



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



United Nations
Statistics Division

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

Series of SDG Webinars for the Arab Region:

UNEP and UNSD

SDG 12.4.1, 12.4.2 and 15.9.1b

12 May 2022

Summary

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), in collaboration with UNEP and UNSD organized 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 policymakers, other users, and custodian agencies.

The webinar, as part of the second wave of the series of SDG webinars, aims 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 policymakers, other users, and custodian agencies. The training encouraged interactive dialogue, sharing of national experiences in collecting SDG indicators including challenges, queries, and concerns.

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), in collaboration with UNEP and UNSD organized a series of webinars on selected SDG indicators that are less produced in the Arab region, on 12 May 2022— on Zoom platform, as part of the second wave of series of SDG webinars. The webinar is in response to the resolution (A/RES/70/1) on the adoption of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development in September 2015 to strengthen the capacity 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. It also responds to Member States’ request to the 14th Statistical Committee for ESCWA to organize capacity-building webinars emphasizing the methodology, method of computation, and data collection tools of selected SDG indicators.
2. The webinar was attended by 57 representatives from 15 countries namely: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
3. The main objectives of the webinars are to enhance understanding of metadata and nature of data in the UNSD SDG database, improve statistical capacities to invigorate production and use of comparable SDG indicators, strengthen inter-institutional coordination to invigorate production of SDG indicators and data flow and share and discussing country challenges in measuring SDG indicators.
4. The Workshop agenda covered the following items:
 - SDG indicator 12.4.1 Parties meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by Minamata Convention on hazardous waste, and other chemicals (%).
 - SDG indicator 12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment and UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics
 - SDG indicator 15.9.1b Number of countries that have integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA).
5. SDG indicator 12.4.1 refers to the number of parties or countries that have ratified, accepted, approved, or accessed, the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including the Minamata Convention. Pursuant to Article 21 of the Minamata Convention

on Mercury, each party to the Convention shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, on the effectiveness of such measures, and on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention. In decision MC-1/8 on the Timing and format of reporting by the Parties, the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting (2017) agreed on the full format of reporting containing 43 questions and five parts and decided that each Party shall report every four years using the full format and report every two years on four questions marked by an asterisk in the full format. The Conference of the Parties further decided on the following timing with regards to the short and full reporting: 31 December 2019 as the deadline for the first biennial short report; 31 December 2021 as the deadline for the first full report. The Convention requires that each Party designates a National Focal Point for the exchange of information who will submit the data on the online reporting tool using the relevant forms and guidance documents.

6. Data for SDG indicator 12.4.2 are collected through the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics (waste section - Table R2 and R6) sent to Ministries of Environment and NSOs. UNSD carries out extensive data validation procedures that include built-in automated procedures, manual checks, and cross-references to national sources of data. Communication is carried out with countries for clarification and validation of data. Only data that are considered accurate or those confirmed by countries during the validation process are included in UNSD's environment statistics database and disseminated on UNSD's website. No imputation or estimation are made. Only 9 countries of the Arab region offered a response to the questionnaire out of which the United Arab Emirates has provided the most comprehensive data including footnotes. The value of country-owned data for SDG indicator compilation was stressed. Questions from countries revealed their keen interest in understanding metadata and definitions of the Questionnaire (especially for its forthcoming 2022 collection cycle), and the Questionnaire's relationship to both the Basel Convention and e-waste.
7. SDG indicator 15.9.1b is based on the SEEA, which is an international statistical standard that brings together economic and environmental information to measure the contribution of the environment to the economy and the impact of the economy on the environment. The SEEA relies on numerous data sources, covering areas such as energy, agriculture, and ecosystems. The SEEA complements the System of National Accounts, which does not explain how the depletion of natural resources and degradation of the environment can affect the economy and wellbeing. This indicator is defined as the number of countries which indicate they have implemented any SEEA Central Framework or SEEA Ecosystem Accounting accounts in their response to the Global Assessment on Environmental Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics. The Global Assessment collects information annually on whether countries are currently planning or implementing SEEA accounts, the specific accounts being implemented, and plans for

new/future accounts. SDG indicator 15.9.1b uses the definition of implementation put forth by the UNCEEA, which disaggregates implementation into three progressive stages:

- Compilation, scored as 1
- Compilation and dissemination, scored as 2
- Regular compilation and dissemination, scored as 3.

8. The following recommendations and the way forward were reached to shape future work and plan for upcoming webinars:

- Countries are invited to nominate a focal point for SDG indicator 12.4.1 using the official nomination letter coming from the government official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the permanent mission.
- UNEP-UNSD to offer capacity development for SDG indicator 12.4.2 to countries for which the data remain spotty or are far too out of date.
- Countries are encouraged to collect data on SDG indicator 12.4.2 by filling out the questionnaire and providing detailed breakdowns of data.
- Countries are invited to nominate a focal point to report on SDG indicator 12.4.2 who must cooperate with different stakeholders at the national level to collect data.
- UNSD to provide both questionnaires used to compile data on SDG indicator 15.9.1(b).

9. Workshop Evaluation: Among 56 participants, 13 participants provided their feedback. Overall, 46% of the participants rated the workshop excellent, and 46% good. Participants were asked if the workshop objectives were met, 38% of the participants gave an excellent rating and 54% gave a good rating. In terms of presenters' inputs, 38% of respondents rated the presentations as excellent and 54% rated the presentations as good. Finally, 46% of the participants rated the logistics and organization of the workshop as excellent, and 54% as good.

10. The workshop presentations and resources will be available on the ESCWA website, accessible at the following link: <https://www.unescwa.org/events/series-sdg-webinars-arab-region>.

11. Further useful resources:

- Guidance on the identification of individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year:

[https://www.mercuryconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/forms_and_guidance_document/Guidance Stocks Article3_en.pdf](https://www.mercuryconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/forms_and_guidance_document/Guidance%20Stocks%20Article3_en.pdf)

- Forms Related to Art. 3 on Mercury Trade at: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/documents/forms-related-article-3-mercury-trade>
- Basel Convention's technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Convention/Formsandguidance/tabid/5527/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- Getting ready for the online reporting tool: https://www.canva.com/design/DAEo9xHRXyA/FKQF7jmxJifXge9Y8xRd8g/watch?utm_content=DAEo9xHRXyA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink
- Forms and guidance documents: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/about/forms-guidance>
- Mercury Convention website: www.mercuryconvention.org
- UNSD environmental indicators: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators>
- Country files: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/country_files
- Country snapshots: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/snapshots/>
- UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire, Indicator tables : <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/qindicators>
- United Nations, World Population Prospects 2019: <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>
- Global Chemicals and Waste Indicator Review Document: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/36753/GCWIR.pdf>
- United Nations, Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics – Waste Statistics: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/FDES/MS_3.3.1_3.3.2_Waste.pdf
- UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics : <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/questionnaire>
- UNEP SDG website: <https://wesr.unep.org/article/sustainable-development-goals-0>
- Online training: <https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/environmental-sdg-indicators>

12. Group photo

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface with a grid of 20 participants. The participants are arranged in a 4x5 grid. The names and status of the participants are as follows:

Row	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
1	imene Haoussine imene Haoussine	Joelle Atallah	Sufia Ibrahim	ESCWA Zoom-1	naima cherifi naima cherifi
2	CNL jije CNL jije	Naima AIT MESBAH	Therese El Gemayel UN enviro proc 50 1972-2022	Abeer Aysah	Marcus Newbury
3	Neda Jafar	Magda Mohamed Elgaali	Jessica Chan	Nagib Noman Nagib Noman	Thanay Moham... Thanay Mohamed Moegni
4	Afkar Eltaib Awad Elkrim ... Afkar Eltaib Awad Elkrim ...	Nagib Noman Nagib Noman	Mohammed BARAOUI Mohammed BARAOUI	Samira KHERMIMOUN Samira KHERMIMOUN	Abdulrahman Alarifi Abdulrahman Alarifi
5	saeed swar saeed swar	samiha semane samiha semane	sakina kada sakina kada	Int EN-AR Nagham Sefrawi Int EN-AR Nagham Sefrawi	INT ENG-AR Christine Ra... INT ENG-AR Christine Ra...

The Zoom meeting controls at the bottom include: Unmute, Stop Video, Security, Participants (53), Polls, Chat, Share Screen, Raise Hand, Interpretation, Apps, Whiteboards, More, and a red Leave button. The system tray at the bottom right shows the time as 2:37 PM on 12/05/2022.