



SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Poverty and inequality are widespread across the Arab States. Extreme poverty is particularly high in the least developed countries. Efforts to tackle poverty in the region have not adequately addressed multiple deprivations, rural-urban as well as subnational divides, or the accentuated vulnerability of different social groups. Integrating social and environmental dimensions in economic planning is necessary if governments are to make progress on SDG 1. Also imperative is the political will to design social and redistributive policies to counter increasing inequality and exclusion.

Key facts

From 4% to 6.7% in just 2 years

As a result of conflict, the region has witnessed the only increase in extreme poverty in the world. The headcount poverty ratio, according to the \$1.90 per day poverty line, increased from 4 per cent in 2013 to 6.7 per cent in 2015.¹



All regional poverty measures, both those based on income and those that are multidimensional, indicate a clustering of the poor just above extreme poverty, reflecting a high vulnerability to falling into extreme poverty, especially in middle-income countries.

Arab LDCs

In Arab least developed countries, the proportion of the population below the international poverty line of \$1.90 is nearly 16 per cent. Extreme poverty is higher than the world average and all other developing regions except for sub-Saharan Africa.²



Arab countries have employed a variety of social protection interventions, including widespread food and fuel subsidy regimes, and subsidized public education and health care, but not long-term social protection floors that include all population groups.⁶

National poverty lines

Using national poverty lines, the proportion of the poor is 5.5 per cent in Algeria, 14.4 per cent in Jordan, around 27 per cent in Egypt and Lebanon, and over 40 per cent in some least developed countries, reaching 46.5 per cent in the Sudan and 48.6 per cent in Yemen before the conflict there.³

Informality

Despite recent reforms in some countries to contributory social insurance schemes, these continue to target workers in the formal sector and their dependents. They tend to exclude the most vulnerable such as informal workers, the unemployed, persons with disabilities, children and older persons.

41% Applying a multidimensional poverty measurement,⁴ poverty rates reach 41 per cent for 10 countries with about 75 per cent of the region's population.⁵



Given the low participation of women in formal employment across the region, they remain vastly excluded from social insurance schemes, a fact that accentuates their vulnerability and deprivation.



Access to finance in the region is low. More than two thirds of adults do not have a bank account, and only 8 per cent have loans from formal financial institutions.⁷



The region has high out-of-pocket expenditure on health and education, which consumes 8 per cent of the disposable income of the poor and 11 per cent of that of the middle class.¹⁰

Social public expenditure to GDP

Average public social expenditure in the region, taking into account current demographics, is generally low. Oil-rich countries spend approximately

12 per cent of GDP and oil-poor countries around 11 per cent,⁸ significantly below the 21 per cent average of OECD countries.⁹

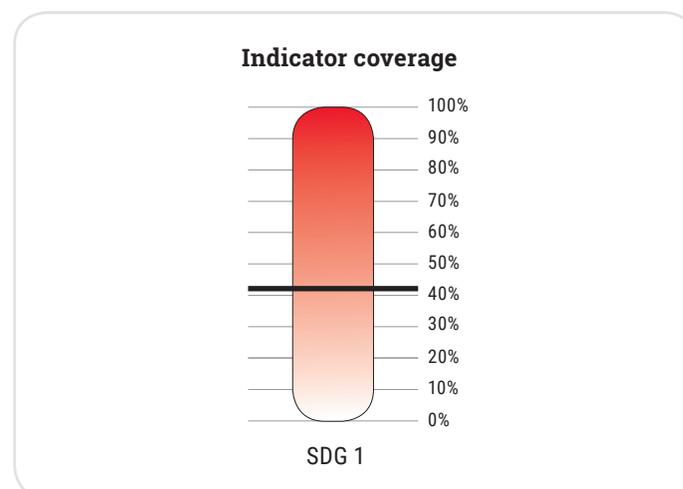
Measuring SDG 1 in the Arab region according to the global SDG indicator framework

Data are available for 6 out of 14 indicators,¹¹ covering 5 out of 7 targets under SDG 1.

Measuring poverty in the Arab region and registering its different dimensions remains a challenge. Only 12 Arab countries have defined a national poverty line and few countries measure it systematically, resulting in critical information and policy gaps. The inability to monitor poverty rates according to the national context, with regular frequency, limits the relevance and effectiveness of poverty eradication strategies. The majority of GCC countries do not have official poverty rates despite observations of poverty, particularly for non-nationals.

Global SDG 1 indicators do not adequately measure poverty in countries of the region for the following reasons:

- The international poverty line of \$1.90 as reflected in indicator 1.1.1 is not relevant for the majority of countries, which are middle-income, nor is it relevant for the GCC countries.
- Indicators are geographically limited and typically rely on household budget surveys that focus on consumption expenditure. These are not administered frequently, and they require methodologies that can be costly and technically demanding.
- National poverty measures mask significant disparities and information on marginalized and minority groups, as Arab countries typically have pockets of high income as well as wealth inequalities and territorial differences. Attempts to measure urban poverty or provide subnational regional poverty indicators remain occasional exercises.
- Measuring poverty is currently dissociated from measuring inequality, and this limits the ability of policymakers to use results effectively, particularly as the middle class continues to shrink.
- Money-metric indicators fail to measure gender-related exclusions in access to resources and employment opportunities. This approach also masks the impact of poverty on girls and boys, the risks to their entire life course, and the subsequent intergenerational transmission of poverty.
- The inability to assess deprivations in human capacities, especially in education and health, leaves many behind and their deprivation unrecognized. Conflict exacerbates these gaps as refugees and the displaced may experience further challenges accessing education and health services.



The main barriers to ending poverty in all its forms in the Arab region

SDG 1 is grounded in a wide-ranging understanding of poverty and incorporates complex dimensions including equality and inclusion in access to resources, services and participation. It embraces a rights-based approach, gender equality, and resilience and sustainability, and is critical for achieving social justice.

The focus of Goal 1 is on the policy frameworks that produce and accentuate poverty in all its forms. As such, its implementation is intertwined with all other SDGs, and particularly efforts to achieve Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 as well as 16 and 17. SDG 1 targets that focus on means of implementation bring into focus global and regional frameworks that could facilitate pro-poor action at the national level. Therefore, SDG 1 couples a focus on sustainable development policies in their social, economic and environmental dimensions with a focus on governance at local, national, regional and global levels. For the Arab region, as has been found in global assessments of progress on SDG 1, economic policy shortcomings are intertwined with governance challenges that render many impoverished people multidimensionally poor, and result in subregional and subnational divides as well as rising inequality and exclusion.¹²

Most contributory **social protection plans** in the region, namely social and health insurance, exclude informal workers. It is estimated that more than two thirds of the labour force in the region does not contribute to such plans, and more than 84 per cent of the working-age population is not actively contributing to pension schemes.

Some Arab countries are introducing reforms. For example, in 2013 Oman created a social insurance scheme for self-employed workers, comprising old-age, disability and survivor benefits. Morocco introduced a social and health insurance scheme for self-employed workers in 2017. Tunisia is providing social insurance to agricultural workers.

Non-contributory social protection mechanisms in many Arab countries are moving towards targeted cash transfers while removing or reducing subsidies.

Source: ILO, 2017; ESCWA, 2018a.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING SDG 1 IN THE ARAB REGION

High levels of inequality

Poverty reduction and greater equality are connected and mutually reinforcing. High levels of income inequality and non-income inequalities make it harder to reduce poverty even when economies are growing. In Arab countries, income inequality is among the highest in the world (SDG 10). Economic growth is not sufficient to lift people out of poverty because policies to distribute its benefits are either absent or ineffective.



Inaccurate measurement and insufficient data

Understanding who is poor and how they are poor is crucial to devising appropriate and inclusive policy responses. Measuring and monitoring poverty are problematic in the region for two reasons. The first has to do with the quality, frequency and periodicity of data collection. Surveys are not comprehensive or frequent enough; capacity to administer and analyse them accurately is limited; and the lack of data disaggregated by sex, age or migratory status, among other factors, is a serious blind spot.



The second reason has to do with the features and limitations of global measures when assessing poverty in a diverse region. The international poverty line or lower poverty line typically used for international comparisons can capture the extreme poverty rates in Arab least developed countries or countries affected by conflict. But national poverty lines are more relevant for other Arab countries. A focus on extreme poverty supports an unrealistic conclusion that poverty is low regionwide, resulting in gaps in the policy response and undermining national efforts to measure and target poverty.

In addition, multidimensional poverty measures that take into account multiple deprivations are underutilized. As a result, policymakers are less able to assess deprivation in terms of capabilities or access to quality services, and to connect the implementation of SDG 1 to the other Goals.

Inadequate economic conditions and policies

Most Arab countries have not undergone the kind of structural economic transformation that creates decent work, develops high productivity sectors (SDG 8) and redistributes the rewards of economic growth to reach the poor (SDG 10). Despite periods



of strong economic activity, unemployment was more than 10 per cent in 2017. And where jobs have been created, they are generally in low value-added sectors of the economy and do not pay enough.¹³

Macroeconomic policy choices, and particularly fiscal policy choices, are generally disconnected from development objectives and their redistributive role, focusing instead on monetary stabilization and the generation of economic growth. Already low government social spending as a share of GDP has been stagnating or declining following austerity measures. The quality of public education, health and other essential services remains weak or uneven and thus is ineffective in poverty reduction.¹⁴

Inequality of the global economic system

Another problem stems from the features of the prevailing international financial system and the forces of globalization that constrain countries' development policy choices and space (SDG 17). Many Arab countries are short on domestic financial resources amid rising public indebtedness, even as they face externally imposed conditionalities that constrain the role of fiscal and monetary policies in social development.¹⁵



Narrow understanding of social protection

Arab countries are introducing new measures to expand their social protection systems, but strategies and services suffer from fragmentation and low coverage. Social protection systems in the region still rely more on contributory, income-based plans that are by nature exclusionary, despite the prevalence of informal -work, the low economic participation of women and high unemployment.¹⁶

In many cases, social protection is narrowly understood as social assistance, configured as subsidies. It is often a residual policy instrument that comes second to economic policy measures, rather than serving as a rights-based prerequisite accelerating social development, building human capabilities and extending security throughout life cycles and for all social groups.¹⁷



Conflict and displacement

Conflict and resulting displacement easily wipe out progress on SDG 1 and increase poverty and vulnerability. The impact of conflicts in the region is long lasting and can reduce households to poverty across generations. While the national poverty rate in Yemen stood at 48.6 per cent in 2014, it is now estimated to exceed 80 per cent.¹⁸ Similar rates have been recently estimated for the Syrian Arab Republic.¹⁹ The destruction or weakening of basic infrastructure and the economic impact of conflict exacerbate poverty and place the poor at greater risk of suffering famine, disease and illiteracy, among many other consequences.



At risk of being left behind

The poverty and levels of deprivation of some individuals, groups and communities are not measured. Their needs and voices go unrecognized in policies, services or budgets, leaving them ever further behind. In the Arab region, the large number of people who are excluded from social protection systems are among those most at risk of being left behind.

Within households, as within societies, those facing multiple, **intersecting inequalities or vulnerabilities** may suffer even greater deprivation:

- Limitations on **women's** mobility and access to justice, land and economic resources exclude them from productive employment, limits their potential, and accentuates their poverty and dependence. Poverty measures do not account for the burden of care work typically assumed by women and affecting their well-being, including through their loss of time for other activities. Time spent on unpaid work is four to seven times greater for women than for men in Arab countries.
- **Children's** poverty is rarely captured in standard poverty measures. Evidence of child poverty is still scarce for high-income countries as well as conflict settings. Within countries, children in rural areas, from households whose head has no or little education, and that face material poverty, are more likely to be multidimensionally poor. Very few social assistance schemes are focused on children, while socioeconomic policies more broadly are not seen as an opportunity to invest in children and protect their rights.²⁰ As a result of conflict, a generation of displaced, out-of-school children faces lifelong consequences and constrained prospects for prosperity, decent work and self-sufficiency.
- There are very few data sources on levels of income, poverty rates and social protection coverage among **persons with disabilities**. Their lack of access to transport, education, employment and basic services, however, limits social, economic and political participation, and adds to already high risks of marginalization and poverty.²¹

- **Growing older**, especially for women, the self-employed, and those working in agriculture and the informal sector, increases chances of financial insecurity and dependence in the absence of universal or comprehensive old-age pensions.²²

Outside formal employment: Unemployment is high in the region, at 10.3 per cent, double the world average. The rate is as high as 26.1 per cent for youth.²³ The proportion of informal employment in total employment (indicator 8.3.1), excluding the agricultural sector, is also high, ranging from 45 per cent to over 75 per cent in some countries.²⁴ Poverty is more prevalent among informal sector workers, especially when family dependency ratios are high, as is the case in the Arab region. Unemployed and informal workers, like others excluded from most elements of social protection, adopt individual coping strategies that are often costly and inefficient.

Migrant workers: Arab countries host the largest proportion of migrant workers globally. They make up 41 per cent of total employment.²⁵ The GCC countries rely on migrant workers in the formal sector as well as in domestic work.

Migrant workers across the region are socially, economically and politically marginalized. They often face restrictions on mobility and lack social protection and recourse to representative mechanisms to advocate for their human rights.²⁶

Refugees and the internally displaced struggle to access basic services such as education and health. The protracted nature of conflicts, the geopolitical implications of displacement, and the unpredictability of humanitarian assistance also have detrimental impacts on their opportunities and overall well-being. The Arab region currently hosts 8.7 million refugees, including 5.4 million Palestinians. In addition, more than 14.9 million people are internally displaced across the region.²⁷ Conflict also increases the incidence of disability²⁸ and chronic illness, and it destroys natural and physical resources as well as support networks. Refugees and internally displaced people may remain vulnerable over time, with their poverty likely to transfer from one generation to the next.

Least developed countries: Poverty in the least developed countries is connected to the continuing prevalence

The historical case of the **State of Palestine** under Israeli occupation, in violation of international law, has a highly detrimental impact on poverty elimination. Confiscation of land and natural resources, limitations on mobility and access to resources and services, the blockade of Gaza, and home demolitions and arbitrary detentions severely undercut social, economic and environmental development and sustainability. High levels of unemployment, restricted access to markets, and instability and violence are constant. The child poverty rate in the State of Palestine was estimated at 66 per cent overall and 100 per cent in Gaza, based on a multidimensional poverty index adapted to conditions there.

Source: UNICEF, 2017; ESCWA and others, 2017.

“In cities such as **Sanaa and Cairo**, concentrations of urban poverty are usually found on precarious terrain where populations have poor sanitation and lack of access to safe water, and where droughts, floods, and heatwaves occur—conditions associated with several health problems, especially waterborne diseases. Slums are often sites of small-scale industrial production, using informal adult and child labor with attendant occupational health hazards”.

Source: El-Zein and others, 2014.

of hunger and deprivation of very basic needs. It is concentrated in rural areas where a struggling agricultural sector remains the main source of employment and subsistence. Deprivations in these countries can be undervalued when drawing a regional picture that includes them with the GCC countries, some of the richest nations globally. Within the least developed countries, there are also subnational differences in poverty rates. Remote rural areas in the Sudan or Yemen, for instance, are further marginalized. The least developed countries in the Arab region receive relatively little development aid compared to their level of income and development (SDG 10).²⁹

What the region can do to accelerate progress on SDG 1

SDG 1 epitomizes the indivisibility and inclusiveness of the 2030 Agenda with its aspiration to achieve sustainable development for all everywhere. Since it connects social justice and equality with social and economic policies, progress on it is also linked to

progress on SDGs 8, 10, 16 and 17. Globally, a reform of international financial and trading systems and governance mechanisms is necessary to ensure that national efforts are sustainable and effective. To move forward on SDG 1, the region needs to do the following.

1. Formulate relevant indicators and collect quality data systematically:

- Invest in national and subnational quantitative and qualitative surveys for periodic collection of data, locally, nationally and regionally.
- Adopt multidimensional poverty measurement methods, and enhance the disaggregation of data by sex, location, age, disability, migratory status, ethnicity and other markers.
- Measure various deprivation indicators at the level of subregions, communities, households and individuals.
- Incorporate child poverty measurement into national statistical systems to ensure more regular data that allow for trend analysis to inform policy measures.
- Measure deprivation in crisis settings, such as child poverty estimates in emergency settings.
- Collect data and information on social protection access and coverage effectiveness in local contexts.

2. Strengthen support to the least developed countries in line with global commitments and plans of action, including the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Decade 2011–2020:

- Increase development aid and the transfer of knowledge and technologies for sustainable development.
- Enhance capacity-building.
- Promote peaceful solutions, and support representative, inclusive and effective institutions at all levels.

3. Reconnect macroeconomic policies to social development:

- Use macroeconomic policies to generate productive jobs while ensuring the benefits of development are widely shared among different social groups and areas. This requires synchronizing monetary, fiscal and sectoral policies. It also necessitates political will to manage trade-offs and mobilize resources for long-term changes rather than short-term policy fixes.
- Redirect fiscal policy to play its redistributive role, and ensure the wide sharing of the benefits of growth as well as the provision of critical social investments, including in social protection systems.
- Tackle corruption, enhance fiscal transparency and improve mechanisms of accountability for fiscal expenditure.

- Reform taxation systems to rely more on progressive taxation linked to social spending, and strengthen enforcement mechanisms.

- Ensure the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, and provide access to water, energy and food for all, in particular the most vulnerable.

4. Design and implement comprehensive, universal, rights-based social protection systems:

- Urgently institute national social protection floors to provide security to all while progressively building up benefits.
- Develop non-contributory, tax-financed protection schemes given significant employment in the informal sector, especially in the least developed countries, where poverty incidence is high.

5. Invest in human capabilities, especially those of children and youth, to ensure they can pursue opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, and to help halt the transmission of poverty intergenerationally:

- Address gaps in access to and improve the quality of health care and education services.
- Address inequalities in access to resources and services at the subnational level.

6. Link humanitarian aid with long-term sustainable development:

- Develop strategies to couple humanitarian aid and assistance with long-term sustainable development in conflict and post-conflict countries, with a focus on ensuring the broad participation of all stakeholders—including different social groups, civil society and local government—and with a view towards long-term financing.

SDG 1 targets and indicators in the Arab region

Target

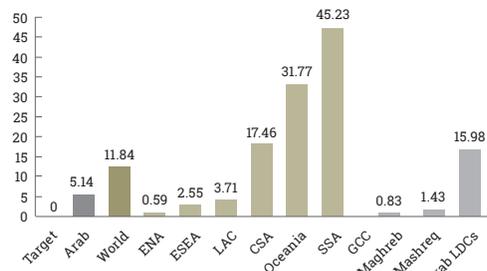
1.1
By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Indicator

1.1.1
Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)

Data

Figure 1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line (percentage)



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Sudan (2009), Jordan and Tunisia (2010) Algeria, Lebanon and State of Palestine (2011), Iraq (2012), Comoros and Djibouti (2013), Mauritania and Yemen (2014), Egypt (2015).

1.2
By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.2.1
Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

For country data, please refer to the annex of the present chapter.

Note: Because national poverty lines are country-specific, there is no aggregation at the regional or global level. See the SDG Indicators Metadata Repository (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b).

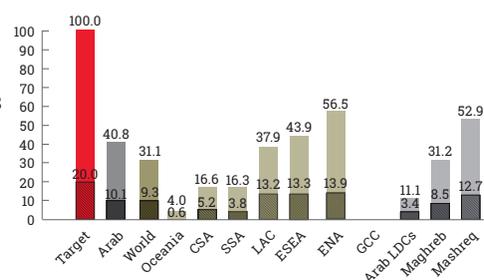
1.2.2
Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.3
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.3.1
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable

Figure 2 Proportion of population covered by social assistance programmes (percentage), and Poorest quintile covered by social assistance programmes (percentage of population)



□ Proportion of population covered by social assistance programmes (%)
■ Poorest quintile covered by social assistance programmes (% of total population)

Note: Because the proportion of population covered by social assistance programmes can also include the poorest quintile, we express the latter as a share of the total population (i.e., we multiply it by 0.2). All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Egypt (2008), Morocco, State of Palestine, Sudan (2009), Jordan, Tunisia (2010), Djibouti, Iraq (2012), Mauritania (2014).

1.4

By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

1.4.1

Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.4.2

Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.5

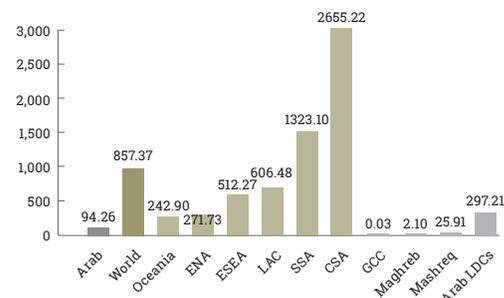
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

1.5.1

Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

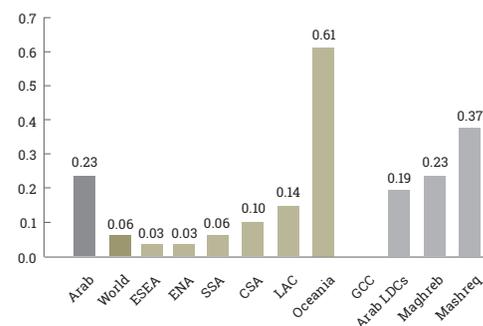
Figure 3 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people

(a) Number of people affected by disaster per 100,000 people



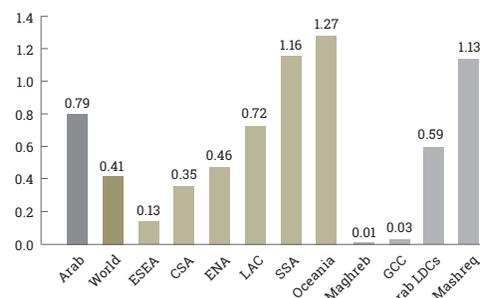
Note: The number of people affected by disaster is multiplied by 100,000, and divided by population, to get total country numbers. All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b), still expressed per 100,000 people. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Syrian Arab Republic (2009), Yemen (2010), Kuwait (2011), Djibouti (2012), Tunisia (2013), Morocco (2014), Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine and Sudan (2017).

(b) Number of deaths due to disaster per 100,000 people



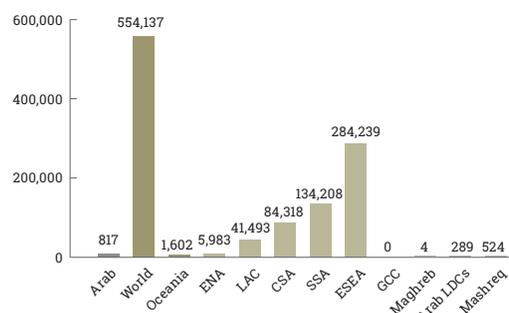
Note: The number of deaths due to disaster is multiplied by 100,000, and divided by population, to get total country numbers. All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b), still expressed per 100,000 people. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Syrian Arab Republic (2009), Yemen (2010), Kuwait (2011), Djibouti (2012), Tunisia (2013), Morocco (2014), Lebanon (2016), Comoros, Egypt, Jordan and State of Palestine (2017).

(c) Number of missing persons due to disaster per 100,000 people



Note: The number of persons missing due to disaster is multiplied by 100,000, and divided by population, to get total country numbers. All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b), still expressed per 100,000 people. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Tunisia (2009) Jordan and Yemen (2010), Djibouti and Morocco (2011), Comoros (2017).

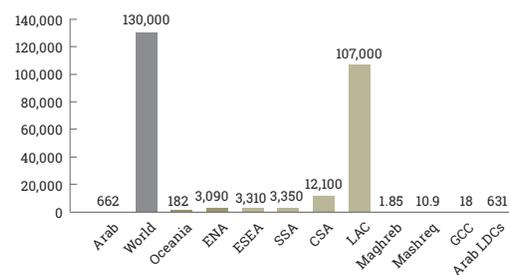
Figure 4 Number of damaged dwellings attributed to disasters, and Number of destroyed dwellings attributed to disasters



Note: Aggregates are the total sum of country values (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Syrian Arab Republic (2009), Yemen (2010), Djibouti (2012), State of Palestine and Tunisia (2013), Comoros, Lebanon and Morocco (2014), Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and Somalia (2017).

1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

Figure 5 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters (millions of current United States dollars)



Note: Aggregates are the total sum of country values (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019b). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Syrian Arab Republic (2009), Yemen (2010), Djibouti and Kuwait (2011), Comoros and Tunisia (2013) Morocco (2014), Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine and Sudan (2017).

1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.5.4

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.a

Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1.a.1

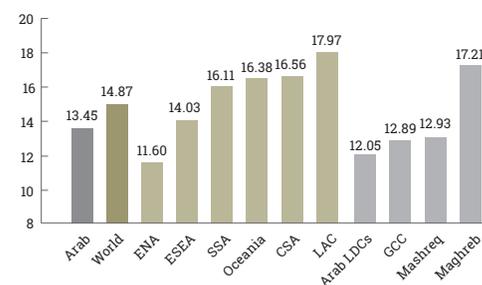
Proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.a.2

Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

Figure 6 Proportion of total government spending on essential services, education (percentage)



Note: The share of total government spending on education is related to the available revenue and the level of development and policies, implying that a high or a low share means different things for different countries. Here a higher share is considered a better outcome (from a developing country perspective). Aggregates are unweighted means. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yemen (2008), Morocco, Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic (2009), Djibouti (2010), Lebanon (2013), Qatar (2014), Comoros and Tunisia (2015), Bahrain, Jordan, Mauritania and Oman (2016).

1.a.3

Sum of total grants and non-debt-creating inflows directly allocated to poverty reduction programmes as a proportion of GDP

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

1.b

Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

1.b.1

Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

Note: Central and Southern Asia (CSA); Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (ESEA); Europe and Northern America (ENA); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); Arab Least Developed Countries (Arab LDCs); Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand); Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

All figures are based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (United Nations Statistics Division, 2018) except for the inclusion of updated data (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a) in the following indicators: 1.5.1 [Number of people affected by disaster (number), Number of deaths due to disaster (number), Number of missing persons due to disaster (number)] and 1.5.2 [Direct economic loss attributed to disasters (millions of current United States dollars)].

ENDNOTES

1. Calculated by ESCWA based on data from World Bank online datasets, POVCAL.NET. Abu-Ismaïl and Kiswani (forthcoming).
2. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 1.
3. These figures represent the latest year available from United Nations Statistics Division, 2019a for the following countries and years: Sudan (2009), Jordan (2010), Algeria (2011), Lebanon (2012), Yemen (2014), Egypt (2015).
4. This poverty rate is the result of the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Index (AMPI), adapted to conditions in Arab countries. It includes access to basic services (indicator 1.4.1). Countries included in the AMPI are: Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen, where data are available.
5. ESCWA and others, 2017, which covers: Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.
6. Jawad, 2014.
7. This statement refers to regional country groupings as per IMF, 2018.
8. ESCWA, 2017b.
9. ESCWA, 2017b; OECD, 2016.
10. ESCWA, 2017b .
11. According to the methodology used in this report.
12. ESCWA and others, 2017.
13. ESCWA, 2017b; ILO and UNDP, 2012.
14. ESCWA, 2014a, 2017a, 2017b.
15. Sarangi and El-Ahmadieh, 2017.
16. ILO, 2017; ESCWA, 2019.
17. ILO, 2017; ESCWA, 2014b.
18. The poverty rate (with the poverty line at \$3.20 PPP) was estimated at more than 81 per cent in Yemen in 2018 (World Bank, 2018).
19. In the Syrian Arab Republic, other non-official estimates suggest the poverty rate has exceeded 85 per cent while extreme poverty surpassed 69 per cent in 2015 (Syrian Center for Policy Research, 2016).
20. UNICEF, 2017; ESCWA and others, 2017.
21. ESCWA, 2018a.
22. ESCWA, 2018b.
23. Statistics provided by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States based on ILO, 2018a.
24. ILO, 2018b.
25. ILO, 2019.
26. ILO, 2017.
27. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018; UNHCR, 2018b; UNRWA, 2018.
28. Humanity & Inclusion and iMMAP, 2018.
29. For more details, refer to the country profiles in the annexes complementing this report.

REFERENCES

Abu-Ismaïl, Khalid, and Bilal Kiswani (forthcoming). "Poverty and Vulnerability in Arab States".

ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) (2014a). Integrated Social Policy. Towards a New Welfare Mix? Rethinking the Role of the State, the Market and Civil Society in the Provision of Social Protection and Social Services. www.unescwa.org/file/29869/download?token=Kxdwre60.

--- (2014b). "Participation and Social Protection in the Arab Region". Beirut. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/e_escwa_sdd_14_tp_7_e.pdf.

--- (2016). Against Wind and Tides: A Review of the Status of Women and Gender Equality in the Arab Region (Beijing+20). Beirut. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/women-gender-equality-arab-region.pdf.

- (2017a). "Changes in Public Expenditure on Social Protection in Arab Countries". Beirut. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/changes-expenditure-social-protection-arab-countries.pdf.
- (2017b). Rethinking Fiscal Policy for the Arab Region. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/rethinking-fiscal-policy-arab-region-english_1.pdf.
- (2018a). Disability in the Arab Region. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/disability-arab-region-2018-english_1.pdf.
- (2018b). Population and Development Report Issue No. 8: Prospects of Ageing with Dignity in the Arab Region. www.unescwa.org/publications/population-development-report-8.
- (forthcoming). "Social Protection Reform in the Arab Region". Beirut.
- ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and IOM (International Organization for Migration) (2017). 2017 Situation Report on International Migration: Migration in the Arab Region and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/2017-situation-report-international-migration-english.pdf.
- ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and others (2017). Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/multidimensional-arab-poverty-report-english_0.pdf.
- El-Zein, Abbas and others (2014). "Health and Ecological Sustainability in the Arab World: A Matter of Survival". *The Lancet* 383 (9915): 458–76. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(13\)62338-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(13)62338-7).
- Humanity & Inclusion and iMMAP (2018). Removing Barriers—The Path towards Inclusive Access: Disability Assessment among Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon (Lebanon Report). Amman. <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/removing-barriers-the-path-towards-inclusive-access-lebanon-report.pdf>.
- ILO (International Labour Organization) (2017). World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_604882.pdf.
- (2018a). "ILO Statistics and Databases". www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/lang-en/index.htm.
- (2018b). "Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture". Geneva. www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf.
- (2019). World Employment Social Outlook. Geneva. www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_670542.pdf.
- ILO (International Labour Organization), and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) (2012). "Rethinking Economic Growth: Towards Productive and Inclusive Arab Societies". Beirut: ILO. www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_208346.pdf.
- IMF (International Monetary Fund) (2018). "Opportunity for All: Promoting Growth and Inclusiveness in the Middle East and North Africa". www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/DP/2018/45981-dp1811-opportunity-for-all.ashx.
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2018). "Global Internal Displacement Database". www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data.
- Jawad, Rana (2014). "Social Protection in the Arab Region: Emerging Trends and Recommendations for Future Social Policy". Arab Human Development Report Research Papers Series, United Nations Development Programme.
- OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) (2016). "Social Expenditure Update 2016". www.oecd.org/els/soc/OECD2016-Social-Expenditure-Update.pdf.
- Sarangi, Nirajan, and Lida El-Ahmadieh (2017). "Fiscal Policy Response to Public Debt in the Arab Region". E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/WP.6. ESCWA Working Papers. Beirut. www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/fiscal_policy_response_to_public_debt_in_the_arab_region.pdf.
- Syrian Center for Policy Research (2016). Confronting Fragmentation! Impact of Syrian Crisis Report. www.scp-syria.org/download/scpr-report-confronting-fragmentation-en/?v=1480.
- UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) (2018). "Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment: Recognizing and Investing in the Care Economy". https://docs.euromedwomen.foundation/files/ermwf-documents/8098_4.193.promotingwomen'seconomicempowerment-recognizingandinvestinginthecareeconomy.pdf.
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) (2018b). "UNHCR Population Statistics". <http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview>.
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) (2017). Child Poverty in the Arab States: Analytical Report of Eleven Countries. www.unicef.org/mena/media/1471/file/Child_Poverty_in_the_Arab_States-Full-Eng.pdf.
- United Nations Population Division (2017). "World Population Prospects". Retrieved 1 April 2019. <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>.
- United Nations Statistics Division (2018). "Global SDG Indicators Database". <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.
- United Nations Statistics Division (2019a). "Global SDG Indicators Database". <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.
- (2019b). "SDG Indicators Metadata Repository". <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>.
- UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) (2018). "UNRWA in figures 2018". https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/unrwa_in_figures_2018_eng_v1_31_1_2019_final.pdf.
- World Bank (2018). "Yemen Economic Outlook". <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/547461538076992798/mpo-am18-yemen-yem-9-14-kc-new.pdf>.