



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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:

UN-Habitat, WHO, and UNSD

SDG 6.3.1, 11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1, 11.3.2, 11.6.1 and 11.7.1

19-21 April 2022

Summary

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), in collaboration with UN-Habitat, WHO, 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 UN-Habitat, WHO, and UNSD organized a series of webinars on selected SDG indicators that are less produced in the Arab region, from 19 to 21 April 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 three-day webinar was attended by 99 representatives from 17 countries namely: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. The meeting was also attended by representatives from RCO and OCHA.
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 and increase data flow, share and discuss country challenges in measuring SDG indicators.
4. The Workshop agenda covered the following indicators:
 - SDG indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated.
 - SDG indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing.
 - SDG indicator 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities.
 - SDG indicator 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.
 - SDG indicator 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.
 - SDG indicator 11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities.

- SDG indicator 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities
 - UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics.
5. SDG indicator 11.1.1 includes three concepts: slums, informal settlements, and inadequate housing. The criteria for defining those concepts overlap: informal settlements, includes three criteria, and one is captured in the definition of slums. Of the seven criteria of adequate housing, three criteria: affordability, accessibility, and cultural adequacy are also captured in slums. Both the slum and informal settlements data are collected every 3 to 5 years from census or national household surveys (DHS and MICS). households that lack more than one basic service are counted only once through surveys. Data for inadequate housing can be computed through income-expenditure household surveys. The computation of this indicator is based on applying a relevant analysis program to existing data sources while ensuring that households that lack more than one basic service are counted only once through surveys.
 6. SDG indicator 11.2.1 is monitored by the proportion of population with convenient access to public transport. For SDG 11.2.1, access to public transport is considered convenient when a stop is accessible within a walking distance of a street network of 500 m from a reference point such as a home, school, workplace, market, etc. to a low-capacity public transport system (e.g. bus, Bus Rapid Transit) and/or 1 km to a high-capacity system (e.g. rail, metro, ferry). Additional criteria for defining public transport includes: public transport accessible to persons with special-needs, public transport with frequent service during peak travel times (average waiting time during peak travel time is below 30 minutes), stops present at safe and comfortable station environment. This indicator is measured through a hybrid of spatial and statistical methods using city-level data from city authorities and surveys, primary data collection through stops mapping, general transit feed specification (google data format) where data exists, and google streets data for the location of all public transport stops city-level data and OSM for streets, and estimation of the population within the walkable distance to public transport using data at the household level that can be aggregated to determine the population in the created service areas by total, gender, age, persons with disabilities. Data is compiled through a template developed by UN-Habitat.
 7. SDG indicator 11.3.1 is defined as the ratio of land consumption rate to the population growth rate. It requires defining these two components to help estimate demand for services, direct their provision to the right places, and develop policies for sustainable urbanization. Population data required for this indicator is can be acquired from National Statistical Offices, UNDESA, or through newly emerging multi-temporal gridded population datasets for the world. Historical built-up area data can also be generated for

most countries and cities using mid-to-high resolution satellite imagery from the Landsat and Sentinel missions. The method to compute the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate follows five broad steps: deciding on the analysis period/years, delimitation of the urban area or city which will act as the geographical scope for the analysis, spatial analysis, and computation of the land consumption rate, spatial analysis, and computation of the population growth rate, computation of the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate, and computation of recommended secondary indicators. This indicator is reported every 5 to 10 years using a template developed by UN-Habitat to compile data generated by countries through the National Statistics Offices as well as other government agencies responsible for official statistics.

8. SDG indicator 11.3.2 assesses whether city managers and planners provide opportunities for citizen participation at various levels of decision-making. Like many urban-related SDGs, this indicator requires global monitoring with the 'city' as the unit of analysis and is assessed based on a set of concepts and definitions: structures, civil society, democratic participation, direct participation, regular participation, marginalized groups, urban management, urban budget decision-making, urban planning including design and agreements. To measure this indicator, a scorecard approach is used to evaluate the available structures for civil society participation in urban planning and management, as evaluated by five (5) local experts from government, academia, civil society, and international organizations. An online questionnaire with a 4-point Likert scale (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, and strongly agree) is used to measure and test the level of participation in urban governance and management. Once each of the categories is evaluated by a single evaluator, the total average score of the single evaluator is computed. The various scores of the evaluators are then averaged to compute the final score for every city. To determine the SDG 11.3.2, a midpoint on the Likert scale of 2.5 will be used. The value of the indicator is the proportion of cities with an overall score that is greater than the mid-point. It is reported using a template developed by UN-Habitat to compile data generated.
9. For monitoring and reporting on indicator 11.7.1, public space is defined as all places of public use, accessible by all, and comprises open public spaces and streets. Public open spaces can be categorized into four broad levels, based on their individual sizes and catchment: local/pocket open public spaces, neighborhood public open spaces, district/city open spaces or city open spaces, regional open space/Larger city parks, and national/metropolitan open public spaces. The computation of this indicator is a three-step process: spatial analysis to delimit the city/urban area which will act as the geographical scope for the spatial analysis and indicator computation; spatial analysis to identify potential open public spaces, fieldwork to validate data and assess the quality of spaces and calculation of the total area occupied by the verified open public spaces; estimation of the total area allocated to streets; estimation of the share of the population

with access to open public spaces within 400 meters walking distance out of the total population in the city/ urban area and disaggregation of the population with access by sex, age and persons with disabilities. Satellite imagery (open sources), documentation outlining publicly owned land, and community-based maps are the main sources of data. This indicator is reported every three to five years using a template developed by UN-Habitat to compile data generated.

10. SDG indicator 11.6.1 measures the progress of the performance of a city's municipal solid waste management. Municipal waste includes Waste originating from households, commerce, and trade, small businesses, office buildings, and institutions; bulky waste (e.g., old furniture, mattresses) and wastes from selected municipal services, e.g. from park and garden maintenance, street cleaning services (street sweepings, the content of litter containers, market cleansing waste) and exclude hazardous waste, waste from municipal sewage network and treatment. The calculation of SDG indicator 11.6.1. provides two important sub-categories with varying policy implications: sub-category (a) related to waste collection and sub-category (b) related to waste management. Countries and cities/municipalities that have the data already are recommended to answer the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics to provide the data related to SDG 11.6.1 by a focal point at the Ministry of Environment or equivalent agency to it, responsible for environmental protection. For countries and municipalities/cities that do not have the data, it is recommended to apply UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities Tool – Step by Step Guide to Assess a City's MSMW Performance through SDG indicator 11.6.1 Monitoring. Only 10 Arab Countries have reported data on this indicator.
11. The indicator 6.3.1 tracks the proportion of the total, industrial, and household wastewater flows safely treated in compliance with national or local standards. WHO is the custodian agency for data on household wastewater and UN Habitat is the custodian agency for data on total and industrial wastewater. Total wastewater flows can be classified into three main categories: domestic, industrial, and services as well as wastewater treatment: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Where possible, treatment will additionally be classified into either on-premises or off-premises treatment. Data are extracted from several pre-existing sources: UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (JMP) (Household surveys and administrative records), and national reports. The amount of wastewater generated is calculated by summing all of the wastewater generated by different economic activities and households.
12. UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics is sent to Ministries of Environment and NSOs to collect data on SDG indicator 6.3.1 (Table W4 on total

wastewater generated and Table W5 on households connected to collecting/treatment system) and 11.6.1. Only 9 countries of the Arab region offered a response to UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire on Environment Statistics namely Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

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

- ESCWA and UN-Habitat are requested to jointly organize a capacity building workshop for the calculation of SDG indicators 11.1.1, 11.2.1, 11.3.1, 11.3.2 to practice the computation of these indicators.
- UN-Habitat is expected to share the syntax to generate frequency tables of SDG indicator 11.1.1.
- Countries are expected to discuss proxies' indicators of SDG indicator 11.1.1 with UN-Habitat.
- ESCWA will translate SDG 11.3.2 indicator questionnaire into Arabic.
- ESCWA will create an automated application to help the process of data collection of SDG indicator 11.3.2 between NSOs and evaluators.
- UN-Habitat is expected to guide countries on how to select the evaluators of SDG indicator 11.3.2.
- ESCWA and UN-Habitat to follow up with countries to help
- Countries are requested to review the data related to SDG 6.3.1 on the UNSD country profiles website to check data gaps. Also, countries are advised to review the country files on safety treated **household** wastewater, available here: <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/monitoring-and-evidence/water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-monitoring/2021-country-files-for-sdg-6.3.1-proportion-of-water-safely-treated>
- Countries are strongly encouraged to participate in the upcoming country consultation on SDG indicator 6.3.1 in Q4 2022 towards the launching of the global progress report in Q2 2023. ESCWA will share all templates for reporting data on all SDG indicators presented in the webinar.
- UN-Habitat is requested to provide the list of national focal points of these indicators.
- NSOs are expected to coordinate with the relevant stakeholders to collect data for these indicators.
- ESCWA will follow up with countries on SDG indicators that require GIS such as 11.2.1, 11.3.1, and 11.7.1 to provide capacity building and ensure data reporting.
- UN-Habitat to reconsider labelling nature from "NA" to 'Country' or "Country adjusted", as seem appropriate, based on the fact that the indicator is based on country data.

14. Workshop Evaluation: Among 99 participants, 25 participants provided their feedback. Overall, 32% of the participants rated the workshop excellent, and 60% good. Participants were asked if the workshop objectives were met, 28% of the participants gave an excellent rating and 64% gave a good rating. In terms of presenters' inputs, 36% of respondents rated the presentations as excellent and 60% rated the presentations as good. Finally, 32% of the participants rated the logistics and organization of the workshop as excellent, and 60% as good.

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

16. Further useful resources:

- Methodology of SDG 6.3.1: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>
- UN-Water: <https://www.unwater.org/publications/>
- UNSD country profiles: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/country_files
- Eurostat: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/environment/water>
- OECD: https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=water_treat
- SDG 6 data portal: <https://sdg6data.org/indicator/6.3.1>
- Country files for Proportion of **domestic** wastewater safely treated (for those countries that have a valid estimate): <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/monitoring-and-evidence/water-supply-sanitation-and-hygiene-monitoring/2021-country-files-for-sdg-6.3.1-proportion-of-water-safely-treated>
- The latest global progress report on Wastewater Treatment – 2021 update, available in [English](#), [Arabic](#) and [French](#).
- SDG Data Tool: <https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/8f03d388-1ab8-4fd5-afdd-403b526fae8f/page/FW7>
- UNSD country snapshots: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/snapshots/>
- United Nations, Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics – Wastewater Statistics: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/MS3.2_Wastewater.pdf
- Waste Wise Cities tool:
<https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/02/Waste%20wise%20cities%20tool%20-%20EN%203.pdf>
- Self-pace learning courses for SDG 11: <https://learn.urbanagendaplatform.org/>
- DEGRUBA: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/gisco/geodata/reference-data/population-distribution-demography/degurba>
- Training module on land use efficiency:
https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/indicator_11.3.1_training_module_land_use_efficiency_french.pdf

- Percentage access to public transport: <https://data.unhabitat.org/datasets/11-2-1-percentage-access-to-public-transport/explore>
- National surveys on environmental themes including water and wastewater (relevant to SDG indicator 6.3.1): <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/censuses/>
- A good example of one such survey is Canada's Industrial Water Survey, Mineral Extraction Industries, 2015: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/Censuses%20and%20Surveys/Canada,%20Industrial%20water%20survey%20mineral%20extraction%20industries,%202015.pdf>
- A practical guide on Wastewater Statistics is available here. This paper is published by UNSD and was peer-reviewed with WHO, HABITAT, OECD and Eurostat: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/MS3.2_Wastewater.pdf

17. Group photo

