Series of SDG Webinars for the Arab Region:
ESCWA
SDG 1.2.2

An Interagency and Experts Collaboration to Improve the Production and Dissemination of SDG Indicators from Official National Sources

14 April 2021

Report of the Meeting

BACKGROUND

The need to improve the production and dissemination of reliable comparable and timely data on SDG

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 70/1: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). The Resolution reaffirms the need for the strengthening of national data systems through "collaboration between national statistical systems and the relevant international and regional organizations to enhance data reporting channels and ensure the harmonization and consistency of data and statistics for the indicators used to follow up and review the Sustainable Development Goals and targets".

The resolution also urges countries, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions, and the Bretton Woods institutions among others "to intensify their support for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity-building, including capacity-building that strengthens coordination among national statistical offices". Moreover, the resolution "Urges international organizations to base the global review on data produced by national statistical systems and, if specific country data are not available for reliable estimation, to consult with concerned countries to produce and validate modelled estimates before publication, urges that communication and coordination among international organizations be enhanced in order to avoid duplicate reports, ensure consistency of data and reduce response burdens on countries, and urges international organizations to provide the methodologies used to harmonize country data for international comparability and produce estimates through transparent mechanisms;"

Five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda several countries are facing considerable challenges in monitoring targets in many policy areas. The current COVID-19 pandemic highlights the value of measuring and monitoring: no strategy can be developed, and no measure can be implemented without a proper monitoring and evaluation system.

Many countries in the Arab region are reporting on SDG indicators, however, reporting on progress on many of the SDG indicators, remains limited in the region. Insufficient availability and quality of statistical

information on SDG indicators hamper the capacity of policymakers to generate evidence-based and effective policy responses and implement the 2030 Agenda.

Translating these recommendations and resolutions into tangible results is imperative and will require intensive collaboration at the national, regional and global levels. Regional Commissions' Statistical bodies "are the nexus between the Statistical Commission at the global level and the implementation at the national level of the norms endorsed by the Commission. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the support provided by the regional commissions to assist Member States in adapting, implementing and measuring progress towards the implementation of national development plans is of particular significance as it influences the quality of statistics and methodologies used, as well as the use of new and innovative methodologies and sources of data, known as the transformative agenda for official statistics. The regional commissions carry out activities to strengthen the capacity of Member States to produce, use and dissemination official statistics and also provide a regional platform for sharing experiences and practices in statistics work[1]."

Experts Collaboration- ESCWA

Poverty has traditionally been defined as the lack of money. However, the poor themselves consider their experience of poverty much more broadly. A person who is poor can suffer multiple disadvantages at the same time – for example, they may have poor health or malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work or little schooling. Focusing on one factor alone, such as income, is not enough to capture the true reality of poverty. Therefore, multidimensional poverty measures have been developed to create a more comprehensive picture by looking at multiple dimensions such as health, education, living standards.

In this context, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) implemented an assessment on availability of country data in the UNSD SDG Global database to identify indicators that are less reported and/or less understood by national statistical offices (NSOs), and more estimated by UN Agencies, or those that are not reported on. Based on the assessment results, ESCWA in collaboration with relevant custodian agencies has been organizing capacity development workshops on selected indicators for Arab countries to improve the production and dissemination of SDG indicators from official national sources.

ESCWA experts met to discuss the organization of a joint webinar to build capacities of Arab countries to produce the following indicator:

Indicators	UNSD database (C-CA)	UNSD database (E-M-N-NA)	National SDG dissemination VNR/dashboard/ report (notes)
1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its	2 (C) (Egypt and Morocco)	0	0

---

[1] Source: Relevance and effectiveness of the statistical work of regional commissions - thematic evaluation of regional commissions, Committee for Programme and Coordination, 57th session, April 2017 (E/AC.51/2017/8)

dimensions according to national definitions			

C: country data, CA: country adjusted data, E: estimated data, G: global monitoring data, M: modeled data, N: non-relevant data, NA: data nature not available

OBJECTIVE- WHY?

ESCWA is organizing a series of webinars on selected SDG indicators that are less produced in the Arab region to create a common understanding among data producers on how to collect, measure and disseminate SDG indicators to increase data production and enhance national data flow to policy makers, other users and custodian agencies.

The main objectives of the regional training were:
- Enhancing understanding of metadata and nature of data in the UNSD SDG database.
- Improving statistical capacities to invigorate production and use of comparable SDG indicators.
- Strengthening inter-institutional coordination to invigorate production of SDG indicators and data flow.
- Sharing and discussing country challenges in measuring SDG indicators

OUTCOME- FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants from NSOs and other relevant stakeholders were familiarized with concepts, methods including data flow and dissemination channels. The webinar encouraged interactive dialogue and participants were invited to share national experiences in data collection and dissemination including challenges and concerns. Presentations to the meetings were made available in the Arabic and English languages[2].A record of the discussions is provided in Annex on Q&A of this report. The full webinar proceedings were recorded to develop training materials.

1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

The multidimensional poverty measures have been developed to create a comprehensive picture by looking at multiple dimensions such as health, education, living standards. The design of a measure of multidimensional poverty is different in each country, but regardless of the exact methodology selected, it still follows a similar process to define the features of the measure, which include: i) the purpose of the measure; ii) the unit of identification (most frequently either the household or the individuals); iii) the dimensions and respective indicators that delimit which deprivations should be measured; iv) the methodology for developing the measure (including deprivation cut-offs, weights, and poverty cut-offs). Therefore, the compiled data of SDG 1.2.2 are not intended to be comparable across countries due to the differences in dimensions, indicators, thresholds, etc, however countries can use data to compare communities and sub-regions at the country level for impact of policy making.

---

[2] https://www.unescwa.org/events/series-webinars-selected-sdg-indicators-arab-region-escwa-sdg122

The main data sources for this indicator are the Household Income and Expenditure (Morocco and Palestine) and health related surveys such as DHS, MICS (Egypt) and Labour Force Survey including Population Censuses (Morocco). Those surveys are implemented by most of the countries (see table 1). However, only two countries from the 22 Arab regions have calculated this indicator, namely Egypt and Morocco as per UNSD SDG database. Other countries like Jordan, Palestine, Tunis, and Libya have also measured this indicator, but their data were not included in the UNSD SDG database. PCBS expert presented the Palestinian MPI to the meeting as a good practice on how to effectively conduct a consultation process, select priority issues, set national targets and measure and disseminate national MPI.

Major National Household Surveys, in 2009/10-2014 and 2015-2019/20

	Household Income, Expenditure, Consumption Surveys	Labor force surveys	Health-related surveys
Algeria	HLSS 2011	2019	MICS 2018-19
Bahrain	HIES 2014	2018	HNS 2018
Comoros	ENCDM 2013	2014	DHS 2012
Djibouti	EDAM 2017	2015	PAPFAM 2012
Egypt	HEICS 2019	2020	DHS 2014
Iraq	IHSES 2014	2008	MICS 2018
Jordan	HIES 2017	2016	DHS 2017-18
Kuwait	HIES 2013	2015	WHS 2010
Lebanon	LFHCS 2018	2018	MICS 2009
Libya	HIES 2012	2013	PAPFAM 2014
Mauritania	EPCVM 2014	2017	MICS 2015
Morocco	ENCDM 2014	2019	PAPFAM 2018
Oman	HEIS 2018	2016[3]	MICS 2014
Qatar	HEIS 2017	2020	MICS 2012
Saudi Arabia	HEIS 2018	2020	HHS 2018
Somalia	HFS 2017	2019	DHS 2019
State of Palestine	HEICS 2017	2019	MICS 2019-20
Sudan	BPS 2014	2011	MICS 2014
Syria	HIES 2009	2011	2017[4]
Tunisia	HCS 2015	2017	MICS 2018
UAE	HIES 2019	2019	HHS 2018
Yemen	HBS 2013	2013	DHS 2013
Total	11 with survey conducted in 2015-19, 10 with survey conducted in 2010-14	16 with survey conducted in 2015-19, 5 with survey conducted in 2010-14	12 with survey conducted in 2015-19, 9 with survey conducted in 2010-14

---

[3] Oman implemented LFS in the Comprehensive Household Survey in 2016.
[4] Syria implemented in 2017 a health survey following the PAPFAM/MICS models.

Recommendations for Countries:
- Initiate in collaboration with policy makers discussion to select priority areas and targets to measure the national MPI and identify appropriate source of data.

- Request ESCWA's support, if needed, in order to complete the production and dissemination of national MPIs.

Recommendations for ESCWA:
- ESCWA to provide support, upon request, to countries on measuring national MPI and use the MAT application.

- ESCWA will follow up with countries and custodian agencies to include national MPIs measured in the Arab countries.

TARGET AUDIENCE - WHO?

The meeting was attended by 31 representatives from 11 national statistical offices namely: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, UAE. The meeting was also attended by 1 representative from the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO).

SCHEDULE & LANGUAGE– PLATFORM?
The regional training was held on 14 of April from 10:00 A.M. to 12:10 P.M. via Zoom. Facilitation of the workshop was conducted in the Arabic language.

TRAINING CERTIFICATION
32 participants were awarded a training certificate by the organizers for full attendance and completion of Webinar evaluation.

REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION
32 participants completed the electronic evaluation out of the 52 participants who attended the webinar. The results are as follows:

- 91 per cent of respondents rated the overall quality of the webinar as "Excellent" and 9 per cent as "good".
- 59 per cent indicated that the webinar was successful in reaching its intended objectives as "Excellent", 41 per cent as "good".
- 69 per cent rated the inputs provided by presenters in reaching the intended outcome of the webinar as "Excellent" and 31 per cent as "Good".

- 84 per cent rated the overall organization and logistics of the webinar as "Excellent" and 16 per cent assessed it as "Good".

RESOURCES
- Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report (Eng): https://www.unescwa.org/publications/multidimensional-arab-poverty-report
- Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report (Ar): https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/multidimensional-arab-poverty-report-arabic_0.pdf
- MAT Presentation : https://infogram.com/1px2005jynj7p3tqmzrp6l7jp3hnj37ynzx?live
- MPI Website: https://mpi.unescwa.org/ request username and password from <askmat@un.org>

AGENDA

Day: Wednesday 14 April		Speakers
10:00-10:05 A.M.	Introduction to the Webinar (objective, speakers, and content)	ESCWA – Neda Jafar
10:05- 10:45 A.M.	Concept and methods of measurement of multidimensional poverty	ESCWA – Marwan Khawaja
10:45 – 11:05 A.M.	Palestine country experience	PCBS – Jawad Saleh
11:05 – 11:45 A.M.	MPI Tool	ESCWA – Sama El Hage Sleiman
11:45 A.M. – 12:05 P.M.	Discussion – Q&A	ESCWA – Marwan Khawaja ESCWA – Sama El Hage Sleiman PCBS – Jawad Saleh
12:05 A.M.–12:10 P.M.	Way forward and conclusion	ESCWA – Neda Jafar

GROUP PHOTO

LIST OF ANNEXES

LIST OF ORGANIZERS

ESCWA	ESCWA
Neda Jafar Head, Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit Statistics, Information Society & Technology Cluster UN House, Beirut, Lebanon jafarn@un.org T. +961 1 978 344 Joelle Atallah Statistics assistant Statistics, Information Society & Technology Cluster Joelle.atallah@un.org T.+961 1 978 731	Marwan Khawaja Chief of section Statistics UN House, Beirut, Lebanon khawaja@un.org Sama El Hage Sleiman Poverty Project, co-lead UN House, Beirut, Lebanon elhagesleiman@un.org T.+961 1 978 439

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Bahrain Fatema Salem Statistician Information & eGovernment Authority Mobile: 00 973 39228221 Email: Fatema.salem@iga.gov.bh	**Iraq** Zainab Ali Director in the Central Statistical Organization Ministry of Planning Mobile: 00 9647901268838 Email: stamony_23@yahoo.com
Egypt Moheb Victor Census specialist and PhD in population geography Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) Mobile: 00 201004758974 Email: moheb_v@capmas.gov.eg	**Iraq** Sahar Albayatti National Coordinator for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources Animal Resources Directorate \ Ministry of Agriculture Mobile: 00 9647708899649 Email: sahar_albayatti@yahoo.com
Egypt Emad Al Aswad SDGs Focal Point & Researcher Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) Mobile: 00 201022741434 Email: dev.emad@gmail.com	**Iraq** Nadia Yousif Al Tamimi Statistician Ministry of Planning Mobile: 07708959349 Email: nadiayousif55@yahoo.com

Egypt Abouelala Tourkey Statistician Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) Mobile : 002 01066025107 Email : Abouelala_t@capmas.gov.eg	**Iraq** Sahar faidhallah Mohammed Ali Qattan Director of the Women Empowerment Department Ministry of Planning /Directorate of Human Development Email: sahar_qattan_4@yahoo.com
Iraq Dayan Hameed Majeed AL-Rubaiawi Ministry of planning Mobile: 009647713401765 Email: dianahameed.dh@gmail.com	**Jordan** Lama Metwalli Statistical /Gender Department of Statistics (DOS) Mobile: 00962795226220 Email: Lama.Metwalli@DOS.GOV.JO
Jordan Amani Joudeh Head of Gender Statistics Division Department of Statistics (DOS) Mobile: 00962 798686153 Email: amani@dos.gov.jo; Amani.Judeh@DOS.GOV.JO	**Jordan** Safwat Radaideh Statistician Department of Statistics (DOS) Mobile: 00 962799470096 Email: safwat@dos.gov.jo
Jordan Ahmad Momani Head of Population Statistics Department Department of Statistics (DOS) Mobile: 00 962799734545 Email: momany@dos.gov.jo	**Morocco** Khadija EL Houdi Statistician Department of Planning High Commission of Planning Mobile: 00 212 6 60 10 21 20 Email: K.elhoudi@hcp.ma
Jordan Bothyna Alawneh Statistician Department of Statistics (DOS) Mobile: 00962 798710080 Email: bothynaalawneh863@gmail.com	**Oman** Amina Alaghbari Head section of national development information National centre for statistics and information Mobile : 00 96824223504 Email: aghbaria@ncsi.gov.om
Jordan Sahar Al Kharabsheh Statistician /Gender Department of Statistics (DOS) Mobile: 00962799032048 Email: Sahar.AlKharabsheh@DOS.GOV.JO	**Oman** Saif Al Fulaiti Head of National development Information Section National centre for statistics and information Mobile: 00968-99277255 Email: sfuliti@ncsi.gov.om

Oman Shrouq Alsalti Head Section of International Information (acting) National centre for statistics and information Mobile: 00 96824223525 Email: salsalti@ncsi.gov.om	**Somalia** Abdirahman Mohamed Sheikh Abdi National SDG Coordinator National Bureau of Statistics Mobile: 002 52615229292 Email: amshabdi@gmail.com
Palestine: Mahmoud Ataya Director General of Planning /SDGs National Coordinator Office of the Prime Minster Mobile: 00 970599777022 Email: mataya@pmo.pna.ps	**Somalia** Ahmed Hassan Ismail Economic Specialist Somali National Bureau of Statistics Mobile: 002 52634434984 Email: ahmed.hassanisma@gmail.com
Sudan Majda Al Gaali Head of SDG Section /National Focal Point Central Bureau of Statistics Mobile: 00 249122221832 Email: goda.07@hotmail.com	**Somalia** Abdikadir Mohamed Gedi Information Management Somali National Bureau of Statistics Mobile: 002 52612130003 Email: kmgeedi@gmail.com
Sudan Afkar Eltaib Awd Ekrim Abd Alla Director of Natural Resources Statistics Central Bureau of Statistics Mobile: 00 249122972975 Email: afkareltaib13@gmail.com	**Tunisia** Leila Said Communication officer INS Tunisia Mobile: 00 216 94 325 190 Email: said.leila@ins.tn
Sudan Ahmed Eltuhami Statistician Central Bureau of Statistics Mobile : 00 249915405109 Email : eltuhami2000@gmail.com	**UAE** Maryam AlOlama Population and Social Statistics Department Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre Mobile: +971 50 5550660 Email: Maryam.AlOlama@fcsc.gov.ae

UAE Mousa Al Obada Economical Statistics Department Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre Mobile : 00971 55 5585448 Email : Mousa.ALObada@fcsc.gov.ae	**UAE** Nawal AlHanaee Head of section Ministry of energy and Infrastructure Mobile: 00 971506299771 Email: nawal.alhanaee@moid.gov.ae
UAE Sheikha Al Beriki Economical Statistics Department Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre Mobile : 00 971 50 6915057 Email : Sheikha.ALBeriki@fcsc.gov.ae	**Resident Coordinator Office (RCO)** Nihal Kanaan Development Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Mobile: +962 79 0347832 Email: nihal.kanaan1@un.org

Annex 2: Q & A

Country /Name	Questions	Answers
Indicator 1.2.2		
Sudan - Majda Al Gaali	Can MAT application be used to measure at the individual level or only the household as a whole?	The MAT platform is based on Alker and Foster methodology and will be expanded at the individual level in order to facilitate selection between individual and household levels. The present MAT is based on the individual level and is generalized at the household level.
Sudan - Majda Al Gaali	Why are the weights equal? Can't the dimensions be taken into account in order of importance so that the most important dimension is given a higher weight?	The problem is who decides which dimension is the most important; on which basis, do we give the priority for one dimension over the other. And the most important thing is that based on some statistics method we are able to find the result which give us as well the weights for the indicators. But most of the time we used a normative concept. To avoid such problems, the global MPI for ESCWA, used the equal weights because no clear answer is available to find the most important dimension and the specific weight.
ESCWA	Can we use different sources of data, Palestine said the same source?	We are calculating the overlap of deprivations, that's why we need to keep an eye on all indicators that matters for each household member. Therefore, only one source of data is needed.
Jordan - Bothyna Alawneh	There are differences in the selection of sectors and dimensions. Do the different sectors enable us to compare with other countries?	The compiled data of SDG 1.2.2 are not intended to be comparable across countries due to the differences in dimensions, indicators, thresholds, etc, In the comparability context, if the expert didn't use the Arab National Monetary Line or the Multidimensional poverty line if not the global MPI, a problem will occur to measure and to compare. The comparability refers to the purpose and the job of the expert.
Jordan - Lama Metwalli	Does every country have a specificity in setting dimensions and weighting?	Yes, it's up to the country to select the dimensions, indicators and thresholds including the weighing.
Oman - Amina Alaghbari	My question to Mrs. Sama, is it possible to use the tool only as a matter of experiment to look at the nature of the results that we will obtain so that we do not want them to appear to the users?	Yes, but we need the raw data to upload in order for a country to use and generate results. ESCWA can keep data private and give each office password to view the results privately.

Iraq - Zeinab Ali	Iraq is calculating children poverty on the individual level based on Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. Regarding the MPI it is calculated on the household level. Therefore, we need to train the statistical personnel on this new MAT tool.	For the MPI, we can publish data related to the same dimension on the individual level or for women. ESCWA MAT can help disaggregate the multidimensional poverty by children. Some dimensions are only measured at the individual level, like the MPI for UNICEF which is different than the Oxford initiative but follows Alkeir-Foster framework.