shelters before more permanent housing is located. More details of this project, including background information, the role of EmergencyInfo and output reports/results, can be found at www.unops.org.lk/tsst.

In the context of the second situation, EmergencyInfo has been used in the initial assessment and follow-up monitoring of the population displaced by the conflict. For additional details of this project, including background information, the use of EmergencyInfo and output reports/results, please go to www.unops.org.lk/ea.