



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL**

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SD/2017/IG.1/4(Part I)
6 February 2017
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Statistical Committee
Twelfth session
Beirut, 4-5 April 2017

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Role of official statistics in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development in the Arab region**

Data availability on the Sustainable Development Goals

Summary

In accordance with Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on strengthening the means of implementation, the present paper provides an analytical assessment of data availability in the Arab region for monitoring and reporting on the 17 SDGs, according to the Global SDG Indicators Database. It also establishes a baseline for tracking indicators to monitor progress made in data availability, dissemination, and communication practices.

The paper also sets out recommendations and a work plan at the national and regional levels to support increasing demand for data in the Global SDG Indicators Database, in line with the commitment made by countries at the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission to monitor and report on the Goals.

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Introduction

1. On 1 January 2016, the world officially began implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address urgent global challenges and ensure sustainable social and economic progress worldwide. A global indicator framework, comprising over 230 indicators, to monitor the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 associated targets, was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).¹

2. Member States of the United Nations agreed that the SDG follow-up and review process would be informed by an annual progress report prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems and information collected at the regional level. The resulting data would be stored in the Global SDG Indicators Database,² maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

3. Member States also recognized the importance of adequate data to follow-up and review progress in implementing the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and therefore committed themselves to:

- (a) Intensifying efforts to strengthen statistical capacities;
- (b) Producing significant levels of quality data disaggregation;
- (c) Providing systematic follow-up and review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;
- (d) Adapting and customizing the framework at the national and regional levels.

4. It was agreed that global monitoring would be based, to the greatest extent possible, on comparable and standardized national data, obtained through well-established reporting mechanisms. Countries agreed to fill data gaps and improve international comparability through increased adoption of internationally agreed standards at the national level, and by strengthening national statistical capacity and improving reporting mechanisms. Regional mechanisms, with the support of regional commissions and other regional organizations and offices, must also play a key role in facilitating the process, while taking into account regional priorities and strengthening the link between the national and global levels.

5. To address the above commitments and requirements at the national, regional and global levels, the first part of this report presents an assessment of the national data currently available in the Global SDG Indicators Database. The report also identifies a list of missing regional indicators needed to complement the database, and suggests methods for improving reporting mechanisms and capacity-building activities. The main objective of the report is to assist national statistical systems in the production and dissemination of national data at the regional level, increase data availability in the Global SDG Indicators Database, and facilitate the preparation of the Secretary-General's annual progress report on the SDGs.

I. SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

6. The ESCWA Statistics Division has based its national data availability assessment for Arab countries on the Global SDG Indicators Database, compiled by specialized international agencies. The Database includes all types of data sources (country, country-adjusted,³ estimated, modelled and global).

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, 2016 (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1).

² The Global SDG Indicators Database is available from <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

³ Country and country-adjusted data are compiled directly by specialized agencies from national statistical offices and/or other relevant national government institutions.

7. To facilitate monitoring and reporting on available data series, capacity-building and research, all indicators were classified by UNSD into three tiers on the basis of their level of methodological development and the availability of data as follows:

- Tier I: data available with standardized methodology;
- Tier II: data can be made available with standardized methodology;
- Tier III: data not available, new collection tools and methodologies need to be developed.

8. The present report provides a regional assessment of data availability for all types of indicators in the three tiers. It also assesses the availability of national data (indicated as country and country-adjusted data), specifically indicators with a standardized methodology to meet monitoring and reporting requirements (Tier I). The indicators have been divided into the following four categories by the ESCWA Statistics Division, according to the availability of data in a time series.

A	No data = data are not available for the indicator.
B	One-point data = data for only one year are available for the indicator, e.g. 1990.
C	Two-point data = data for any two years are available for the indicator, e.g. 1990 and 1995.
D	More than two-point data = data for any 3 or more years are available for the indicator, e.g. 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005.

9. Moreover, to assess the availability of disaggregated data on the SDGs at the regional level, the classification into “available” and “not available” was applied as per the below criteria:

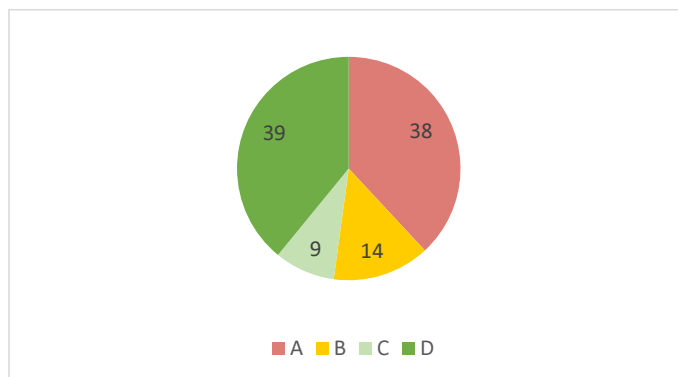
A	Not available = 50 per cent of indicators have less than two-point data.
D	Available = more than 50 per cent of indicators have two-point data or more.

II. ASSESSMENT OF DATA AVAILABILITY FOR THE SDG INDICATORS IN THE ARAB REGION

A. ASSESSMENT OF ALL TIERS: ALL TYPES OF DATA SOURCES VERSUS NATIONAL SOURCES

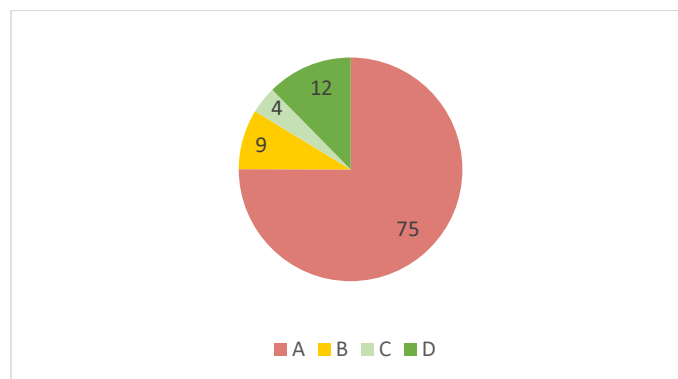
10. The 263 indicators in tiers I, II, and III and all types of data sources for the 22 Arab countries were assessed in terms of data availability and capacity to monitor and report on progress made towards achieving the SDGs. The overall result of the assessment reveals that the average availability of data for the SDG indicators in the 22 Arab countries is around 50 per cent, and a third of that is available as national data in all three tiers.

Figure 1. Proportion of indicators with available data from all types of sources in all 3 tiers
(Percentage)



11. The assessment of data availability from all types of data sources (country, country-adjusted, estimated, modelled, and global), in all three tiers shows that 48 per cent of indicators are available for the 22 Arab countries, with at least two-point data in all tiers and types of data sources; 14 per cent reported one-point data; and 38 per cent are not available (figure 1).

Figure 2. Proportion of indicators with available national data only, in all three tiers
(Percentage)

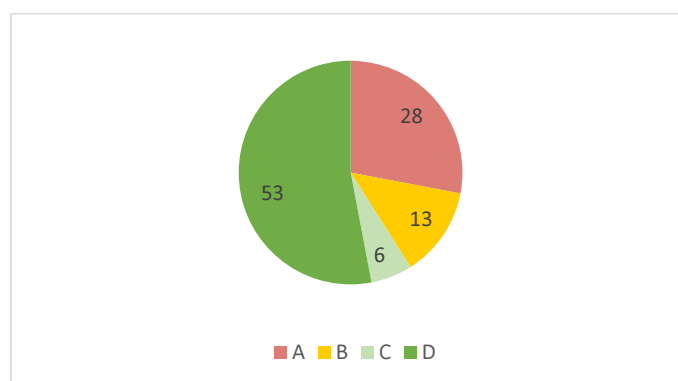


12. The assessment of data availability from national data only (country and country-adjusted data), in all three tiers shows that of the 48 per cent of available indicators, 16 per cent are available with at least two-point data, and 75 per cent reported as not available (figure 2).

B. ASSESSMENT OF TIER I: ALL TYPES OF DATA SOURCES VERSUS NATIONAL SOURCES

13. The assessment of 152 indicators in Tier I (available with standardized methodology), shows that there are data available for around 60 per cent of indicators from all types of data sources and 27 per cent of those are from national sources.

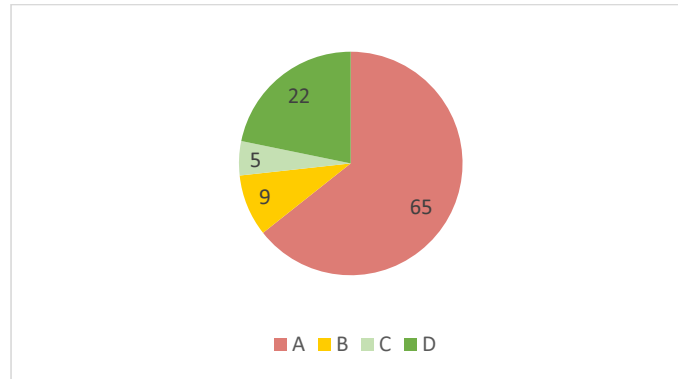
Figure 3. Proportion of Tier I indicators with available data from all types of sources
(Percentage)



14. The assessment of data availability from all types of sources (country, country-adjusted, estimated, modelled, and global), in Tier I only shows that 59 per cent of the indicators are available with at least two-point data; 13 per cent with one-point data; and 28 per cent are not available (figure 3).

Figure 4. Proportion of Tier I indicators with available national data

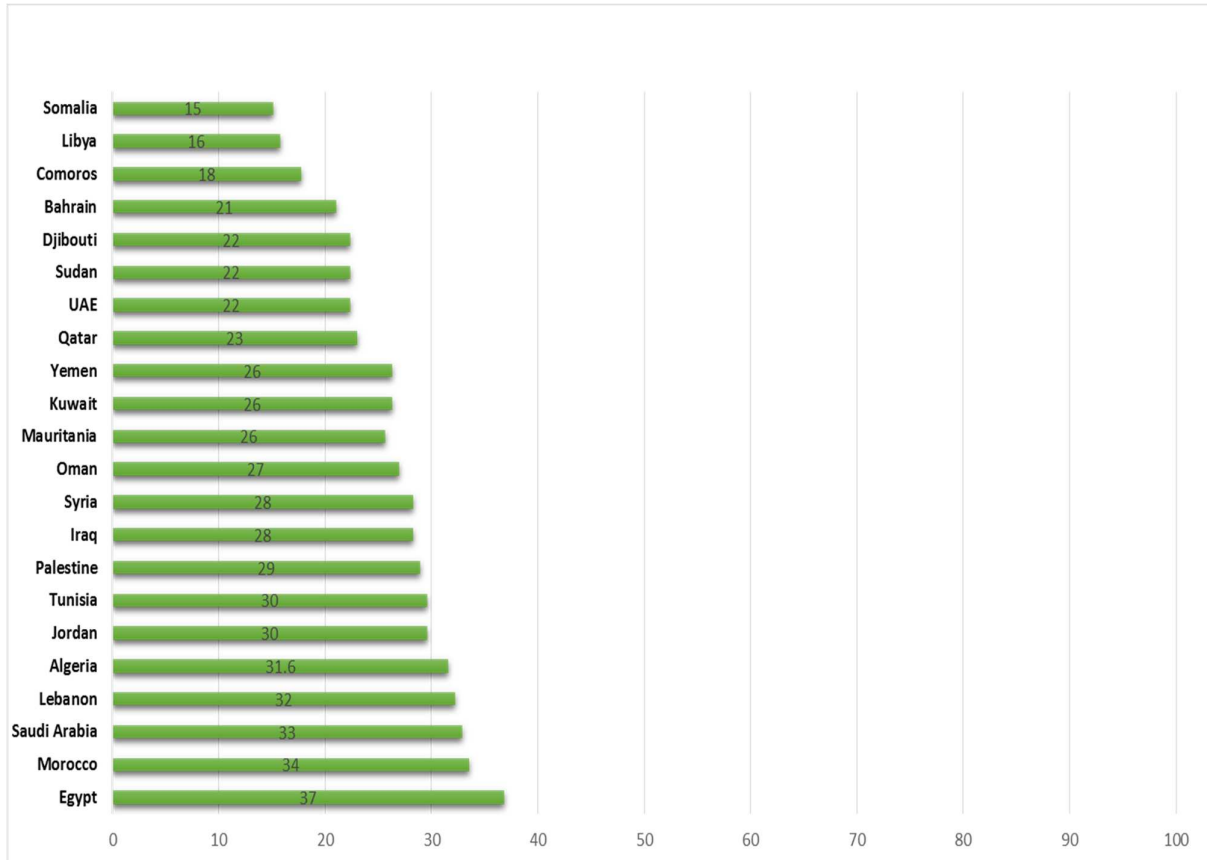
(Percentage)



15. The assessment of data availability from national sources only (country and country-adjusted data), in Tier I shows that of the 59 per cent of available indicators, 27 per cent are available with at least two-point data; 9 per cent with one-point data; and 65 per cent are not available (figure 4).

Figure 5. Proportion of Tier I indicators with available national data, by country

(Percentage)

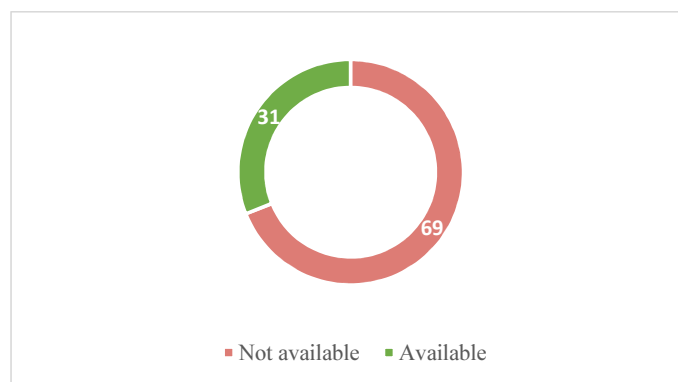


16. The availability of national data by country in Tier I ranges from a low of 15 per cent in Somalia to a high of 37 per cent in Egypt (figure 5).

C. ASSESSMENT OF TIER I: NATIONAL DATA FOR GENDER-RELATED INDICATORS

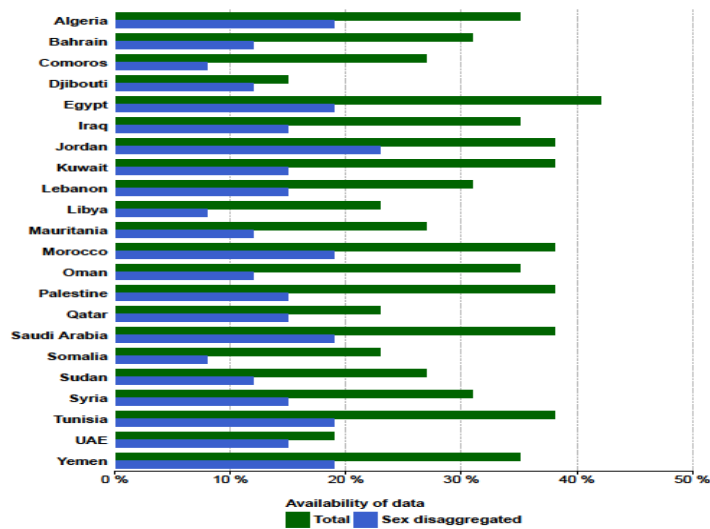
17. A total of 26 indicators (Tier I) explicitly mention data disaggregation by sex in their titles, or are proposed as gender-related indicators. The assessment of data availability from national sources for those indicators shows that data are available with more than two-point data for 31 per cent of indicators and not available for 69 per cent of them (figure 6).

Figure 6. Proportion of Tier I sex-disaggregated indicators with available national data
(Percentage)



18. The assessment by country of 26 gender-related indicators from national data in Tier I shows the percentage of available gender-related indicators with two-point data or more (figure 7). Most countries compile and disseminate the totals for these gender-related indicators, but do not compile and/or disseminate data disaggregated by sex. For example, Djibouti (lowest in totals among countries) compiles 15 per cent of these indicators in totals, of which 12 per cent is disaggregated by sex. Similarly, Egypt (highest in totals among countries) compiles 42 per cent of totals, of which only 19 per cent is available by sex. Figure 7 indicates that the highest available sex-disaggregated data is in Jordan at 23 per cent, and the lowest is in the Comoros, Libya and Somalia at 8 per cent.

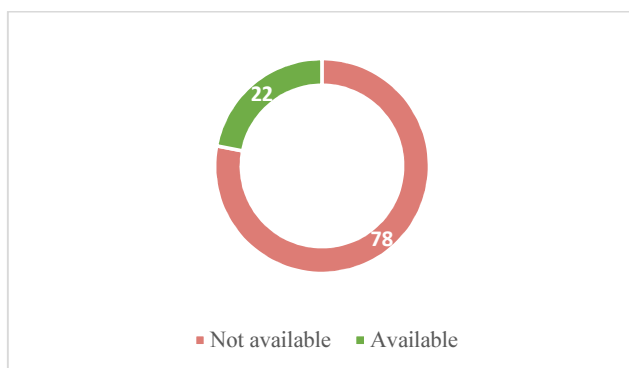
Figure 7. Proportion of Tier I sex-disaggregated indicators with available national data, by country



D. ASSESSMENT OF TIER I: NATIONAL DATA FOR AGE-DISAGGREGATED INDICATORS

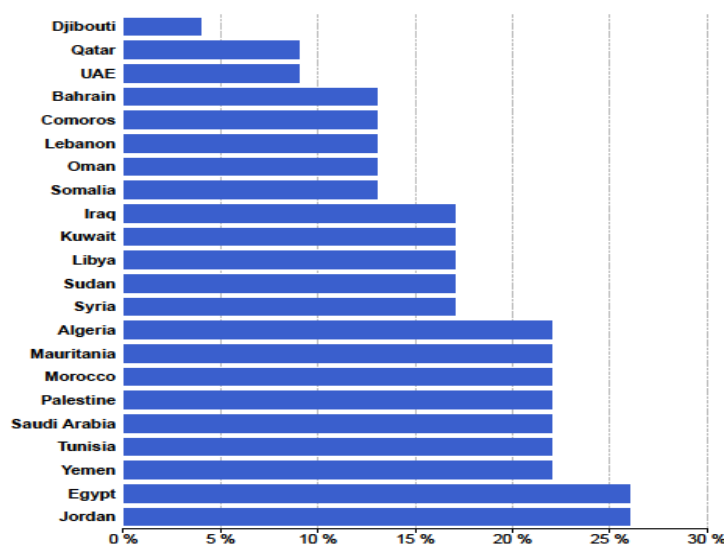
19. Disaggregation by age is mentioned explicitly in 23 indicators. . The assessment of the availability of age-disaggregated data from national sources (country and country-adjusted data) in Tier I shows that two-point data are available for only 22 per cent of indicators that explicitly mention disaggregation by age as a requirement, and not available for 78 per cent of them (figure 8).

Figure 8. Proportion of Tier I age-disaggregated indicators with available national data
(Percentage)



20. The assessment by country of available national age-disaggregated data with two-point or more in Tier I, shows that the highest available age-disaggregated data is in Egypt and Jordan for 26 per cent of the indicators, and the lowest is in Djibouti for less than 5 per cent (figure 9).

Figure 9. Proportion of Tier I age-disaggregated indicators from national data, by country



E. AVAILABILITY OF DATA BY GOAL, TIER I

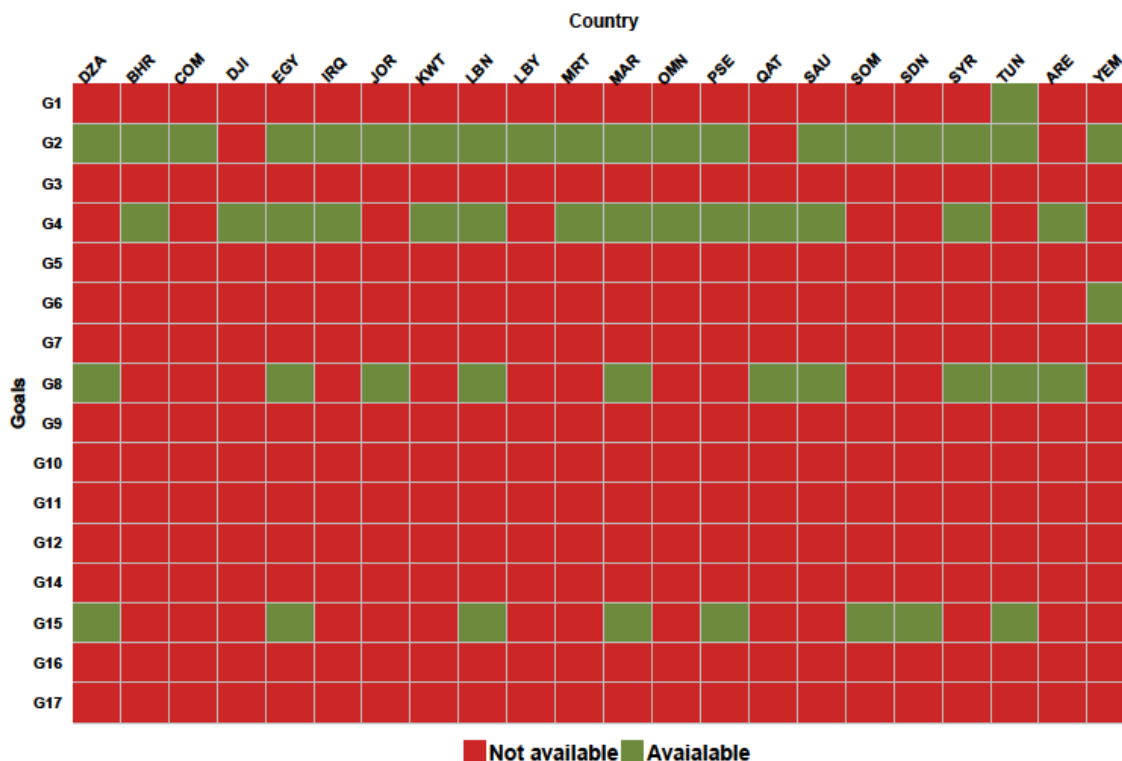
21. It is also important to assess the availability of data by policy area for two objectives:

- (a) To plan regional capacity-building activities on specific goals for areas where data are not available;
- (b) To monitor regional progress made on each Goal with available data.

22. Indicators on each SDG with two-point country data or more exceed 50 per cent by country. The assessment shows that the majority of countries have data available mainly for the following four SDGs (figure 10):

- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Figure 10. Availability of data on SDGs in Arab countries



F. COUNTRY COVERAGE BY INDICATOR

23. A total of 76 main indicators⁴ in Tier I with country data were assessed in terms of data availability and the capacity of countries to monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs. The overall result of the assessment reveals that the average data availability in the Arab countries is for about 27 per cent of the SDG indicators,

⁴ Main indicators extracted from the 152 indicators that require disaggregated data.

indicating that there is a need to improve their capacity to compile and disseminate data for SDG monitoring and reporting. The 76 main indicators have been grouped into the following four clusters.

1. Cluster A

24. Cluster A includes 43 indicators for which fewer than 35 per cent of Arab countries have had at least two-point data since 1990. This group includes crucial indicators related to monitoring poverty and hunger, children and adult mortality, diseases and health, violence against women and children, women's empowerment, educational achievements, drinking water and sanitation, energy, employment, the environment and conflict.

TABLE 1. INDICATORS IN CLUSTER AA

Indicators in cluster A		Countries with more than two-point data	
		Number	Percentage
1.1.1	Proportion of employed population below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day (the working poor)	0	0
1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age group	0	0
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	0	0
3.2.1	Infant and Under-five mortality rate	0	0
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	0	0
3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	0	0
3.3.3	Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	0	0
3.3.5	Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	0	0
3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol	0	0
3.6.1	Death rate due to road traffic injuries	7	32
3.7.1	Proportion of women married or in a union of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	7	32
3.9.1	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	0	0
4.5.1a	Gender parity index for achievement in mathematics by the end of lower secondary	4	18
4.5.1b	Gender parity index for achievement in reading by the end of lower secondary	0	0
4.5.1f	Gender parity index for achievement in mathematics by the end of primary	1	5
4.5.1g	Gender parity index for achievement in reading by the end of primary	0	0
5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions	0	0
Indicators in cluster A		Number	Percentage
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	0	0
6.1.1	Proportion of population using improved drinking water sources	1	5
6.2.1	Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities	1	5

TABLE 1 (*continued*)

		Countries with more than two-point data	
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	7	32
7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	0	0
7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	0	0
7.3.1	Energy intensity level of primary energy	0	0
8.2.1	Growth rate of real GDP per employed person	0	0
8.6.1	Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training <i>by sex</i>	4	18
8.7.1	Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in labor	0	0
9.1.2	Freight and passenger volume, by air transport	0	0
9.2.1	Manufacturing value added share in GDP at constant 2010 United States dollars	0	0
9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	0	0
9.4.1	Emissions of carbon dioxide	0	0
9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by a 2G, 3G mobile network	0	0
10.4.1	Labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	0	0
10.b.1a	Total assistance for development, by donor	3	14
11.6.2	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in cities (population weighted)	0	0
12.4.1a	Number of countries party to the Basel Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals	0	0
12.4.1b	Number of countries party to the Rotterdam Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals	0	0
12.4.1c	Number of countries party to the Stockholm Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals	0	0
14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	0	0
16.9.1	Proportion of births registered with a civil authority	0	0
17.6.2	Fixed Internet broadband Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	0	0
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet	0	0
17.19.2	Number of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years	0	0

2. Cluster B

25. Cluster B includes 11 indicators for which 36-55 per cent of Arab countries have had at least two-point data since 1990. This group includes crucial indicators related to gender parity of teachers, forestry, education, research and development, and victimization.

TABLE 2. INDICATORS IN CLUSTER B

Indicators in cluster B		Countries with more than two-point data	
		Number	Percentage
4.5.1c	Gender parity index of teachers in lower secondary education who are trained	12	55
4.5.1e	Gender parity index of teachers in pre-primary education who are trained	9	41
4.5.1i	Gender parity index of teachers in upper secondary education who are trained	12	55
4.c.1	Proportion of teachers by sex in different levels of education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country	12	55
9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP	11	50
9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	8	36
15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	10	45
16.1.1a	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	11	50
16.1.1b	Number of victims of intentional homicide	11	50
16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	8	36
17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	12	55

3. Cluster C

26. Cluster C includes five indicators for which 56-75 per cent of Arab countries have had at least two-point data since 1990. This group includes crucial indicators related to teachers' gender parity, unemployment, aid for trade and biodiversity.

TABLE 3. INDICATORS IN CLUSTER C

Indicators in cluster C		Countries with more than two-point data	
		Number	Percentage
4.5.1h	Gender parity index of teachers in primary education who are trained	15	68
8.5.2	Unemployment rate by sex	14	64
8.a.1	Total official flows commitments for Aid for Trade, by recipient	16	73
15.1.2a	Proportion of important sites for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas	14	64
15.b.1	Total official development assistance for biodiversity, by recipient	17	77

4. Cluster D

27. Cluster D includes 17 indicators for which 56-75 per cent of Arab countries have had at least two-point data for since 1990. This group includes crucial indicators related to monitoring child nourishment, health services, adolescents, education, women's empowerment, water and sanitation, growth rate, development and financial assistance.

TABLE 4. INDICATORS IN CLUSTER D

Indicators in cluster D		Countries with more than two-point data	
		Number	Percentage
2.2.1	Proportion of stunted children (height for age below minus two standard deviations from the median) under the age of 5 years	19	86
2.2.2	Proportion of wasted and overweight children under the age of 5 years	19	86
2.a.2	Total official flows disbursements for agriculture, by recipient	19	86
3.1.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	22	100
3.7.2	Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 adolescent women aged 15-19	22	100
3.b.2	Total official flows for medical research and basic health sectors, by recipient	17	77
3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution	18	82
4.2.2	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	17	77
4.b.1	Total official flows for scholarships, by recipient	18	82
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments	20	91
6.a.1	Total official flows for water supply and sanitation, by recipient	18	82
8.1.1	Growth rate of real GDP per capita	22	100
9.a.1	Total official flows for infrastructure, by recipient	18	82
10.b.1b	Total assistance for development, by recipient	22	100
15.1.2b	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas	22	100
15.a.1	Total official development assistance for biodiversity, by recipient	17	77
17.3.2	Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	19	86

G. RESPONSIBLE AGENCY BY INDICATOR

28. Each indicator has a lead agency responsible for developing relevant standard methodologies and providing capacity-building activities. Around 50 per cent of Arab countries need to compile data for 54 indicators of the 76 main indicators, classified in clusters A and B as shown above. These 54 indicators are grouped under 14 lead agencies (table 5) to facilitate future cooperation and capacity-building activities.

TABLE 5. RESPONSIBLE AGENCY BY INDICATOR

(Acronyms used are listed at the bottom of the table)

Lead agency	Other agency	Indicator number	Indicator name	No. of countries	Percentage data available
World Bank					
		1.1.1	Proportion of employed population below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day (the working poor)	0	0
		7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	7	32
		17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	12	55

TABLE 5 (continued)

Lead agency	Other agency	# Indicator and name	No. of countries	Percentage data available	
UNIDO					
		9.2.1	Manufacturing value added share in GDP at constant 2010 United States dollars	0	0
		9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	0	0
	IEA	9.4.1	Emissions of carbon dioxide	0	0
DESA/Population Division					
		3.7.1	Proportion of women married or in a union of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	7	32
UNSD					
	IEA	7.2.1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	0	0
	IEA	7.3.1	Energy intensity level of primary energy	0	0
	UNICEF	16.9.1	Proportion of births registered with a civil authority	0	0
		17.19.2	Number of countries that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years	0	0
ICAO					
		9.1.2	Freight and passenger volume, by air transport	0	0
FAO					
		2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	0	0
		15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	10	45
ITU					
		5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	0	0
		9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by a 2G, 3G mobile network	0	0
		17.6.2	Fixed Internet broadband Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	0	0
		17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet	0	0
ILO					
		5.5.2	Proportion of women in managerial positions	0	0
		8.2.1	Growth rate of real GDP per employed person	0	0
		8.6.1	Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training <i>by sex</i>	4	18
	UNICEF	8.7.1	Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in labor	0	0
		10.4.1	Labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	0	0
National Governments					
		1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, disaggregated by sex and age group	0	0

TABLE 5 (continued)

Lead agency	Other agency	# Indicator and name	No. of countries	Percentage data available	
OECD					
		10.b.1a	Total assistance for development, by donor	3	14
UNEP					
		12.4.1a	Number of countries party to the Basel Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals	0	0
	UNEP	12.4.1b	Number of countries party to the Rotterdam Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals	0	0
	UNEP	12.4.1c	Number of countries party to the Stockholm Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals	0	0
	UNEP-WCMC				
	UNEP	14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	0	0
UNESCO Institute for Statistics					
		4.5.1a	Gender parity index for achievement in mathematics by the end of lower secondary	4	18
		4.5.1b	Gender parity index for achievement in reading by the end of lower secondary	0	0
		4.5.1f	Gender parity index for achievement in mathematics by the end of primary	1	5
		4.5.1g	Gender parity index for achievement in reading by the end of primary	0	0
		4.5.1c	Gender parity index of teachers in lower secondary education who are trained	12	55
		4.5.1e	Gender parity index of teachers in pre-primary education who are trained	9	41
		4.5.1i	Gender parity index of teachers in upper secondary education who are trained	12	55
			Proportion of teachers by <i>sex in different levels of</i> education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country		
		4.c.1		12	55
		9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	11	50
		9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	8	36
UNICEF					
		3.2.1	Infant and Under-five mortality rate	0	0
		3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	0	0
UNODC					
		16.1.1a	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	11	50
		16.1.1b	Number of victims of intentional homicide	11	50
		16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	8	36

TABLE 5 (continued)

Lead agency	Other agency	# Indicator and name	No. of countries	Percentage data available
WHO				
		3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	0	0
		3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	0	0
		3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	0	0
		3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol	0	0
		3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	7	32
		3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	0	0
	UNICEF	6.1.1 Proportion of population using improved drinking water sources	1	5
	UNICEF	6.2.1 Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities	1	5
		7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	0	0
		11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in cities (population weighted)	0	0

Acronyms use in table:

DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IEA	International Energy Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme/World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization

III. CONCLUSION

29. The results assessment of data availability for the SDG indicators shows that data is available for around 50 per cent of the SDG indicators on average in the 22 Arab countries, with a third available as national data in all three tiers. Similarly, assessment of Tier I shows that data are available for around 60 per cent of the indicators from all types of data sources, nearly half of which are national data. This indicates a need to strengthen the dissemination and communication of quality national data and metadata by at least 30 per cent for all available indicators. In addition, countries must improve data compilation and dissemination by at least 70 per cent for indicators requiring gender- and age-disaggregated data.

30. A total of 54 indicators in Tier I need to be compiled and disseminated in 50 per cent of Arab countries. Capacity-building activities, with a focus on 14 of the 17 SDGs (except Goals 2, 4, 8 and 15) will be planned at the regional level, in collaboration with lead entities (UNODC, UNEP, UNICEF, WHO) and other United Nations agencies, such as the World Bank, UNIDO, ITU, ILO, and FAO.

31. Plans will be made for regional and subregional capacity-building activities, along with country-specific technical advisory services tailored to enhance different levels of national capacities. Concrete efforts to disseminate available national data with their metadata, ensure their quality, and increase data availability in the Global SDG Indicators Database are needed. Implementation of new/revised tools to compile data and complete reporting on the remaining indicators in Tier I is also needed.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

32. To meet global monitoring goals, countries are requested to fulfil the following requirements:

(a) Develop a national SDGs framework by conducting assessments, adapting the global SDG framework to national frameworks, and classifying indicator availability according to the three tiers;

(b) Fill data gaps, produce and improve on international comparability and review, reconcile or justify discrepancies in national and global data, upscale production of standardized national data, revisit databases, and review and document metadata, including implementing new/revised tools to compile data for unavailable indicators;

(c) Communicate data through well-established reporting mechanisms from countries to the international statistical system by developing platforms and disseminating national Tier I and II data and metadata, and ensure the successful communication of data;

(d) Improve mechanisms, strengthen the coordination function of national statistical systems and build national statistical capacity by adopting work plans and/or by updating their national statistical strategies to produce Tier II and III indicators, making resources available, and setting clear accountable mechanisms for reporting and delivery of outputs.

33. In addition, the regional commissions, through regional mechanisms and other regional organizations and offices are requested to play a significant role in facilitating the above processes, taking into account regional priorities and strengthening the link between the national and global levels.

34. The ESCWA Statistics Division will track countries' data availability in the Global Database, and report the findings to the Statistical Committee, including making recommendations and proposing a regional plan of action to increase data availability. The Division will also support coordination and capacity-building efforts in the region with countries and the global statistical community in priority policy areas, standardization of indicators, and reconciliation of data from national and international sources. Under the umbrella of the Development Account Programme on Statistics and Data, ESCWA will implement a number of activities to support coordination mechanisms; compile national SDG data on an annual basis; implement a set of activities on standardization, reconciling discrepancies and capacity-building in each policy area; and provide technical services to selected countries.

35. The Statistical Committee is invited to comment on and adopt these proposed recommendations on implementing the regional indicator framework.
