



Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region

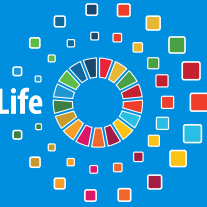


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Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region



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Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. Today, it is the main global tool to guide public policies towards building more sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies. The 2030 Agenda set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which cover the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and which are in turn divided into 169 global targets and 231 unique indicators for monitoring and implementation at all levels of Government.

In article 47 of the 2030 Agenda, all Member States made a commitment to follow up and review, at the subnational and national levels, progress made in the implementation of the Goals and targets. Planning and implementing effective policies in the Arab region, which has been characterized by instability and conflict for the past two decades, is challenging to say the least. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has not only hampered development efforts, increased poverty, and burdened health systems in many Arab countries, but it has also halted data production

crucial to monitoring development progress and the impact of policies.

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, held in July 2022, called for “a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.” It is therefore more urgent than ever to drive development and compile much-needed evidence to measure progress, stagnation and setbacks.

The present report entitled “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region” provides information on the region’s progress in each of the 17 SDGs and their 169 target and related indicators. It also provides an overview by Goal through informative infographics designed to reflect key messages on the region’s progress.

It highlights where the region now stands in relation to 2030, with a 2015 baseline, in terms of Goals, targets and indicators. The present report stresses the importance of data availability and its impact on planning processes. It also presents key messages under each Goal.



1

Progress in the SDGs

The Arab region must accelerate efforts and improve data availability for all 17 Goals to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Assessments of regional progress, as per the current status index metric measure of each indicator that monitors progress/regress made from 2015 to 2030, indicates decent progress on Goals related to SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, and SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. All four SDGs closely reached their projected levels of achievement in 2022.

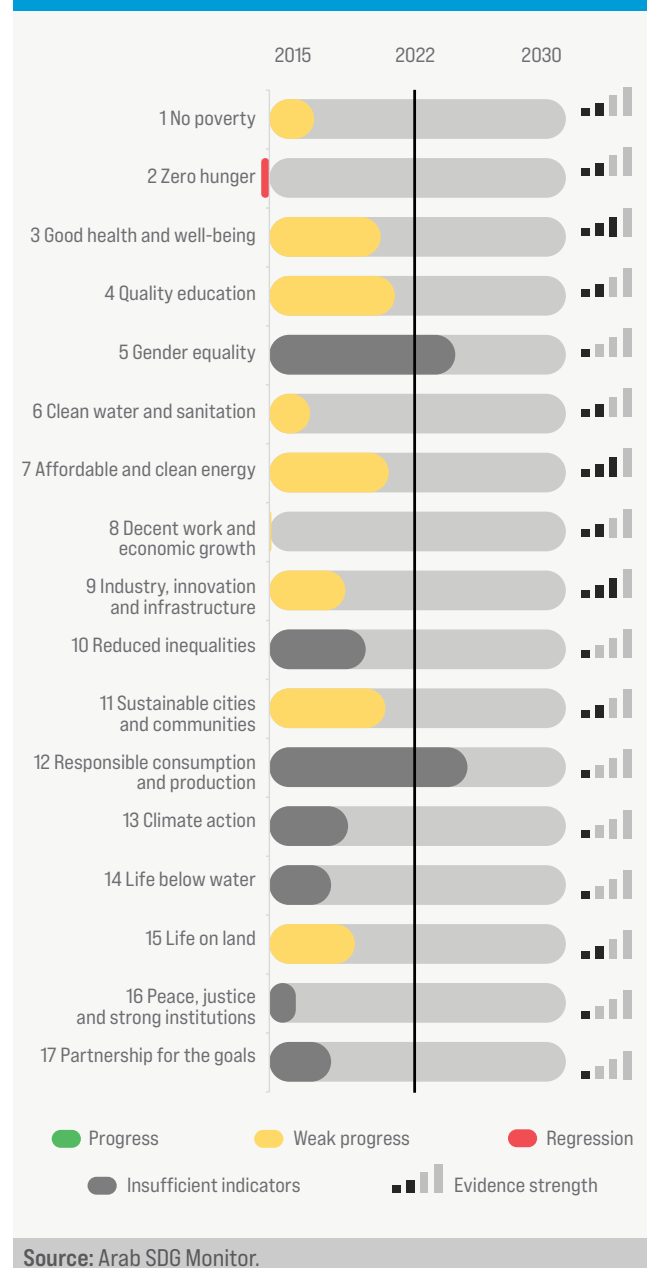
Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, progress by the Arab region has been slow, especially in SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth which exhibits nearly zero progress. Moreover, there has been a regress in SDG 2 on zero hunger. This can be attributed to many factors, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing crises and conflicts in the region. It is likely that the Arab region will not achieve all the SDGs by 2030 if no concrete efforts are made.

Figure 1 provides a snapshot of SDG progress towards the 2022 threshold level and the 2030 target, and of the strength of related evidence. Only 10 of the 17 Goals can be monitored effectively using indicators with quantifiable targets, and 50 per cent of Arab countries have sufficient data available for at least two years as represented by the evidence strength. The remaining Goals cannot be monitored because of insufficient indicators (grey) in the region and as reflected in the weak evidence strength metric bars, and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

None of the Goals are on track and show no strong progress since 2015 (green) reaching or exceeding the 2022 required threshold level of achievement. However, 9 of the 10 Goals that are being monitored have shown weak progress since 2015 (yellow): they are moving in the desired direction but have not reached the required 2022 threshold level of achievement. Only one Goal has been in regress since 2015 (red), moving away from the 2022 threshold level of achievement.

Accurate, timely and comparable statistics are essential for understanding socioeconomic and environmental trends. Decision makers require such information to develop appropriate policies, allocate resources, and prioritize interventions. Investing in strengthening country data information systems to improve the availability and timeliness of data could have a significant positive impact on Arab countries' capacity to monitor progress and achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Figure 1. Progress of Goals towards the 2022 threshold level and the 2030 target, and strength of evidence



2

Progress in SDG targets

There are 103 of the 169 SDG targets with regional quantifiable numeric targets that allow for measuring progress to monitor the SDGs when sufficient data are available (at least two years) in the Arab region.

Progress in SDG targets toward achieving the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region can be categorized in three levels: 20 SDG targets were “on track” (green), 42 SDG targets were “in progress” (yellow), and 16 targets recorded regress and

are “off track” as per the region’s quantifiable targets established by ESCWA. Targets for some SDGs do not have regional quantifiable targets, or do have quantifiable targets but with insufficient data to be measured and monitored (grey). Figure 2 presents a snapshot of progress on SDG targets for all 17 Goals.

The Arab region need to make concrete efforts to meet the 2030 targets in the following “in progress” and “regress” targets.



Goal 1 – No poverty

Take measures to reduce the number of people living in poverty; implement social protection systems; provide access to basic services; and build the resilience of the poor and vulnerable.

Grey SDG targets have no regional quantifiable indicators to measure or monitor progress.

GOAL 1

1.2	National poverty
1.3	Social protection
1.4	Access to basic services
1.5	Resilience to disasters
1.1	International poverty
1.a	Resources for poverty programs
1.b	Poverty eradication policies



Goal 2 – Zero hunger

Increase investments in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, store plants and livestock genes; and ensure access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food for all people, especially those living in vulnerable situations.

Grey SDG targets have no regional quantifiable indicators to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 2

2.5	Genetic resources
2.2	Malnutrition
2.1	Undernourishment and food security
2.a	Investment in agriculture
2.3	Small-scale food producers
2.4	Sustainable agriculture
2.b	Agricultural export subsidies
2.c	Food price anomalies



Goal 3 – Good Health and well-being

Increase prevention and treatment of noncommunicable diseases; promote mental health; increase family planning services; intensify health worker density; expand essential health services coverage; take measures to reduce road crashes; strengthen tobacco control; support the research and development of vaccines and medicines; and strengthen capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

GOAL 3

3.2	Child mortality
3.3	Communicable diseases
3.9	Health impact of pollution
3.1	Maternal mortality
3.4	NCD & mental health
3.5	Substance abuse
3.6	Road traffic accidents
3.7	Sexual & reproductive health
3.8	Universal health coverage
3.a	Tobacco control
3.b	R&D for health
3.c	Health financing & workforce
3.d	Management of health risks



Goal 4 – Quality education

Achieve gender parity in education; improve education quality and facilities; and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

Target 4.6 has regional quantifiable indicators, but does not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 4

4.2	Early childhood development
4.4	Skills for employment
4.c	Qualified teachers
4.1	Effective learning outcomes
4.a	Education facilities
4.5	Equal access to education
4.3	TVET & tertiary education
4.6	Adult literacy & numeracy
4.7	Sustainable development education
4.b	Scholarships



Goal 5 – Gender equality

Ensure gender equality, effective participation and equal leadership opportunities for women at all levels of decision-making, whether political or economic.

Targets 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6 and 5.a have regional quantifiable indicators, but do not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 5

5.b	Technology for women empowerment
5.5	Women in leadership
5.1	Discrimination against women & girls
5.2	Violence against women & girls
5.3	Early marriage
5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work
5.6	Reproductive health access & rights
5.a	Equal economic rights
5.c	Gender equality policies



Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation

Provide access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services and end open defecation practices; implement integrated water resource management; and ensure sustainable withdrawal of freshwater.

SDG targets 6.3 and 6.b have regional quantifiable indicators, but do not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 6

6.1	Safe drinking water
6.2	Access to sanitation & hygiene
6.5	Transboundary water cooperation
6.4	Water-use efficiency
6.3	Water quality
6.6	Water-related ecosystems
6.a	Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
6.b	Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.



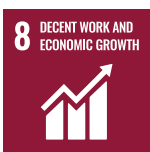
Goal 7 – Affordable and clean energy

Strengthen renewable energy and installed renewable electricity-generating capacity, and reduce energy intensity.

Grey SDG targets have no regional quantifiable indicators to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 7

7.1	Access to energy services
7.2	Share of renewable energy
7.3	Energy efficiency
7.a	Int. cooperation on energy
7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure



Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth

Ensure sustainable economic growth and higher levels of economic productivity; expand access to banking and financial service; achieve full and productive employment opportunities for men and women, especially young people; and significantly reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training.

SDG target 8.7 has regional quantifiable indicators, but does not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 8

8.4	Material resource efficiency
8.5	Full employment & decent work
8.6	Youth NEET
8.10	Access to financial services
8.1	Per capita economic growth
8.2	Economic productivity & innovation
8.8	Labour rights & safe working env.
8.3	Formalization of SMEs
8.7	Child & forced labour
8.9	Sustainable tourism
8.a	Aid for Trade
8.b	Strategy for youth employment



Goal 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Increase access of small scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services and affordable credits; raise the share of employment in the industrial sector and promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization; enhance scientific research and development; upgrade technologies used in the industrial sector; and support domestic technology development, research and innovation.

Grey SDG targets have no regional quantifiable indicators to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 9

9.4	Sustainable & clean industries
9.c	Access to ICT & the Internet
9.5	Research and development
9.b	Domestic technology development
9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
9.3	Small-scale industries access to finance
9.1	Infrastructure development
9.a	Resilient infrastructure



Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities

Empower and promote social, economic and political inclusion; adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies; and reduce the remittance costs of migrant transfers.

SDG target 10.7 has regional quantifiable indicators but does not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 10

10.2	Inclusion (social, economic & political)
10.4	Fiscal & social protection policies
10.c	Remittance costs
10.1	Income growth (bottom %40)
10.3	Eliminate discrimination
10.5	Regulation of financial markets
10.6	Inclusive global governance
10.7	Safe migration & mobility
10.a	Special & differential treatment (WTO)
10.b	Resource flows for development



Goal 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

Ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services; upgrade slums; increase the adoption and implementation of holistic disaster risk management at all levels; and reduce the environmental impact of cities, including attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.

Target 11.a has regional quantifiable indicators, but does not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 11

11.5	Resilience to disasters
11.1	Housing & basic services
11.b	Disaster risk management policies
11.6	Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
11.2	Public transport systems
11.3	Sustainable urbanization
11.4	Cultural & natural heritage
11.7	Urban green & public spaces
11.a	Urban planning
11.c	Sustainable & resilient buildings



Goal 12 – Responsible consumption and production

Two targets have been met. However, three of the remaining targets (12.1, 12.3 and 12.7) have regional quantifiable indicators, but do not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 12

12.2	Sustainable use of natural resources
12.4	Managing chemicals & wastes
12.1	Programmes on SCP
12.3	Food waste & losses
12.5	Reduction in waste generation
12.6	Corporate sustainable practices
12.7	Public procurement practices
12.8	Sustainable development awareness
12.a	Support for R&D capacity for SD
12.b	Sustainable tourism monitoring
12.c	Fossil-fuel subsidies



Goal 13 – Climate action

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

Grey SDG targets have no regional quantifiable indicators to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 13

13.1	Resilience & adaptive capacity
13.2	Climate change policies
13.3	Climate change awareness
13.a	UNFCCC commitments
13.b	Climate change planning & mgmt.



Goal 14 – Life below water

Conserve coastal and marine areas SDG targets 14.2, 14.6 and 14.b have regional quantifiable indicators, but do not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 14

14.5	Conservation of coastal areas
14.1	Marine pollution
14.2	Marine & coastal ecosystems
14.3	Ocean acidification
14.4	Sustainable fishing
14.6	Fisheries subsidies
14.7	Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
14.a	Research capacity & marine technology
14.b	Small-scale artisanal fishing
14.c	Implementing UNCLOS



Goal 15 – Life on land

Promote the implementation of sustainable managements of forests; halt deforestation; restore degraded forests; and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.

SDG targets 15.3 and 15.9 have regional quantifiable indicators, but do not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 15

15.5	Loss of biodiversity
15.6	Utilization of genetic resource
15.8	Invasive alien species
15.2	Sustainable forests management
15.4	Conservation of mountain ecosystems
15.1	Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
15.3	Desertification and land degradation
15.7	Protected species trafficking
15.9	Biodiversity in national & local planning
15.a	Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
15.b	Resources for forest management
15.c	Protected species trafficking (global)



Goal 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

Promote the rule of law at the national level and ensure equal access to justice for all; strengthen capacity to significantly reduce violence and related deaths; and end all forms of abuse, torture of children, exploitation, human trafficking, terrorism and crime, including corruption and bribery.

SDG target 16.9 has quantifiable regional indicators, but does not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 16

16.6	Effective institutions
16.3	Justice for all
16.5	Corruption and bribery
16.1	Reduction of violence & related deaths
16.2	Human trafficking
16.a	Capacity to prevent violence
16.4	Public access to information
16.7	Illicit financial & arms flows
16.8	Inclusive decision-making
16.9	Inclusive global governance
16.10	Legal identity
16.b	Non-discriminatory laws



Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection; enhance access to science, technology and innovation; strengthen knowledge sharing and capacity-building; significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data; and develop progress measurements for the SDGs.

SDG targets 17.5, 17.14, 17.15 and 17.16 have regional quantifiable indicators, but do not have sufficient data to measure and monitor progress.

GOAL 17

17.8	Capacity building for ICT
17.6	Science and tech int. cooperation
17.18	National statistics availability
17.19	Statistical capacity
17.1	Tax & other revenue collection
17.2	Multilateral trading system (WTO)
17.3	Exports of developing countries
17.4	Duty-free market access for LDCs
17.5	Global macroeconomic stability
17.7	Policy coherence for SD
17.9	Respect country's policy space
17.10	Global partnership for SD
17.11	Partnerships (public, private, CSO)
17.12	ODA commitment by dev. countries
17.13	Additional financial resources
17.14	Debt sustainability
17.15	Investment promotion for LDCs
17.16	Transfer of technologies
17.17	Capacity building for SDGs

Figure 2. Snapshot of progress in SDG targets

GOAL 1

1.2	National poverty
1.3	Social protection
1.4	Access to basic services
1.5	Resilience to disasters
1.1	International poverty
1.a	Resources for poverty programs
1.b	Poverty eradication policies

GOAL 5

5.b	Technology for women empowerment
5.5	Women in leadership
5.1	Discrimination against women & girls
5.2	Violence against women & girls
5.3	Early marriage
5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work
5.6	Reproductive health access & rights
5.a	Equal economic rights
5.c	Gender equality policies

GOAL 9

9.4	Sustainable & clean industries
9.c	Access to ICT & the Internet
9.5	Research and development
9.b	Domestic technology development
9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrialization
9.3	Small-scale industries access to finance
9.1	Infrastructure development
9.a	Resilient infrastructure

GOAL 13

13.1	Resilience & adaptive capacity
13.2	Climate change policies
13.3	Climate change awareness
13.a	UNFCCC commitments
13.b	Climate change planning & mgmt.

GOAL 17

17.8	Capacity building for ICT
17.6	Science and tech int. cooperation
17.18	National statistics availability
17.19	Statistical capacity
17.1	Tax & other revenue collection
17.2	Multilateral trading system (WTO)
17.3	Exports of developing countries
17.4	Duty-free market access for LDCs
17.5	Global macroeconomic stability
17.7	Policy coherence for SD
17.9	Respect country's policy space
17.10	Global partnership for SD
17.11	Partnerships (public, private, CSD)
17.12	ODA commitment by dev. countries
17.13	Additional financial resources
17.14	Debt sustainability
17.15	Investment promotion for LDCs
17.16	Transfer of technologies
17.17	Capacity building for SDGs

GOAL 2

2.5	Genetic resources
2.2	Malnutrition
2.1	Undernourishment and food security
2.a	Investment in agriculture
2.3	Small-scale food producers
2.4	Sustainable agriculture
2.b	Agricultural export subsidies
2.c	Food price anomalies

GOAL 6

6.1	Safe drinking water
6.2	Access to sanitation & hygiene
6.5	Transboundary water cooperation
6.4	Water-use efficiency
6.3	Water quality
6.6	Water-related ecosystems
6.a	Int. cooperation on water & sanitation
6.b	Participatory water & sanitation mgmt.

GOAL 10

10.2	Inclusion (social, economic & political)
10.4	Fiscal & social protection policies
10.c	Remittance costs
10.1	Income growth (bottom %40)
10.3	Eliminate discrimination
10.5	Regulation of financial markets
10.6	Inclusive global governance
10.7	Safe migration & mobility
10.a	Special & differential treatment (WTO)
10.b	Resource flows for development

GOAL 14

14.5	Conservation of coastal areas
14.1	Marine pollution
14.2	Marine & coastal ecosystems
14.3	Ocean acidification
14.4	Sustainable fishing
14.6	Fisheries subsidies
14.7	Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs
14.a	Research capacity & marine technology
14.b	Small-scale artisanal fishing
14.c	Implementing UNCLOS

GOAL 3

3.2	Child mortality
3.3	Communicable diseases
3.9	Health impact of pollution
3.1	Maternal mortality
3.4	NCD & mental health
3.5	Substance abuse
3.6	Road traffic accidents
3.7	Sexual & reproductive health
3.8	Universal health coverage
3.a	Tobacco control
3.b	R&D for health
3.c	Health financing & workforce
3.d	Management of health risks

GOAL 7

7.1	Access to energy services
7.2	Share of renewable energy
7.3	Energy efficiency
7.a	Int. cooperation on energy
7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure

GOAL 11

11.5	Resilience to disasters
11.1	Housing & basic services
11.b	Disaster risk management policies
11.6	Urban air quality & waste mgmt.
11.2	Public transport systems
11.3	Sustainable urbanization
11.4	Cultural & natural heritage
11.7	Urban green & public spaces
11.a	Urban planning
11.c	Sustainable & resilient buildings

GOAL 15

15.5	Loss of biodiversity
15.6	Utilization of genetic resource
15.8	Invasive alien species
15.2	Sustainable forests management
15.4	Conservation of mountain ecosystems
15.1	Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
15.3	Desertification and land degradation
15.7	Protected species trafficking
15.9	Biodiversity in national & local planning
15.a	Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems
15.b	Resources for forest management
15.c	Protected species trafficking (global)

GOAL 4

4.2	Early childhood development
4.4	Skills for employment
4.c	Qualified teachers
4.1	Effective learning outcomes
4.a	Education facilities
4.5	Equal access to education
4.3	TVET & tertiary education
4.6	Adult literacy & numeracy
4.7	Sustainable development education
4.b	Scholarships

GOAL 8

8.4	Material resource efficiency
8.5	Full employment & decent work
8.6	Youth NEET
8.10	Access to financial services
8.1	Per capita economic growth
8.2	Economic productivity & innovation
8.8	Labour rights & safe working env.
8.3	Formalization of SMEs
8.7	Child & forced labour
8.9	Sustainable tourism
8.a	Aid for Trade
8.b	Strategy for youth employment

GOAL 12

12.2	Sustainable use of natural resources
12.4	Managing chemicals & wastes
12.1	Programmes on SCP
12.3	Food waste & losses
12.5	Reduction in waste generation
12.6	Corporate sustainable practices
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12.8	Sustainable development awareness
12.a	Support for R&D capacity for SD
12.b	Sustainable tourism monitoring
12.c	Fossil-fuel subsidies

GOAL 16

16.6	Effective institutions
16.3	Justice for all
16.5	Corruption and bribery
16.1	Reduction of violence & related deaths
16.2	Human trafficking
16.a	Capacity to prevent violence
16.4	Public access to information
16.7	Illicit financial & arms flows
16.8	Inclusive decision-making
16.9	Inclusive global governance
16.10	Legal identity
16.b	Non-discriminatory laws

3

Progress in SDG indicators

The analysis in the present section shows progress since 2015 (base year) by indicator under each of the 17 SDGs. Each indicator is colour-coded to represent the progress of indicators as per the achievement threshold level of 2022 and towards the 2030 targets. The progress of 134 indicators is monitored based on regional quantifiable targets. Those that are on track show strong progress since 2015 (green), reaching or exceeding the 2022 required threshold level

of achievement. Some indicators show weak progress since 2015 (yellow) and are moving towards the desired direction, but have not reached the required 2022 threshold level of achievement. Lastly, some indicators are in regress since 2015 (red), moving away from the 2022 threshold level of achievement.

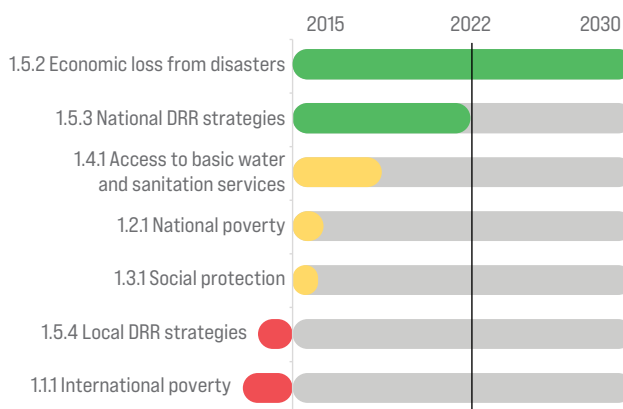
All the following figures are available on the Arab SDG Monitor.

Goal 1 – No poverty



- △ Extreme poverty, including the number of working poor, has increased sharply in recent years. Arab least developed countries (LDCs) show the highest rate of extreme poverty at 35 per cent among all Arab subregions, compared with 0 per cent in Maghreb countries and 6 per cent in Mashreq countries, as per the latest data.
- △ Poverty measured in national terms shows a lag in closing the gap between the rich and poor, especially among countries witnessing high exchange rate fluctuations of national currency to the dollar.
- △ The adult illiteracy rate remains above the world’s average, and is significant among women.
- △ The majority of the population is not covered by social protection programmes.
- △ Despite progress made in access to basic drinking water and sanitation, many people remain deprived of basic life requirements, especially in rural areas and LDCs.

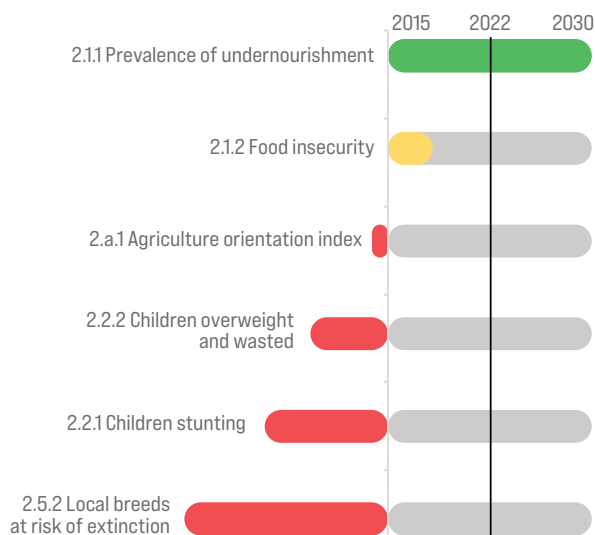
- △ One third of the Arab rural population and more than half of the population in Arab LDCs still lacked access to basic sanitation in 2020. One fifth of the Arab rural population and 40 per cent of the LDC population lacked access to basic drinking services in 2020.
- △ While the share of vulnerable employment is decreasing and is way below the world’s average, it remains more pronounced among women and women employed in agriculture.



Goal 2 – Zero hunger



- △ The Agriculture Orientation Index, measured as the agriculture share of government expenditures, has been declining and is currently below the world’s average. Moreover, the Consumer Food Price Index and food price anomalies that identify market prices are abnormally high – both indices increased by more than two fold in the past 10 years.
- △ It is therefore unsurprising that the region is still facing persistent challenges in both undernourishment and food security, especially in LDCs where over a third of the population was undernourished in 2020, which calls for more concrete efforts to reach the targets by 2030.



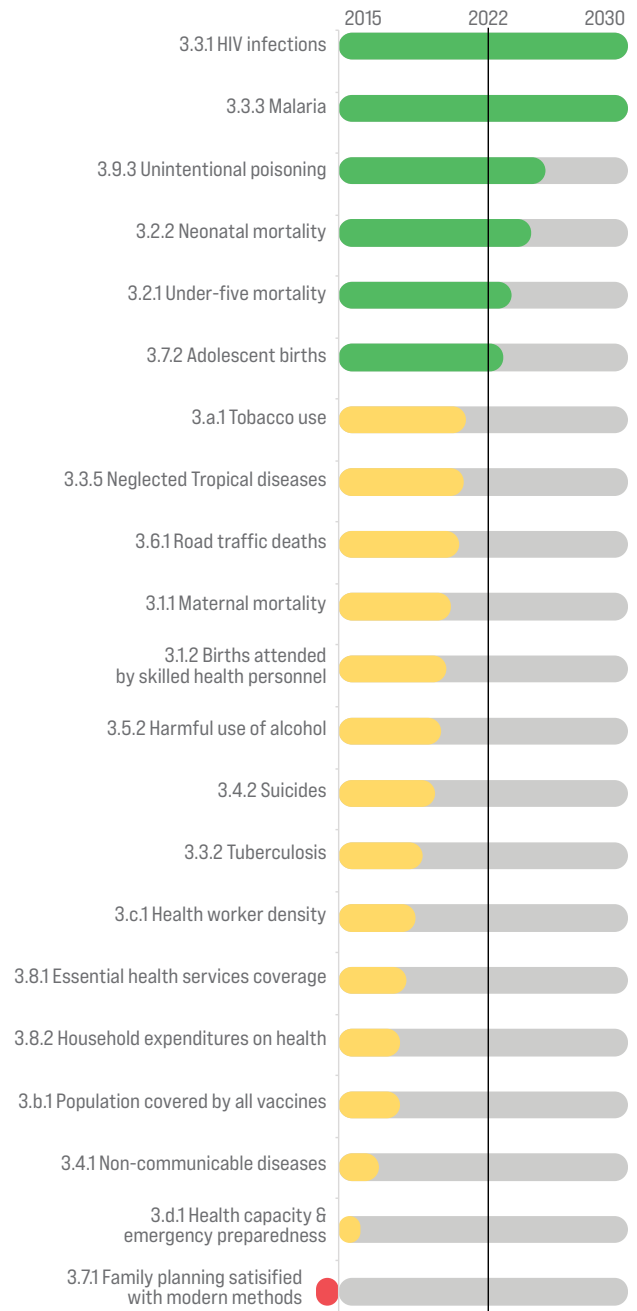
- △ Hunger has been on the rise since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- △ Slight improvements in stunting among children have been witnessed in the region; however, one third of children under five were

stunted in LDCs compared with 19 per cent in the Mashreq, 13 per cent in the Maghreb, and 5 per cent in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in 2020.

Goal 3 – Good health and well-being



- △ The region has made significant progress on many health-related indicators over the past decades, notably in maternal mortality rates and births attended by skilled personnel. Nevertheless, there are large disparities among the Arab subregions.
- △ Nearly one third of women in Arab LDCs still give birth with unskilled personnel, and the maternal mortality rate is high at 390 per 100,000, as per the latest data.
- △ Moreover, women’s access to family planning services is still lagging behind the world’s average and 2030 targets. In 2022, over a third of Arab women did not have their family planning needs satisfied using modern methods: 50 per cent in GCC countries and 60 per cent in Arab LDCs.
- △ Children and infant mortality rates have decreased significantly, although disparities exist between subregions. In 2020, infant mortality in Arab LDCs stood at 49 per 1,000 live births, compared with 17 in the Mashreq and Maghreb, and 6 in GCC countries.
- △ Universal vaccination for all women and children is still lagging; concrete efforts are needed to ensure that all are vaccinated.
- △ Health-worker density and essential health-services coverage are low and need to be strengthened to reach all health targets.
- △ The region has high rates of road crash fatalities, in particular for men, which exceed the world’s average.

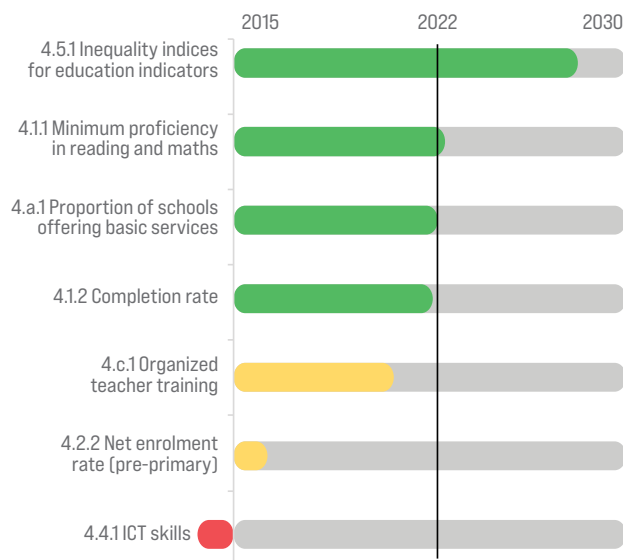


Goal 4 – Quality education



- △ The region has seen steady improvements in secondary school enrolment and completion rates, including enrolment in pre-primary education, with a slight bias towards education for males.
- △ Despite visible improvements, the region continues to make little progress towards attaining minimum proficiency in reading and maths skills.
- △ The proportion of out-of-school children exceeds the world’s average, in particular for girls.
- △ The region fares better than the world’s average in terms of equipping schools with computers, electricity and drinking water. However, progress has been stagnant for over a decade, so more efforts are needed to reach the target.
- △ In contrast, access to the Internet in schools has increased, and peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- △ The proportion of primary school teachers with minimum qualifications is slightly above the world’s average, notably for male teachers who receive more training than female teachers.

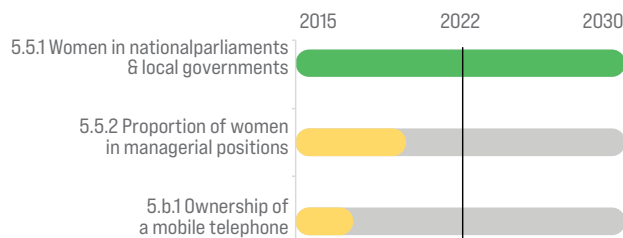


Goal 5 – Gender equality



- △ Legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality are weak in the region.
- △ There is a high prevalence of child marriage, intimate partner violence and female genital mutilation, despite small improvements recorded over the years.
- △ The Arab region must achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. The representation of women in elected local governments and in national parliaments is steadily catching up with the world’s average, but remains far from achieving parity. The highest representation is in Arab LDCs, at 32 per cent in 2022.

- △ The proportion of women in managerial positions has been declining since its peak in 2011.
- △ In 2022, 81 per cent of individuals in the Arab region owned a mobile phone. In 2030, it is expected that all individuals aged 10 and above will own a mobile phone.



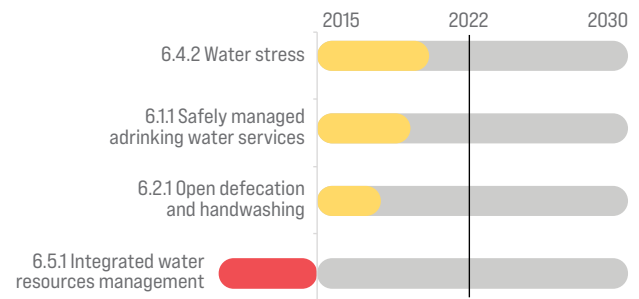
Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation



- △ The Arab region has registered increases in the population with access to safely managed water and sanitation services, including the population with basic handwashing facilities, since 2015. However, more efforts to reach all locations needs to be made to meet the 2030 targets
- △ The practice of open defecation has dropped significantly to nearly zero in urban areas and stood at 11 per cent in rural areas in 2020, and is lower than the world's average for both rural and urban areas. However, it remains high in Arab LDCs, where a fifth of the population still practices it.
- △ The region needs to improve water-use efficiency across all sectors, especially in agriculture and services, and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater. This is evidenced by increases in the level of water stress since 2016, owing to the high withdrawal of freshwater from

available resources. The highest freshwater withdrawals are observed in the GCC subregion compared with the other Arab subregions, at more than 700 per cent in 2019.

- △ Over 80 per cent of the Arab population is experiencing high and critical levels of water stress. The region needs to bring down freshwater withdrawals to a more sustainable level, and strengthen water cooperation arrangements for transboundary basins.



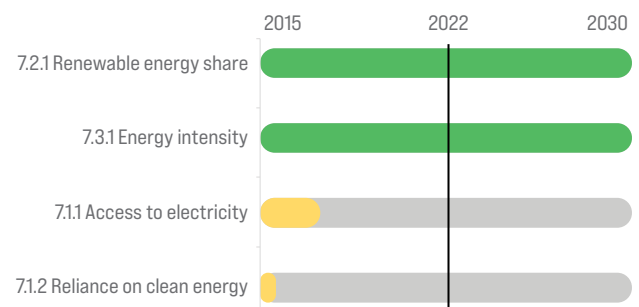
Goal 7 – Affordable and clean energy



- △ Since 2000, the Arab region has significantly improved the population's access to electricity and clean fuels in both urban and rural areas.
- △ However, rural populations still lack access to electricity (18 per cent) and access to electricity (22 per cent). In Arab LDCs, 40 per cent of the population lacked access to electricity, and 47 per cent did not have access to clean fuel in 2020.
- △ The region has steadily progressed towards increasing the share of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology, with some lag in rural areas.
- △ The region is still struggling to increase the share of renewable energy and installed

renewable electricity-generating capacity, both of which remain well below the world's averages.

- △ The region has been making an effort to reduce its energy intensity since 2015, which is currently similar to the world's average.

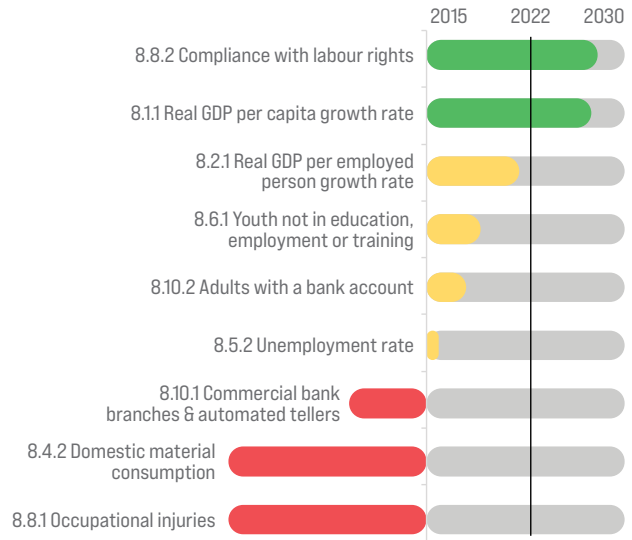


Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth



- △ The Arab region has low levels of national compliance with labour rights. The Mashreq subregion is the least compliant among subregions.
- △ The number of women aged 15–24 not in education, employment or training, and those who are unemployed, is double that of males. This is a major challenge for the region, especially since rates have been increasing since the pandemic.
- △ There are large disparities in unemployment rates between all Arab subregions, as per the latest data. Around 18 per cent of the adult population living in Arab LDCs are unemployed compared with 13 per cent in the Maghreb, 12 per cent in the Mashreq, and 5 per cent in GCC countries.
- △ The region has an overall low level of bank account ownership compared with the world’s

average, resulting in low levels of financial inclusion, notably for young people, women, persons with primary education, and the poor. Women’s account ownership is half that of men in the region.

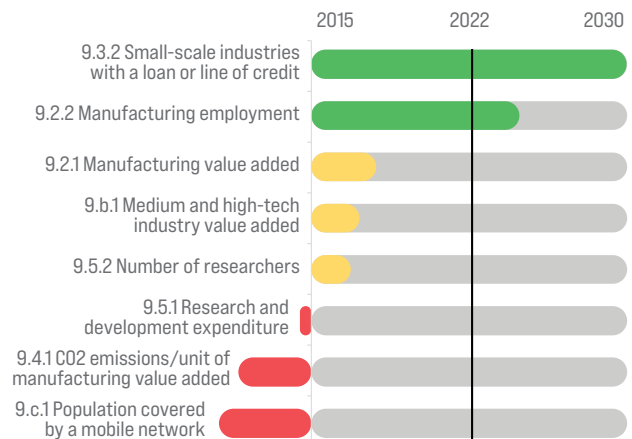


Goal 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure



- △ The Arab region must continue improving access of small-scale industrial enterprises to financial services, increasing government expenditure on research and development, including expanding the manufacturing sector – the backbone of both social and economic development and the driver of local employment and better standards of living.
- △ Despite improvements since 2015, the region’s manufacturing sector remains less productive, generates fewer jobs, and is more polluting than the world’s averages. GCC countries and the Mashreq subregion manifest the highest rates at 11 per cent, compared with 8 per cent for Arab LDCs and 9 per cent for the Maghreb, as per latest data.

△ The region needs to improve policies related to researchers and increase expenditure on research and development, in addition to increasing added value in manufacturing and in medium high-tech industries.



△ Access to at least a 3G mobile network has been visibly increasing in the region, in line with global growth rates. Nevertheless, in 2020, 25 per cent

of the population in Arab LDCs was not covered by mobile networks compared with nearly full coverage in the other Arab subregions.

Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities

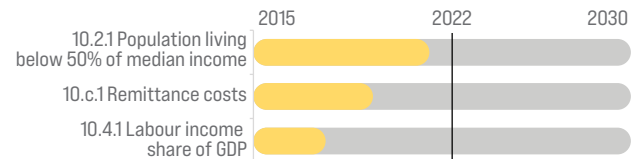


△ Refugees have increased significantly over the past 10 years, mainly owing to conflict and violence in some Arab countries. Countries that host refugees experience long-term economic, social, political and environmental impacts, including increases in the cost of living coupled with competition for limited jobs, leading to an increase in poverty with broader levels of deprivation.

△ The region is struggling to improve the proportion of people living below 50 per cent of the median income and share of output paid as compensation to employees.

△ Personal remittances as a proportion of GDP received by Arab countries reached their highest rates at 3 per cent in 2020.

△ The region's share of official development assistance (ODA) has fluctuated over the years, dropping since the outbreak of the pandemic: it is at around a fifth of the world's ODA.



Goal 11 – Sustainable cities and communities

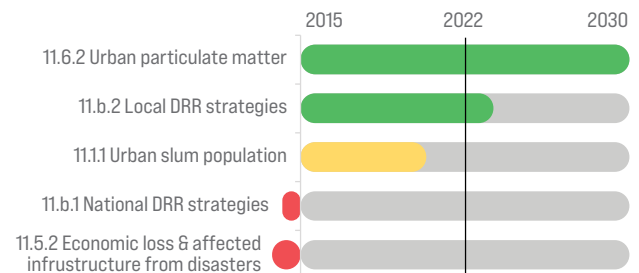


△ The region is on track with regard to developing national disaster reduction strategies, despite a lack of local strategies.

△ The number of displaced persons due to disaster has increased over the past 10 years. However, the regional average has remained well below the world's average.

△ With urbanization on the rise, the region is facing an increase in the population living in slums, where urban particular matter is

also on the rise, both exceeding the world's average.



Goal 12 – Responsible consumption and production

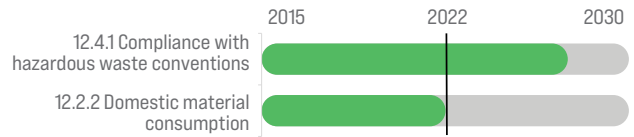


△ Total domestic material consumption rose by more than 106 per cent in the Arab region compared with 65 per cent globally in 2019, amounting to 4 billion metric tons

regionally compared with 95 billion metric tons globally. This translates to 9.3 tons per person in the region compared to 12.3 tons per person globally.

△ The region is on track with regard to compliance with hazardous waste conventions. However, the material footprint per GDP in the Arab region is higher than the world’s average and is on the increase, as is electronic waste generation per capita and food waste.

△ The region subsidizes fossil fuel consumption at nearly eight times the global average.



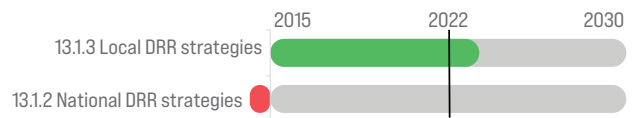
Goal 13 – Climate action



△ Per capita CO2 emissions in the region are on the decline, hovering at around the world’s average. Greenhouse gas emissions in the region are rising but are still a fraction of the world’s average.

and to increase the share of renewable energy in total consumption, which is currently lower than the world’s average and is on the decrease.

△ The region needs to intensify efforts to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning,



Goal 14 – Life below water

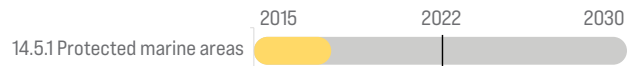


△ The region needs to take action to increase the protection of marine areas. Such efforts have been stagnant for the past years and are below the world’s average.

activities, marine debris and nutrient pollution.

△ The region has high levels of marine pollution, similar to the world’s average. It is therefore important to intensify efforts to significantly reduce all kinds of marine pollution, in particular from land-based

△ The region has made significant progress in recognizing and protecting access rights for small-scale fisheries, exceeding the world’s average.



Goal 15 – Life on land

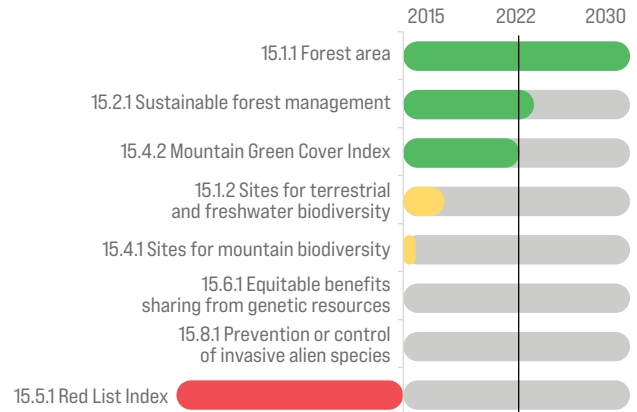


△ The region needs to take concrete steps to accelerate the proportion of forest area through long-term management plans. Only the Maghreb subregion has shown improvements, with 63 per cent of forest areas covered by management plans. In Arab LDCs, management

plans covered only 25 per cent of forest areas, and the Mashreq did not have any plans.

△ It is therefore not surprising to see a decrease in the percentage of forest area as a proportion of land over the years.

- △ There has been no progress for over a decade to increase afforestation and reforestation in the region. Only a small proportion of the region's land area is designated as legally protected. Most protected forest areas were found in Arab LDCs (24 per cent) and the Maghreb (5 per cent) in 2020.
- △ The region has high participation rates in international treaties to protect plant genetic resources.



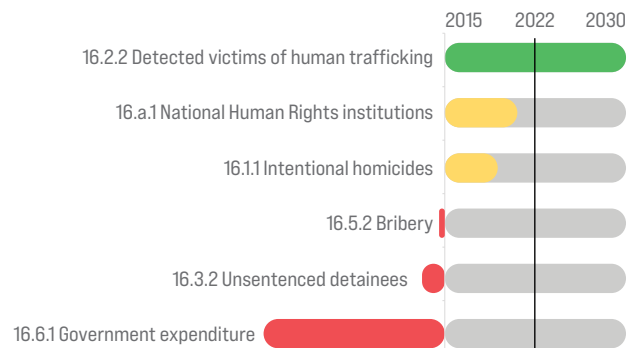
Goal 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions



- △ Children under the age of 14 in the region are more likely to experience physical punishment and/or psychological aggression compared with the world's average. Around 82 per cent of Arab children have experienced punishment or aggression. In 2021, the Maghreb recorded the highest rates at 85 per cent, compared with 71 per cent in Arab LDCs.
- △ Not all births are registered for children under the age of 5: 1 in every 5 children was not registered in 2021.
- △ The region is making progress in reducing the number of unsentenced detainees among the prison population.
- △ The region has to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. One fifth of firms in the region are likely to experience bribe payment requests. In 2020, bribery was more widespread in Arab LDCs at

30 per cent compared with 15 per cent in both the Maghreb and Mashreq.

- △ Intentional homicides are increasing, and only one third of the countries applied for the Accreditation of National Human Rights Institutions, in compliance with the Paris Principles. The region needs to strengthen relevant national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.



Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals



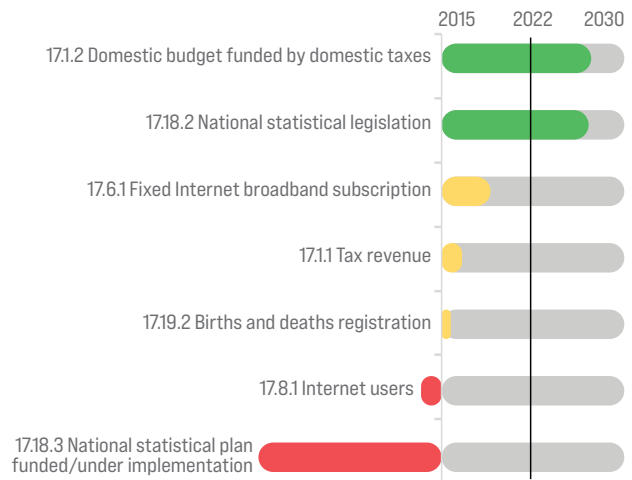
- △ The region is not benefiting from global trade; the region's share of global services exports remains modest.
- △ Fluctuations in the share of global merchandise exports may be attributed to the fact that oil and gas constitute a major

share of the region’s merchandise exports, and are subject to price changes and to crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

- △ The Arab region has registered significant growth in Internet users and broadband subscriptions. However, for the latter, the region has yet to catch up with the world’s average.
- △ Despite increases in Internet users in the past years, there are significant disparities between Arab subregions. In 2020, more than three quarters of the population in Arab LDCs did not have access to the Internet, compared with only 2 per cent in GCC countries, 27 per cent in the Maghreb, and 34 per cent in the Mashreq.
- △ Half of Arab countries have updated statistical legislation in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.
- △ The pandemic disrupted work towards population and housing censuses, with only

half of Arab countries able to complete them in the last 10 years.

- △ Only half of Arab countries have achieved at least a 90 per cent rate of completed birth registration, and fewer than half have achieved at least a 75 per cent rate of death registration.



4

Overview by Goal

1 NO POVERTY



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

7 TARGETS

13 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

54%

Working poverty rate

rose by

21%



since 2018

as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic



2022

1 in 3 of the population

living below national poverty lines

despite positive growth

130 million

Regional demand on social expenditure increased by 21%

due to covid-19



35%

people were covered by social protection



15%

people received disability cash benefit



7%

people received employment cash benefit

2020

26%



were in vulnerable employment

Women's share higher than men

2019



Female 31%

one third of women in vulnerable employment



Male 25%

quarter of men in vulnerable employment



49 million people without even BASIC DRINKING WATER SERVICES

73 million people without even BASIC SANITATION SERVICES

2020

2 ZERO HUNGER



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

8 TARGETS

14 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

43%



Undernourished people

exceeded

39 million

2020



On the onset of COVID-19
food insecurity
increased

since 2019



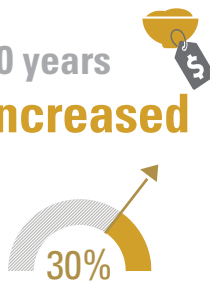
1 in 3

 experienced moderate **food insecurity**

In the last 10 years
food prices increased

abnormally

2x



moderately

3x



From 2010 to 2020

Anemia among
pregnant women
is **decreasing** in

Arab region



2000

39

2019

34

but **remains**
significantly
high in

Arab LDCs

2019

46

Children stunting has decreased

1 in 5

are stunted



2020

Overweight has increased

1 in 10

are overweight





Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

13 TARGETS

28 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

75%

Women's life expectancy
Shortened by **1 YEAR**



2021

73 years

2019

74 years

Adolescent births

remain high

in Arab LDCs despite decrease over the years



2020

LDCs average:
58 adolescent births per 1,000

Global average:
41 births per 1,000

30% incidence



Tuberculosis



Malaria

in the past 20 years

2 in 3 people not covered by **universal health services**



2020

91% women ✓

2021

gave birth by a skilled health personnel



2020

Despite the steady **decrease** in **child mortality**

800,000 children are **dying**



- **170,000 newborns**
- **270,000 infants below 1 year**
- **350,000 children under 5**



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

10 TARGETS

12 INDICATORS

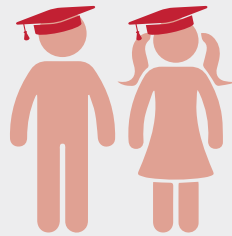
Evidence Strength

58%

Gender gaps in completion rates

3%
primary education

89% 86%



2020

1%
lower secondary education

69% 70%



+29.2 million children
missed education

due to conflict and political upheaval

50%
expected never to enroll

20%
enrolled but dropped out

30%
expected to enroll late



28%
expected never to enroll

16%
enrolled but dropped out

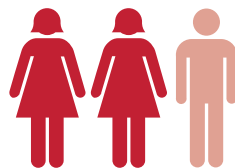
56%
expected to enroll late



30% Primary and secondary **teachers** remained **without training**



Women are **twice** likely to be **illiterates** as men



2020

Schools lacking

electricity



drinking water



basic sanitation



10%

computers



19%

access to internet



33%



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

9 TARGETS

14 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

21%

2 in 10 girls marry before age 18



Over 40 million females

have undergone female genital mutilation



2020

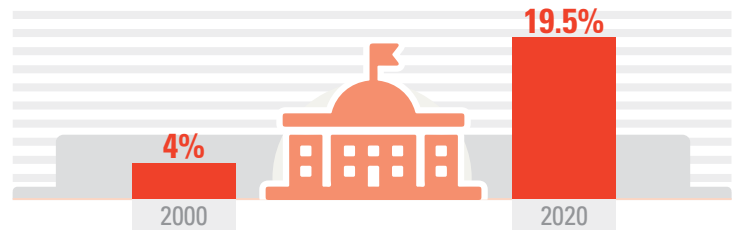
18% women of total employment



Women managers decreased from total managerial positions



Despite increase by 5 folds



For every 5 parliament seats there is only 1 woman representative



Out of 22 Arab countries:



18% | 4 intend to address gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) through programmes/policies and resource allocations

9% | 2 have planning and budget tools to track resources for GEWE throughout the public financial management cycle

0% (no country) | None is transparent to make allocations for GEWE publicly available



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

8 TARGETS

11 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

36%

People lacking access to

2020

Safe drinking water services



103 million

Safe sanitation services



301 million

Basic handwashing facilities



58 million

4% increase

in withdrawal of **available freshwater** since 2015



level of water stress reached **121%**

2019

372+ million

live in countries with **high and critical** levels of **water stress**



2019



4 countries

have **28%** of their **transboundary waters** covered by operational arrangements

2020



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

5 TARGETS

6 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

67%



44 million people lacked access to electricity



10% electricity

2020



13% affordable and clean energy

2020



58 million people still use **inefficient** and **polluted** cooking systems

Energy intensity as high as the world average at

4.9 mega Joule 2019

Modern renewable energy is limited in the Arab region

4.6% of final energy consumption



More than **13%** of population still does not have modern energy services, that is over **58 million** people

Installed renewable electricity-generating capacity remains below the world average

Arab region

52

Watt per capita

World

246

Watt per capita



2020



Countries with **low electricity access** (below 80% population) have very **high maternal mortality** ratios





Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

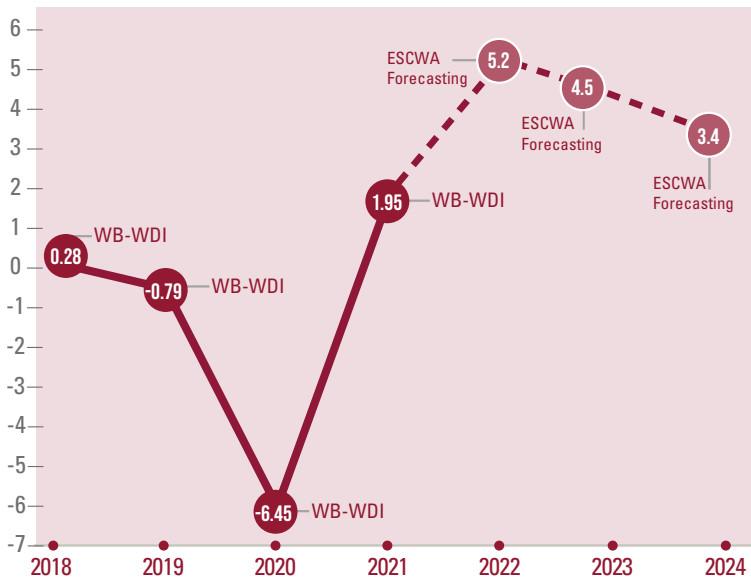
12 TARGETS

16 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

56%

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person decreased by 4% and remains below world average



Commercial bank branches and ATMs are 50% of world average

100,000 adults



Women still lack equitable access to account ownership



26%

Arab



49%

in comparison to

66%

World

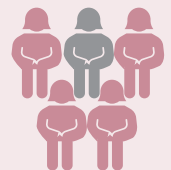
72%

Youth not in education, employment, or training rate

Male 43%



Female 20%



14 million fewer young women and men employed in 2021 compared to 2019 due to **COVID-19**

Arab region registered the world's highest unemployment rate at 12% in 2022



Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

8 TARGETS

12 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

67%

Manufacturing, the backbone of **social and economic development**, remains **weak** in the region despite progress after COVID-19



2021 

Manufacturing value
added as a proportion of GDP

10.7%

World average

16.9%

2020 
Manufacturing employment

9.8%

World average

13.1%

Small-scale industries lack access to financial support for recovery



only **1 in 7 (15%)** small manufacturers are benefiting from a **loan or line of credit** - LDCs lack further behind in **2022**

The region needs to increase **investment** in **innovation, research** and **development**

2020

Full-time researchers per million inhabitants

614

World average

1,341

GDP spent on R&D

0.64

World average

1.9%



Only **1/3** of **medium** and **high-tech manufacturing value added** in the Arab region in **2019**

2015

30.17

2016

31.07

2017

29.16

2018

32.36

2019

31.64



Reduce inequality within and among countries

10 TARGETS

14 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

21%



28.1 million
were forcibly
displaced in **2022**



Risk of early and **forced marriage**
and **unintended pregnancies** in
conflict areas are higher

At least **1 in 3 girls** under 18 years
in the **Sudan, Somalia, Iraq** and **Yemen** are **married**

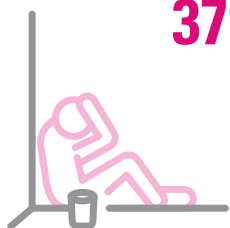
The region is struggling
to improve living conditions

GDP
accrued to
employees

37%

World
average

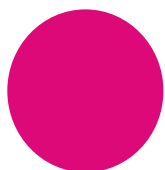
53%



2019



3% of GDP
received as personal
remittances
World 0.79%



Syrian Arab
Republic
13,700,000



Yemen
4,366,414



Sudan
3,964,030



Somalia
3,823,524



Iraq
1,763,007



Libya
183,500



State of
Palestine
111,051



Egypt
49,395



Mauritania
45,137



Morocco
22,223

The 10 countries that have
the highest number of refugees in **2022**



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

10 TARGETS

14 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

36%

Number of countries with local disaster risk reduction strategies is low

3

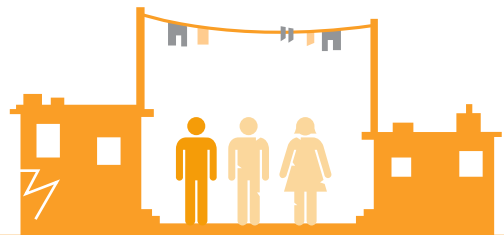
2010

5

2020



1 in 3 people living in slums needs intensified assistance



79 million people

2017

Increased displacement due to disasters

44%

since 2015



Levels of fine particulate matter

58.7 PM_{2.5}

in Arab cities



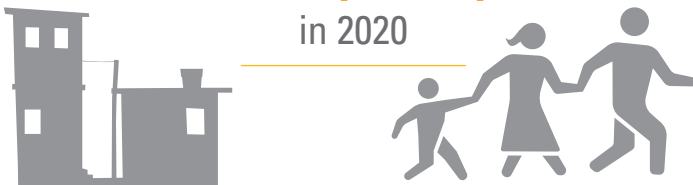
Global average decreased



Regional average increased by 0.6% since 2000

1771 K per 100 K

new cases of displaced persons in 2020



Cost of air pollution the Middle East and North Africa

\$141 billion

per year around 2% of GDP



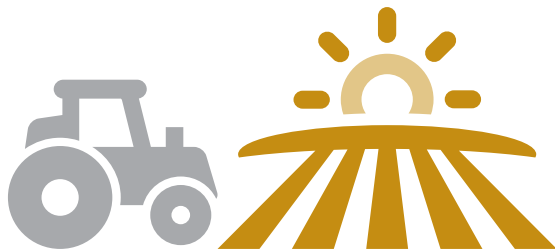
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

11 TARGETS

13 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

15%



The region reliance on natural resources rose

from **7 to 9 tons** from 2000 to 2019



Rising over **106%** regionally in comparison to **65%** globally from 2000 to 2019



A large quantity of food is being lost or wasted every day

62 million tons of food waste

From households	From retail
43 million tons	6,877,911 tons
2019	

In 2019, the region's electronic waste was not recycled

Each person generates

7 kg



an increase of **4%** since 2000



The region doubled its installed energy capacity to supply **modern and sustainable energy services** by **expanding infrastructure** and **upgrading technology** in the past 20 years

26 watt	52 watt
per capita	per capita
2000	2020



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

5 TARGETS

8 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

25%

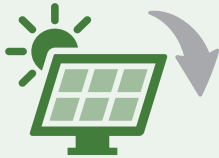
2019

Energy-related **CO₂** emissionsincreased by **4.29%**

Climate finance
needs of 11 Arab
countries

\$570 billion until **2030**

Egypt, Iraq and Morocco
account for **\$425** billion of
the total support requested



while **renewable energy**
consumption decreased
by **2%** since **2000**

Weak public international
climate finance commitments
to the **Arab region**

Over the past decade,
Arab States received only a total
of **\$34.5 billion**



Public climate finance flows
in the **Arab region**

Large **geographic** and **sectoral** disparities
in the distribution of funds:
Egypt and **Morocco** received **\$21.6 billion**
over the period **2010-2020**

2015-2020



Energy and transport
sectors combined
received **45%**



Water and agricultural
sectors combined
received **22%**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

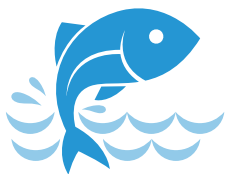
10 TARGETS

10 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

10%

Marine resources are at risk of irreversible **damage** to habitats, **ecological functions**, and **biodiversity** in the **Arab region**



Only **4%** of **territorial waters** were **marine protected areas** compared to **22%** in EU, and **11.5%** at the global level

672 fish species



are threatened by **overfishing**, **illegal, unreported** and **unregulated fishing** as well as destructive fishing **practices**

Environmental pollution will cost some countries in the region including **Egypt**, **Lebanon** and **Yemen**

more than 3% of their **GDP**



In countries that rely on **tourism** for revenue such as **Tunisia**, **coastal erosion**

could cost the country up to **2.8%** of its **GDP**



570,000 tons of plastic are thrown into the **Mediterranean** every year = **33,800 plastic bottles** per minute



15 LIFE ON LAND



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

12 TARGETS

14 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

57%

Forest area in the Arab region is decreasing

Less than 3% of the land are accounted as forests out of the total area in 2020
Only 18% are protected



2020

only 33.4% of the forest area has a long-term management plan



13 Arab countries



have ratified the Nagoya Protocol which addresses access to genetic resources and their fair and equitable use in 2021

Only 41% of countries are reporting on compliance with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) through the Online Reporting System in 2022



Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

12 TARGETS

24 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

25%

The region is witnessing

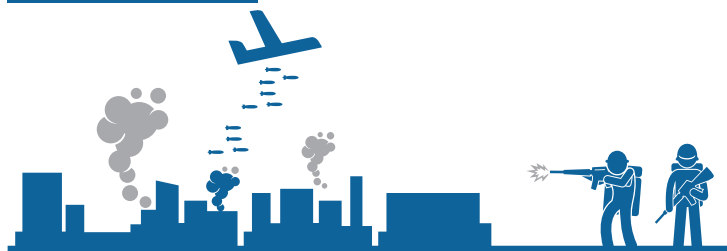
violent conflicts

for the longest period of time



38% of the region's population live in **conflict-affected countries**

172 million



Corruption



is found in every region

1 / 5 businesses

received bribe requests from public officials in 2020



End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children



82% of children aged 1-14

experienced violence towards them in 2021

115 million

A record

15.6 million people

had been **forcibly displaced** out of 100 million people worldwide





Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

19 TARGETS

24 INDICATORS

Evidence Strength

29%

Remittance flows have **increased** however, they remain **very low** at around



3% of total **GDP =** in 2020



36% of National statistical offices have updated the **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics**



60% of births



45% of deaths

have been registered in 2022



Internet uptake



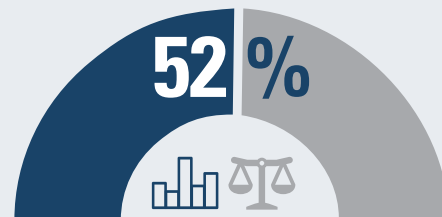
accelerated

Before the pandemic

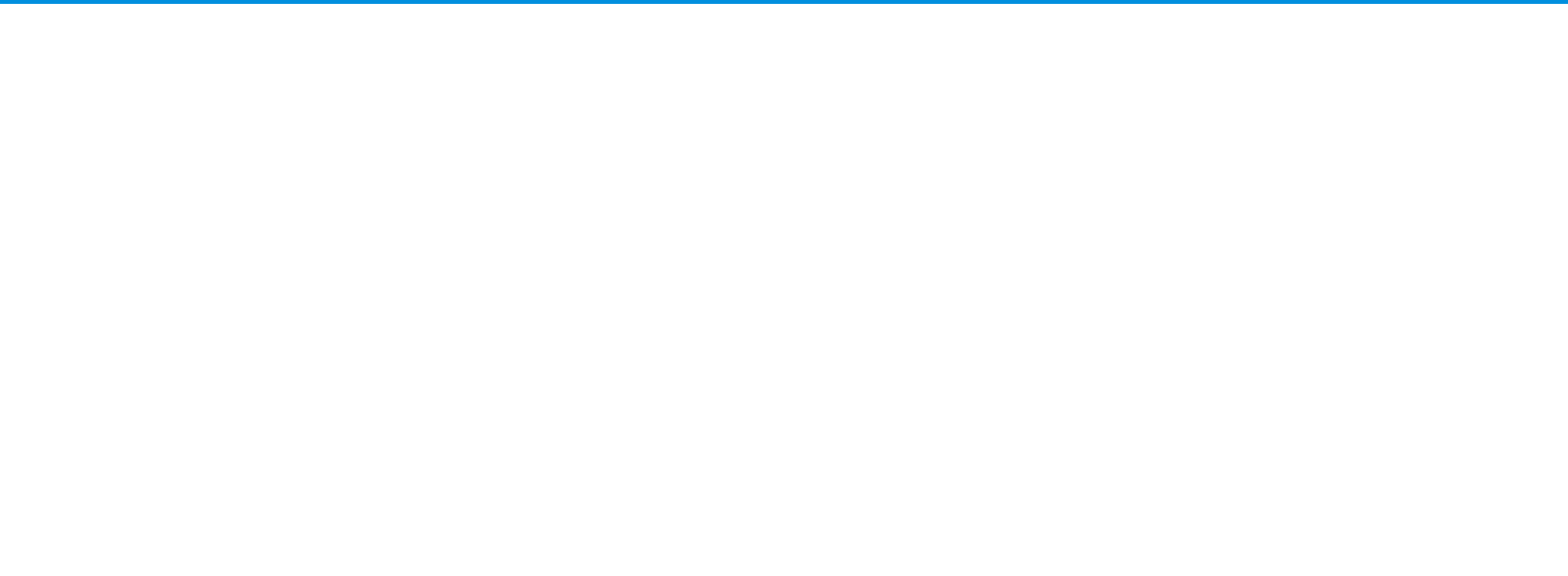
50% (2018)

During the pandemic

63% (2022)



Nearly **half of the countries** do not have **updated statistical law** that complies with the **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**



The Arab region, which has been characterized by instability and conflict for the past two decades, is facing various challenges. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has not only hampered development efforts, increased poverty, and burdened health systems in many Arab countries, but it has also halted data production crucial to monitoring development progress and the impact of policies. The 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development called for a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore more urgent than ever to drive development and compile much-needed evidence to measure progress, stagnation and setbacks.

The present report provides information on the region's progress in each of the 17 SDGs and their 169 target and related indicators, and highlights where the region now stands in relation to 2030, with a 2015 baseline. It stresses the importance of data availability and its impact on planning processes. It also presents key messages under each Goal.

