



SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Weak rule of law, low adherence to universal human rights treaties and conventions, and the exacerbating conditions of conflict as well as occupation are detrimental to the ability of the Arab States to achieve SDG 16. Governance deficits, including a shrinking civic space, corruption and limited political participation for a number of social groups, hinder efforts to move toward sustainable development, and increase polarization, discrimination and inequality. Genuine political will to address the root causes of these challenges and the opening of civic space are necessary to transition to just, peaceful and inclusive societies. So is the creation of effective, transparent and accountable institutions capable of supporting the achievement of all 17 SDGs.

Key facts



Indicators related to the rule of law, regulatory quality, government effectiveness and corruption indices show regression in the region between 2010 and 2016.¹



Large numbers of detainees remain unsentenced. In the 17 Arab countries where data exist for the last decade, 10 countries registered rates of unsentenced detainees over 30 per cent. In some countries, proportions have reached as high as 89 per cent and 99 per cent of detainees.⁷



Peaceful protests as well as violent demonstrations, mob violence and excessive police force in the face of demonstrations have markedly increased in the majority of Arab countries in recent years.²

Access to information

Only six Arab countries have adopted relevant policies to ensure access to information: Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.⁸



The Arab region is very far from ending all forms of violence against and ill-treatment of children: 82.8 per cent of children experience physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by their caregivers.³



Corruption impacts the private sector, with almost a quarter of businesses receiving at least one request for a bribe from a public official. For example, 37 per cent of businesses have experienced at least one request for a bribe from a public official in Iraq and Morocco, as have 65 per cent in Yemen.⁹

Violence against women + girls

Violence against women and girls is widespread with 37 per cent of ever-partnered women reporting experiencing physical violence at some point in their lives.⁴ Over 50 per cent of countries in the region do not criminalize violence against women.⁵ The majority do not criminalize marital rape.⁶

Intentional homicide rate

The region has an intentional homicide rate that is lower than the global average. There is significant variation among countries, however, with the highest rates in Comoros, Iraq and Mauritania.¹⁰

Birth registration

The region overall has fared relatively well in registering the births of children under age 5. The regional average masks significant subregional variation, however, with 54 per cent of children under 5 not registered in the least developed countries.¹¹



Protracted occupation and conflict resulted in close to 14.9 million internally displaced persons in 2017. By mid-2018, there were more than 8.7 million refugees from Arab countries registered with UNHCR, one third of whom stayed within the Arab region. In addition, the region hosted approximately 5.4 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA.¹²

**6.2%
of GDP**

The Arab region has the world's highest percentage of military expenditures as a share of GDP, at around 6.2 per cent

Battle-related deaths

The number of battle-related deaths in the region peaked in 2014 at over 97,000, almost 70 per cent of the global total. By 2017, the number had shrunk by almost half, falling to around 42,000 deaths. It declined again to less than 30,000 in 2018.¹³

Arms imports

Between 2014 and 2018, the Arab region received 36 per cent of global imports of major arms, second only to Asia and Oceania. During this period, 5 of the top 10 importers of major arms were countries in the Arab region (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates).¹⁴

in 2016. The second highest figure is 2.06 per cent in North America.¹⁵

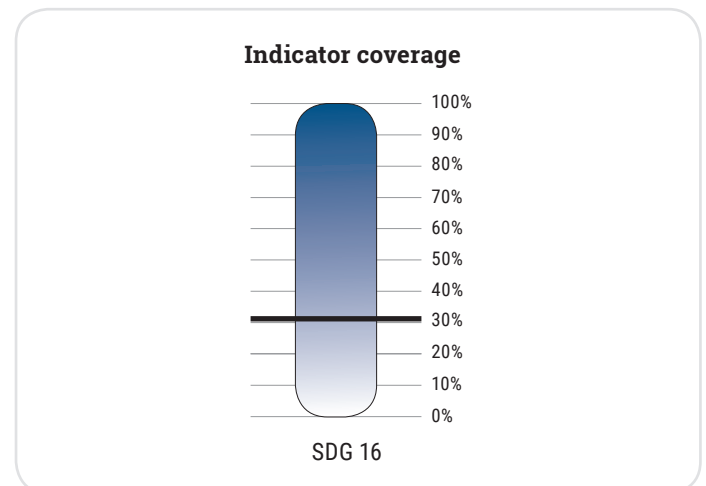
Measuring SDG 16 in the Arab region according to the global SDG indicator framework

Data are available for only 7 out of 23 indicators,¹⁶ covering 7 out of 12 targets under SDG 16.

SDG 16 indicators reflect the safety and security dimension of the goal at the expense of access to and quality of justice, non-discrimination, and openness and transparency. Nine of the 23 indicators relate directly to safety and security.¹⁷ Corruption is measured strictly in terms of bribery in business transactions rather than issues related to procurement or use of public funds. Adherence to the rule of law, a system of checks and balances including in public finance, as well as protection from abuse and human rights violations are less well articulated in the indicators.

In the region, crucial data gaps persist for targets 16.6 and 16.7 on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and on ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making; indicator 16.3.1 on access to justice mechanisms; indicator 16.5.1 on corruption in the public sector; and indicator 16.10.1 on the commitment to respect freedom and human rights. All of these targets and indicators are key to monitoring progress towards consolidating democratic governance.

The production and collection of data on SDG 16 entails a critical political challenge as SDG 16 targets and



indicators mostly revolve around the relationship between States and the people they serve. Data production and collection require trust in reporting as well as the robustness of reporting and recourse mechanisms. They also depend on independent and strong monitoring mechanisms, and the political commitment to producing comprehensive and fully disaggregated data according to sex, religion, ethnicity, disability, location, migratory status and age, among other parameters as relevant at the national level.

While the notion of inclusive and just societies is captured in target 16.7, some measure of this may also come from complementary SDG targets on the inclusion

of all in social protection systems, universal health coverage, education, participation, employment and urbanization (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 11, among others).

A human-rights-based approach to data is needed across all of the SDGs. **National human rights institutions** can play an important role in data collection, particularly related to discrimination and harassment. In the State of Palestine, the national human rights institution and the statistical office have taken encouraging steps in this direction. A signed memorandum of understanding allows for exchanges and guidance to address data challenges, especially those related to the most vulnerable and marginalized people as well as national implementation of international human rights treaties.

Source: OHCHR, 2018.

The main barriers to achieving peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in the region

SDG 16 comprehensively articulates the values set in the preamble and introduction to the 2030 Agenda and the transformative vision it forged. The goal recognizes the interdependency of peace, justice and sustainable development. In its emphasis on governance, it places the political dimension of sustainable development at the forefront of efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The SDG 16 targets speak to the importance of good governance, inclusive and representative decision-making, transparent and accountable institutions, empowerment of all stakeholders, inclusive non-discriminatory societies, and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, all of which must be guaranteed to ensure peaceful societies. The goal relates to access to services and resources, use and management of natural resources, leaving no one behind, gender equality, social protection floors, decent work, and policy and agenda-setting for sustainable development in general, including through the emphasis on a broad spectrum of partners to achieve all 17 SDGs.

In the Arab region, the lack of accountable, transparent and effective institutions that guarantee equality and justice and safeguard peace jeopardizes the region's entire development agenda. When compared to other regions, the Arab region as a whole scores low on governance indicators, including the rule of law, voice and accountability, regulatory quality, political stability, government effectiveness and corruption.¹⁸

Corruption is prevalent across the Arab States. According to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, 5 out of the 11 worst-scoring countries globally are from the region.

Corruption in both the public and private sectors threatens the transformation to sustainable development. In the absence of transparency and as the interests of the few become paramount, the possibility of devising policies that account for the different social, economic and environmental dimensions of development policies is reduced. The current situation also challenges the ability to mobilize the necessary resources for implementing the SDGs

Source: Transparency International, 2018, 2019.

The convergence of deep structural challenges, political grievances, conflict as well as occupation threatens the social fabric of the region. Corruption and weak accountability hinder a transition to inclusive and prosperous societies that combine equitable growth with sustainable management of natural resources. Deficits in human rights and democratic governance that have marred the region for decades limit the abilities of Governments to deliver on their commitments under the different SDGs and to establish sustainable peace.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING SDG 16 IN THE ARAB REGION

Ineffective institutions and limited accountability



The majority of Arab countries continue to struggle with developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions that are open and accessible. Outdated bureaucratic structures and widespread corruption, cronyism and nepotistic dynamics plague the public sector, which hinders institutional effectiveness and erodes the environment for accountability. The barriers separating different powers are often porous and do not consistently function to full effect. This is evident when civil society calls the independence of the judiciary into question or when constitutional changes are seen to serve political decisions.

The weakness of institutions is very much linked to the weakness of accountability mechanisms. It is rare for Arab parliaments to bring ministers to account. Likewise, Arab parliaments' limited role in adopting and monitoring the implementation of public budgets reflects their weak oversight function and inability to hold the executive accountable. Low voter turnout, particularly among youth, reflects disenfranchisement and minimal trust in elections as the primary form of political participation and avenue for inducing political change. A majority of media outlets in the region are State owned or financed by political figures or factions, limiting the media's role in strengthening a culture of accountability.

Weak rule of law



Despite some positive developments in the region, including the adoption of new constitutions and constitutional reforms as well as rights-based policies, the region still lags behind in upholding the rule of law, and in fact has regressed in recent years.¹⁹ Arbitrary detention and torture have been documented by multiple national and international organizations.²⁰ Long periods of pretrial detention are common, affecting a regional average of 50 per cent of total detainees and up to 70 per cent in some countries. This also greatly contributes to rampant overcrowding in prisons.²¹ National abilities to guarantee social justice and the protection of human rights for all are weakened by discriminatory laws, emergency laws and the absence of laws to protect individuals and groups from violence, abuse and exploitation, including detainees, children, older persons, migrant workers and women.

Shrinking civic space



Civic space, defined as the extent to which citizens are able to practise fundamental rights of association, assembly and freedom of expression, is limited in many Arab countries. International civil society monitors currently consider civic space "closed" in nine Arab countries, "repressed" in eight, "obstructed" in four and "narrowed" in one.²² In recent years, a number of countries have imposed new limitations on non-governmental organizations. These include restrictions or delays in licensing, resource mobilization, assembly and access to public spaces.²³ Civil society groups contend that anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws and statutes that target defamation further constrict freedom of expression and target critical voices at the national level. These findings are corroborated by observations and recommendations emanating from human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, including Universal Periodic Reviews, treaty bodies and special procedures.²⁴

Weak integration of human rights across social and cultural norms and practices



Upholding human rights is the responsibility of the State. As the cornerstone of inclusive and peaceful societies, however, human rights also need to be anchored in a social and cultural infrastructure of support. Violence against women and children, discrimination against migrants and domestic workers, and corporal punishment in school are all examples of widespread human rights violations. Social tolerance of these abuses often hampers efforts to institute just and inclusive mechanisms and implement associated policies to stop them. Likewise, the stigmas faced by persons with disabilities and some minority groups demonstrate that social and behavioural norms may trump more formalized attempts to enhance inclusiveness and justice. Human rights are not well integrated into school curricula or into local and national levels of governance across the region.

Non-inclusive policymaking



Despite some developments in promoting participatory decision-making, the centralized mode of governance sustains a top-down policymaking approach in most countries. Participatory policymaking is further challenged by predominant cultural norms that promote exclusion. Women's representation in public office continues to be the lowest regional in the world; in 2018, women only held 19 per cent of seats in national parliaments.²⁵

The exclusion of different groups from political office or decision-making impacts the nature of legislation and policy, and the extent to which it reflects the interests of different groups in society, including the poor, workers, women, youth, detainees, persons with disabilities, and ethnic and religious minorities, among others. This limits the adoption of rights-based policies and negatively impacts the ability of the State to ensure justice and guarantee equality before the law.

While a number of Arab countries have now passed access to information laws, the majority have yet to operationalize these laws in policies, or to establish mechanisms to ensure and monitor implementation.²⁶ The ability of civil society to assess the impact of development policies across different SDGs is compromised as a result.

Protracted conflict and instability in the region



The region has experienced a number of inter-State and civil wars with devastating effects on the ability to consolidate development gains. Existing tensions are heightened by external influences and geo-political considerations that instigate proxy wars. The spillover effect in many cases has negatively impacted neighbouring countries, resulting in increased militarization and extremism. It has also amplified polarization in the region and fed conflict along ethnic or sectarian lines.

In addition to the death and displacement of millions of people across the region, conflict has resulted in extreme economic losses. On a global ranking of the economic cost of violence as a percentage of GDP in 2018, the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq were first and second, respectively, with Somalia, Libya and Yemen following closely.²⁷

While overall arms imports have decreased in other regions (in the Americas by 36 per cent, Europe by 13 per cent, Asia and Oceania by 6.7 per cent and Africa by 6.5 per cent), in the Arab region, imports climbed by 78 per cent between 2009 to 2013 and 2014 to 2018.²⁸ Growing military and security expenditure across the region is draining public budgets of valuable resources needed for development. Conflict has had other inevitable damaging effects, including an increase in human trafficking as well as illicit financial and arms flows.

Provision of and access to public services have been greatly compromised. School enrolment in conflict-affected countries is dropping, and educational institutions are widely perceived as ineffective. Some 18.4 million school-aged children in 2017 required assistance to continue their education in seven crisis countries (Iraq, Libya, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).²⁹ The resurgence of massive epidemics, such as cholera, has been documented as well as an increase in hunger in conflict and non-conflict countries alike.

The persistence of Israeli occupation



The Arab region has the longest occupation in modern history. The Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine has resulted in significant challenges to development, extensive human rights abuses and the loss of thousands of lives. A number of policies, practices and measures implemented by Israel violate international law, including the annexation of land and settlement building. They also limit the capacity of Palestinian institutions to provide adequate and quality services to the population.

Palestinian civilians endure excessive and often disproportionate use of force by the Israeli military and security forces. Between 2014 and 2019, for example, 14,466 Palestinian children were injured and 720 were killed as a result of direct conflict.³⁰ Detainees, including children, are subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, particularly during arrest and interrogation. Home demolitions and forced evictions create a coercive environment in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and this amounts to forcible displacement as Palestinians have no choice but to leave. Between 2009 and 2018, approximately 9,000 Palestinians (including 4,697 children) were displaced because of home demolitions.³¹ Land grabs, annexation and limits on Palestinians' ability to build homes and structures, as well as limits on their mobility, routinely violate the most basic human rights of the Palestinian people.

The Arab region remains the most dangerous for **journalists**, with 191 killed between 2012 and 2016, representing 36 per cent of all global deaths of journalists during that period.

In parts of the Arab region, heightened threats from violent extremist groups and conflicts have been used to rationalize an increase in large-scale arrests and detentions, forced closures of media houses and dismissals of critical journalists, raids on journalists' unions and expulsions of foreign journalists.

Source: UNESCO, 2016.

The adoption of **open government** can support Arab countries to enhance transparency, accountability and the engagement of citizens in government decision-making and the delivery of citizen-centric services. An open government is defined by its effectiveness and efficiency in dispensing its duties. Its activities are transparent, and it is responsive to its citizens' needs. Such a government values citizen participation, experience and knowledge when making decisions. An open government is also an inclusive government whose services are accessible to all citizens.

Source: ESCWA, 2018a.

The alarmingly high prevalence of **violence against children** in Arab and neighbouring countries has been confirmed by a number of national surveys. For the overall child population (aged 2–14 years) of 85 million covered by these surveys, an estimated 71 million children (84 per cent) have experienced any type of violent discipline in the 30 days prior to the survey, 68 million (80 per cent) psychological aggression, 60 million (70 per cent) physical punishment and roughly 27 million (31 per cent) severe physical punishment. The analysis highlights a positive association between the high prevalence of violent practices used in child discipline, and the widespread acceptance and justification of domestic violence in the region.

Source: UNICEF, 2019.

Recent years have seen a surge in political instability at the national level. **Protests** have broken out in many countries, some sustained over time. Protesters often cite inequality, social injustice, non-democratic forms of governance, corruption, the prevalence of poverty and unemployment as key concerns.

By mid-2018, 5,781 **Palestinians** (including 270 children and 65 women) were **detained** in Israeli prisons. Among them, 456 were administrative detainees being held without charge or trial.

Source: ADDAMEER, 2018.

At risk of being left behind

Given the transboundary nature of peace and governance issues, failure to achieve SDG 16 puts the **region as a whole** at risk of being left behind in the global march towards sustainable development. The absence of peace and the weakness of representative State institutions impact everyone, while amplifying existing vulnerabilities.

The inability of the State to guarantee the rule of law and access to justice for all, everywhere and all the time, increases the vulnerability of all individuals. **Individuals and groups subject to discrimination on the basis of identity or status**, however, are subject to additional or intersecting constraints on their political, social and economic participation. They are particularly vulnerable. They include the poor, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, stateless people or refugees, and migrant workers, among others. Their vulnerability is difficult to capture in the absence of fully disaggregated data and full civil registration.

Throughout the region, **women** lack full citizenship and face bigger challenges in accessing justice. This pertains in particular to justice in matters related to nationality, divorce and custody of children and land rights as well as gender-based violence and restrictions on mobility.³² Even in cases where laws exist to protect women, they may not be enforced, including because mechanisms are not in place to ensure enforcement. These injustices marginalize women in social, economic and political life and place the region woefully behind on SDG 16.

The **Palestinian people** continue to face economic hardships, insecurity, violence and death as a result of the Israeli occupation. Occupation threatens all facets of life and all dimensions of development. Unless sustainable peace and justice are achieved for the Palestinian people, they are at extreme risk of being left behind.³³

Children who experience conflict face an entire lifetime of coping with the trauma and may never be able to catch up to their peers. Children who lose one or both parents, are left out of school and are not registered will continuously struggle to overcome limitations imposed on them so early on.

Unregistered children are a serious concern. For example, 83 per cent of Syrian refugees under age 5 in Lebanon were not registered in 2017. The region must now also reckon with the reality of children born under the rule of so called ISIS and issued ISIS certificates. In addition to their uncertain status, these children may have been exposed to levels of violence and brutality that will require special and long-term integrated care.

Source: UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP, 2017.

What the region can do to accelerate progress on SDG 16

1. Intensify efforts to build effective, accountable and transparent institutions:

- Strengthen the separation of powers, especially between the judiciary, and the legislative and executive branches.
- Strengthen parliamentary oversight, including through the timely review and approval of budgets,
- and ensure the adequate allocation of resources and access to information so parliaments can act effectively.
- Introduce regulations to curb corruption and nepotism, and enhance meritocracy in public institutions and public works.

- Develop internal and external auditing and oversight mechanisms, and strengthen the role of supreme audit institutions and economic and social councils.
- Use technology to enhance open government, adopt more effective participatory approaches in governance, curb corruption and assess the impact of policies.

2. Uphold the rule of law, fight corruption and promote civil liberties:

- Adopt concrete anti-corruption strategies and introduce robust systems of checks and balances.
- Guarantee that judicial and legislative institutions function independently.
- Repeal discriminatory laws and introduce anti-discrimination legislation to ensure equal rights for all before the law, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability status, migratory status or other characteristics.
- Introduce or enforce existing laws against all forms of violence, including domestic violence, violence in the workplace, violence against children, violence against domestic workers, and violence in prisons and places of detention.
- Adopt and/or operationalize access to information laws through effective and monitored policies.
- Reform security apparatuses to enhance transparency and respect for human rights, and adherence to constitutional guarantees of rights and freedoms, with attendant oversight mechanisms.
- Ensure a human-rights-based approach to data collection generally, improve data collection for all SDG 16 indicators, and enhance the systematic identification of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

3. Expand civic space and encourage a vibrant civic culture and engaged civil society organizations. These groups should have the capacity to serve as partners in achieving the 2030 Agenda and to hold the State accountable for progress:

- Lift limitations on the work of civil society, including on licensing, assembly and resource mobilization.

- Introduce constitutional safeguards or other mechanisms necessary to protect the right to freedom of expression and association across civil society, including media and academia.

4. Support all efforts to advance human rights as social values:

- Integrate international human rights into educational curricula at all levels and across all school systems in the region.
- Raise awareness on the implementation of recommendations emanating from human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, including the Universal Periodic Review, as critical to the implementation of SDG 16.
- Facilitate the work of grass-roots and independent human rights institutions, including at local levels.
- Encourage the equal participation of all social groups, including women, youth and minorities, in decision-making at local and national levels.

5. Increase efforts to de-escalate conflict and address its root causes:

- Enhance regional dialogue and cooperation to achieve SDG 16, given the transboundary nature of conflict and the similarities of structural impediments, including weak rule of law, ineffective institutions and limited accountability, among other challenges fuelling social discontent.

6. Ensure the full realization of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people, including Palestinian refugees:

- Ensure sustainable peace, end the occupation that threatens the well-being of people living under it and ensure full adherence to international law.

SDG 16 targets and indicators in the Arab region

Target

16.1

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

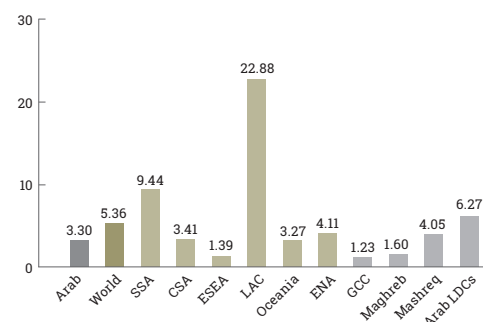
Indicator

16.1.1

Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Data

Figure 1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population



Note: All means are population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Syrian Arab Republic (2010), Egypt, Kuwait and Tunisia (2012), Yemen (2013), Bahrain, Iraq, Oman and Qatar (2014), Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and United Arab Emirates (2015), Jordan, Lebanon and State of Palestine (2016). According to the United Nations Statistics Division (2019), this indicator "does not include killings directly related to war/conflict and other killings that amount to war crimes".

16.1.2

Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

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

16.1.3

Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

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

16.1.4

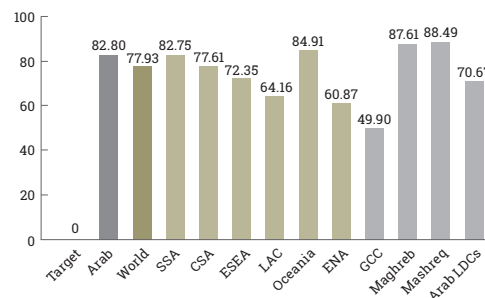
Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

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

16.2
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.2.1
Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

Figure 2 Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the last month (percentage)



Note: All means are weighted by the population of children aged 1 to 14, using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Lebanon (2009), Iraq (2011), Jordan, Qatar and Tunisia (2012), Algeria and Yemen (2013), Egypt, State of Palestine and Sudan (2014) and Mauritania (2015).

16.2.2
Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

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

16.2.3
Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

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

16.3
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.3.1
Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

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

16.3.2
Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

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

16.4
By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

16.4.1
Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

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

16.4.2
Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

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

16.5

Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.5.1

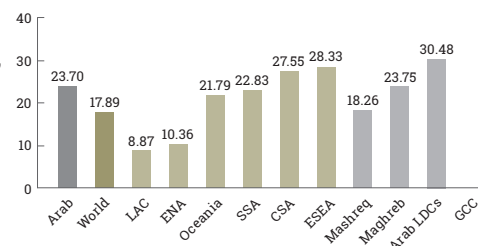
Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

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

16.5.2

Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

Figure 3 Bribery incidence/proportion of firms experiencing at least one request for a bribe (percentage)



Note: Global, regional and subregional aggregates are the simple means of the country values. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Iraq (2011), Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen (2013), Mauritania and Sudan (2014) and Egypt (2016).

16.6

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.6.1

Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

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

16.6.2

Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

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

16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.7.1

Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

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

16.7.2

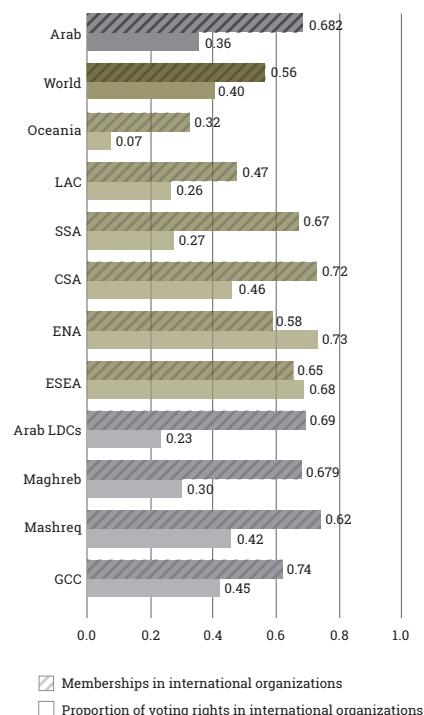
Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

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

16.8
Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.8.1
Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Figure 4 Membership in international organizations and the proportion of voting rights in international organizations (percentage)

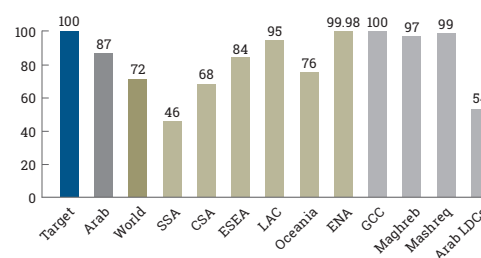


Note: We visualize and analyse these two subindicators of indicator 16.8.1 separately since they are at a different scale and unit, and they represent different concepts substantively. The index of the first subindicator is the simple arithmetic mean of seven dummy variables, one for each international organization, which take a value of 1 if the country is a member and a 0 if not. The index of the second subindicator is the simple arithmetic mean of seven variables depicting the voting power of countries in each of the seven international organizations, as calculated/ reported by the data sources and explained in the Annex. Global, regional and subregional aggregates of each of the two created indices are the simple means of the country values, thus representing the average membership share in international organizations per region and the average voting rights, respectively. The calculated Arab regional aggregates of the two indices include the data values of all Arab countries in 2017.

16.9
By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.9.1
Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Figure 5 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority (percentage)



Note: All means are weighted by the population of children aged 0 to 4 (i.e., under 5 years) using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of the following Arab countries and years: Lebanon (2009), Iraq and Morocco (2011), Comoros, Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Tunisia (2012), Algeria and Yemen (2013), Egypt, State of Palestine and Sudan (2014), Mauritania and Qatar (2015).

16.10

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.10.1

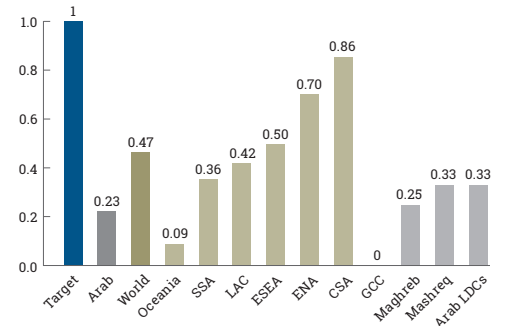
Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

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

16.10.2

Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

Figure 6 Countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information



Note: Global, regional and subregional aggregates are the simple means of the country values, representing the share of complying countries in the world or in a certain region or subregion. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of all 22 Arab countries in 2018.

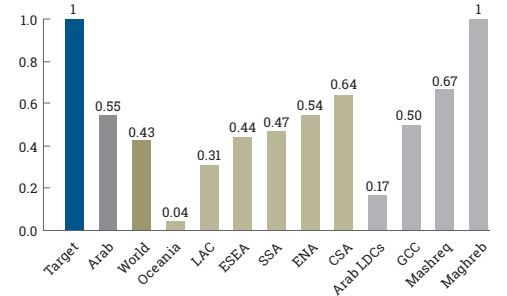
16.a

Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

16.a.1

Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

Figure 7 Countries with independent national human rights institutions in compliance (fully or partially) with the Paris Principles



Note: We created one 0 to 1 dummy variable out of the two preserved series of this indicator (please see the Annex for more information). Global, regional and subregional aggregates of the created dummy variable are the simple means of the country values, as this is a State level indicator. The aggregates thus represent the share of complying countries in the world or in a certain region or subregion. The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values of all 22 Arab countries in 2017.

16.b

Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

16.b.1

Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

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).

ENDNOTES

1. ESCWA analysis based on calculations of data from World Bank, 2018.
2. Analysis by ESCWA based on data from ACLED, 2019.
3. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 2.
4. WHO, 2013.
5. UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States and North Africa, 2018.
6. ESCWA, 2017.
7. Based on data from UNODC, 2017.
8. For further details, please refer to country profile graphs complementing this report.
9. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 3.
10. Ibid., figure 1.
11. Ibid., figure 4.
12. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018; UNHCR, 2018; UNRWA, 2018.
13. The State of Palestine is not included in the calculation. ESCWA calculations based on the UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset available at <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/index.html#battlerelated>. Pettersson, Therese, Stina Högladh, and Magnus Öberg, 2019.
14. Wezeman and others, 2019 and ESCWA calculations based on SIPRI, 2019.
15. ESCWA calculations based on GDP data of the World Bank and SIPRI, 2018.
16. According to the methodology used in this report.
17. Praia City Group on Governance Statistics, 2019.
18. ESCWA analysis based on calculations using data from World Bank, 2018.
19. Ibid. See also Amnesty International, 2018.
20. See, for example, Amnesty International, 2018; OHCHR, 2017.
21. UNODC and the League of Arab States, 2016.
22. CIVICUS, 2019.
23. ANND, 2018.
24. OHCHR, 2019.
25. Based on data from Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2019. The regional country grouping per the Inter-Parliamentary Union definition is available at <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/new-groups.pdf>.
26. Shuqeir, 2018.
27. Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019.
28. Wezeman and others, 2019 and ESCWA calculations based on SIPRI, 2019.
29. Calculated by ESCWA based on OCHA, 2018b.
30. Calculated by ESCWA based on OCHA, 2018a .
31. Calculated by ESCWA based on OCHA, 2018c.
32. ESCWA, 2017.
33. ESCWA, 2018b.

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