



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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

**Series of SDG Webinars for the Arab Region:**

**ILO**

**SDG 5.5.2, 8.5.2, 8.b.1 and 10.7.1**

**22 June 2022**

### **Summary**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), in collaboration with ILO organized a series of webinars on selected SDG indicators that are less produced in the Arab region to create a common understanding among data producers on how to collect, measure and disseminate SDG indicators to increase data production and enhance national data flow to policymakers, other users, and custodian agencies.

The webinar, as part of the second wave of the series of SDG webinars, aims to create a common understanding among data producers on how to collect, measure, and disseminate SDG indicators to increase data production and enhance national data flow to policymakers, other users, and custodian agencies. The training encouraged interactive dialogue, sharing of national experiences in collecting SDG indicators including challenges, queries, and concerns.

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), in collaboration with ILO organized a series of webinars on selected SDG indicators that are less produced in the Arab region, on 22 June 2022— on Zoom platform, as part of the second wave of series of SDG webinars. The webinar is in response to the resolution (A/RES/70/1) on the adoption of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development in September 2015 to strengthen the capacity of national data systems through collaboration between national statistical systems and the relevant international and regional organizations to enhance data reporting channels and ensure the harmonization and consistency of data and statistics for the indicators used to follow up and review the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. It also responds to Member States' request to the 14th Statistical Committee for ESCWA to organize capacity-building webinars emphasizing the methodology, method of computation, and data collection tools of selected SDG indicators.
2. The webinar was attended by 52 representatives from 14 countries namely: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.
3. The main objectives of the webinars are to enhance understanding of metadata and nature of data in the UNSD SDG database, improve statistical capacities to invigorate production and use of comparable SDG indicators, strengthen inter-institutional coordination to invigorate production of SDG indicators and data flow and share and discussing country challenges in measuring SDG indicators.
4. The Workshop agenda covered the following items:
  - SDG indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions
  - SDG indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
  - SDG indicator 8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy
  - SDG indicator 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination
5. Even though SDG indicator 5.5.2 does not reflect differences in the levels of responsibility of women in high- and middle-level positions or the characteristics of the enterprises and organizations in which they are employed, it still provides information on the proportion

of women who are employed in decision-making and management roles in government, large enterprises and institutions, thus providing some insight into women's power in decision-making and, in the economy, (especially compared to men's power in those areas). To compute this indicator, it is recommended to use two measures jointly: the share of females in (total) management and the share of females in senior and middle management. The recommended source for this indicator is a labour force survey or, if not available, other similar types of household surveys, including a module on employment. Among the 19 Arab Countries reporting on the share of women in total management, only nine of them have reported on the share of women in senior and middle management positions.

6. For the purpose of SDG indicator 8.5.2:

- unemployed persons are defined as all those of working age (usually aged 15 and above) who were not in employment, carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period, and were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity
- Persons in employment are defined as all those of working age (usually aged 15 and above) who, during a short reference period such as one week or one day, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit.
- The labour force corresponds to the sum of persons in employment and in unemployment.

The preferred official national data source for this indicator is a household-based labour force survey. In the absence of a labour force survey, a population census and/or another type of household surveys with an appropriate employment module may also be used to obtain the required data. It is important to note that unemployment data can be derived from administrative records (such as employment office records or unemployment insurance records) but they refer to registered unemployment and are not comparable to the three-criteria-unemployment. Among the 22 Arab countries reporting on this indicator, only eight of them have reported data disaggregated by disability status.

7. The purpose of SDG indicator 8.b.1 is to provide an indication of the progress of countries in addressing youth employment issues through integrated strategies, based on policies, programs, and labor legislation – and not on labor market statistics. This indicator is collected through the ILO survey on National Strategies for Youth Employment. It is distributed primarily to national Ministers of Labour/Employment that can request inputs from other institutions where applicable. Its value attribution results from a qualitative assessment by ILO employment specialists of officially-adopted policies, programmes and legislation that can be youth-specific, or have provisions aimed at generating better youth

employment outcomes. Countries are categorized into one of four groups: "0" indicates that no strategy for youth employment has been developed; "1" indicates that a strategy is being developed; "2" indicates that a strategy has been developed and has been officially adopted, and "3" indicates that the strategy is being operationalized. Out of the 20 ESCWA Member States, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen have reported on this indicator for the 2020 reporting, and Egypt, Tunisia and Somalia for the 2022 reporting. Only 3 Arab nations that reported on this indicator have an operationalized strategy for youth employment.

8. SDG indicator 10.7.1 is defined as the ratio between the recruitment cost borne by international migrants who, in a recent past period, changed their country of usual residence in order to work as employees and the monthly income earned in country of destination. Recruitment costs refer to any fees or costs incurred in the recruitment process in order for workers to secure employment or placement, regardless of the manner, timing, or location of their imposition or collection. These are equal to travel preparations, agency or broker fees, travel from origin country to destination country, and other fees. The calculation of this indicator should refer only to the first job obtained in the last migration spell to the last destination country within a recent past period covering the last 12 months, three or five years. The most appropriate surveys to include measurement of SDG 10.7.1 include household-based surveys designed to capture the target population, such as a dedicated migration survey, if these exist in the country, as well as national large-scale household surveys covering closely related topics, particularly employment and/or earnings (such as a labour force survey, household income and expenditure survey, or multi-purpose surveys that include questions on employment and migration). Data collected through household surveys could be complemented with establishment surveys for destination countries, and administrative records, but these sources generally only capture partial information needed for monitoring purposes.
9. The following recommendations and the way forward were reached to shape future work and plan for upcoming webinars:
  - Countries are encouraged to increase the availability of internationally comparable data on people with disability in the labour market.
  - Countries are encouraged to use Washington Group questions in surveys and censuses to collect data on disability.
  - Countries are encouraged to strengthen statistical capacity to measure disability, including administrative data collection.
  - Countries are encouraged to improve coordination between national and international agencies in the area of disability statistics.

- National Statistics Offices are invited to assist ILO with the distribution of SDG indicator 8.b.1 questionnaire to Ministry of Labour/Ministry of Employment and other relevant national institutions and to follow up when needed to ensure its submission.
- National Statistics Offices are invited to follow up with national institutions to ensure the completion of the questionnaire and its submission to the ILO.
- National Statistics Offices are invited to liaise with the ILO for questions or clarification requests from national institutions.
- National Statistics Offices are invited to ensure that their country information will be properly and timely captured to inform progress of the SDG Agenda 2030.
- Countries are encouraged to include the questions of SDG indicator 10.7.1 in their ongoing household surveys covering international migrants.
- ESCWA and ILO to organize in depth training on methodology if needed.

10. Workshop Evaluation: Among 52 participants, 19 participants provided their feedback. Overall, 53% of the participants rated the workshop excellent, and 47% good. Participants were asked if the workshop objectives were met, 58% of the participants gave an excellent rating and 42% gave a good rating. In terms of presenters' inputs, 53% of respondents rated the presentations as excellent and 47% rated the presentations as good. Finally, 68% of the participants rated the logistics and organization of the workshop as excellent, and 32% as good.

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

12. Further useful resources:

- <https://ilostat.ilo.org>
- ILO Fair recruitment initiative: [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fairrecruitment/WCMS\\_536755](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fairrecruitment/WCMS_536755)
- SDG 10.7.1 Guidelines for data collection: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms\\_670175.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_670175.pdf)
- SDG 10.7.1 Operational manual: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms\\_745663.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_745663.pdf)

### 13. Group photo

