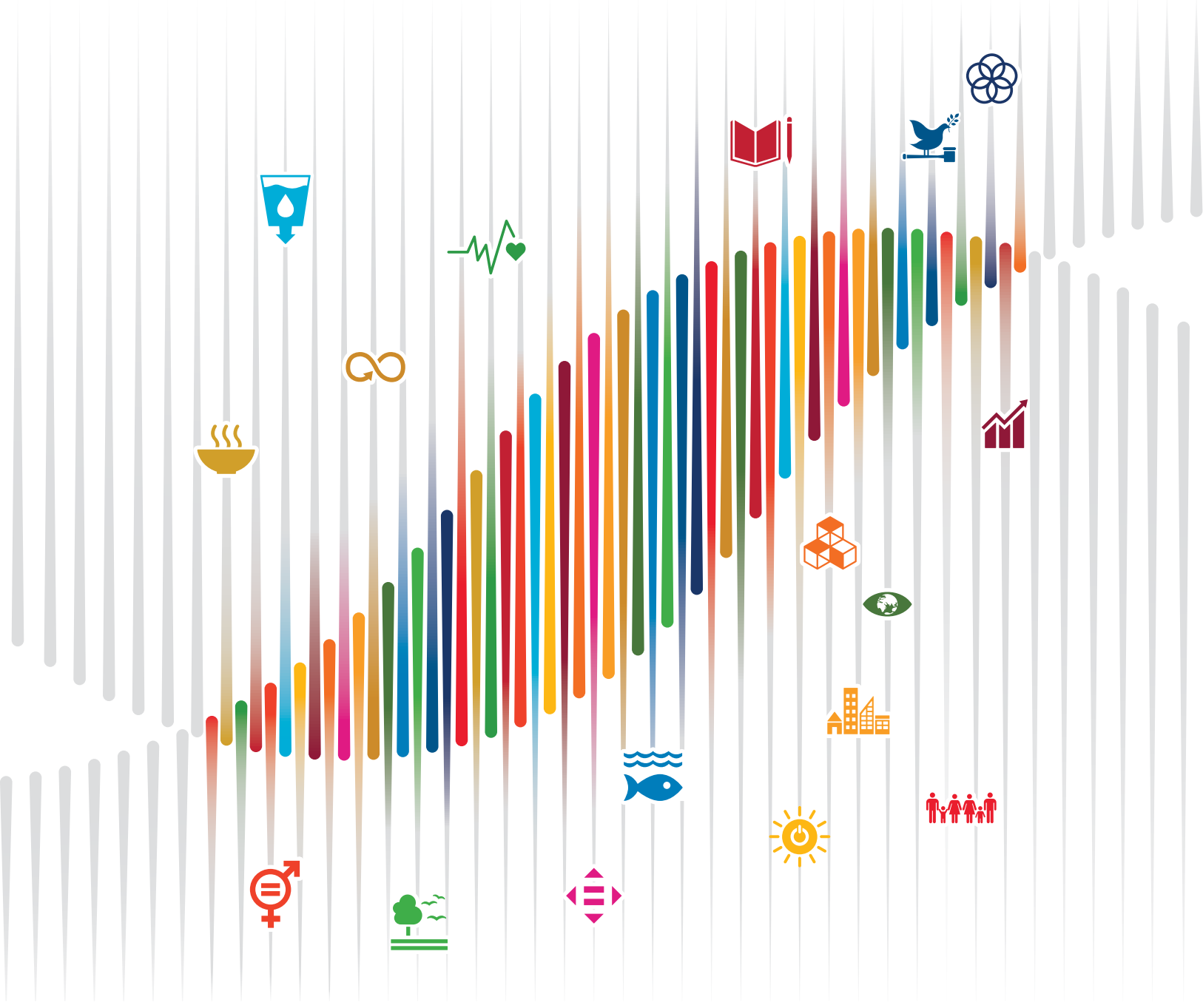


Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region in 2025

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MISSION

Committed to the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA's passionate team produces innovative knowledge, fosters regional consensus and delivers transformational policy advice. Together, we work for a sustainable future for all.

E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2025/TP.4

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region in 2025

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Beirut

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Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global blueprint for achieving a more equitable and sustainable future. Planning and implementing effective policies in the Arab region, which has been characterized by instability and conflict for the past two decades, is more challenging than ever.

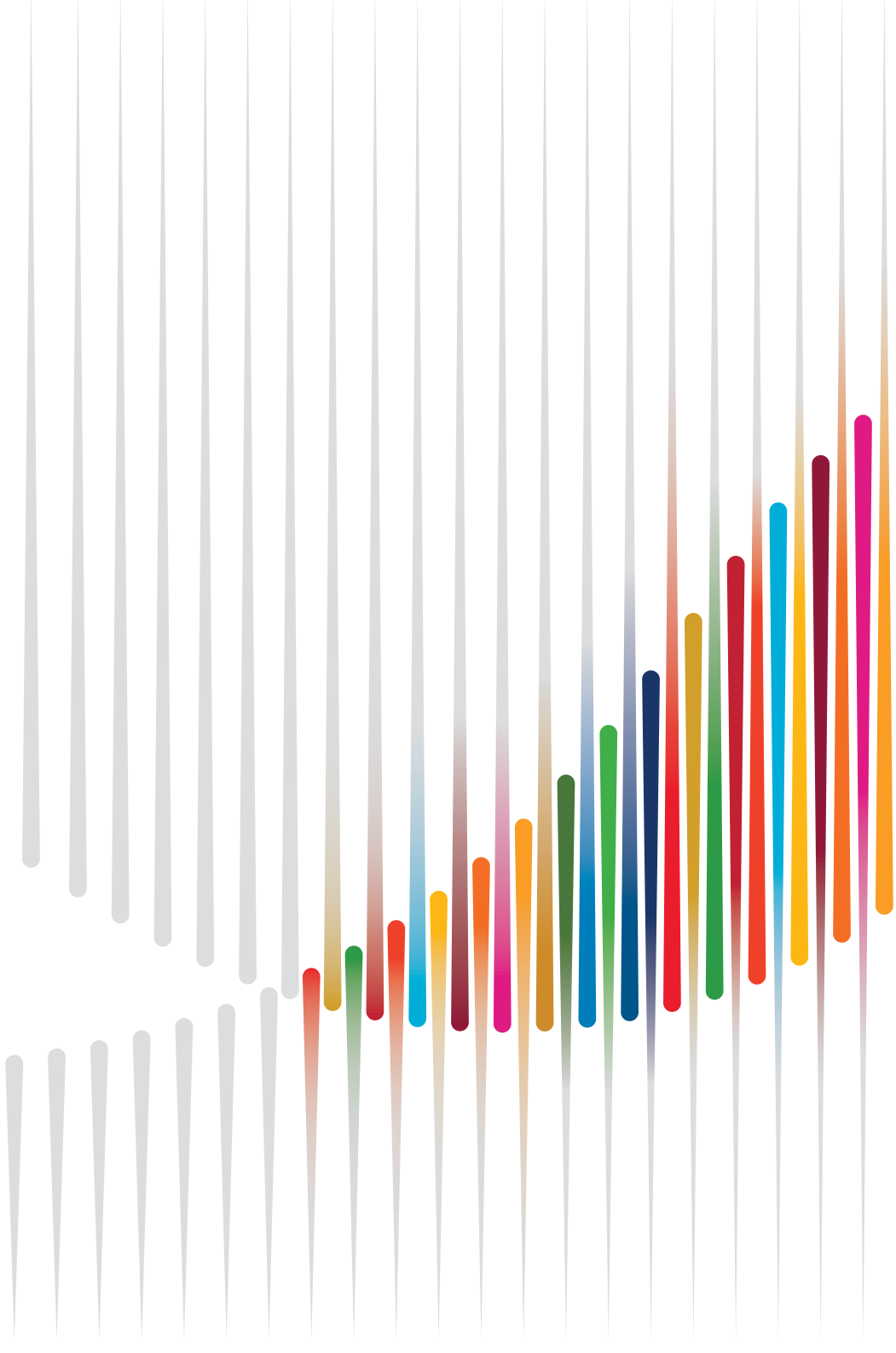
This report shines a spotlight on the challenges on the road to achieving the SDGs. It provides information on the region's progress in each of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets and associated indicators. It also draws an overview, broken down by SDG, to reflect the region's progress in terms of goals, targets and indicators. As well as marking progress in certain areas, the report also points out immediate priorities where collective efforts are urgently needed if the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda are to be met.

Despite notable advancements in areas such as good health and well-being (SDG 3) and clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), the region faces significant hurdles, particularly in addressing poverty (SDG 1), inequality (SDG 10) and climate action (SDG 13). Political instability, economic disparity and resource scarcity hinder progress.

The report highlights key achievements, gaps and strategies for accelerating SDG implementation. It underscores the need for robust data collection, policy alignment and cross-sector partnerships to ensure a transformative impact across all 17 SDGs. It serves as a resource for all stakeholders involved in prioritization, planning, implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region.

In the future, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in collaboration with all partners and stakeholders, will continue to strengthen the capacities of Arab countries to bridge the data gap and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Notwithstanding the challenges in the region, there are numerous opportunities for promoting sustainable development in the region.

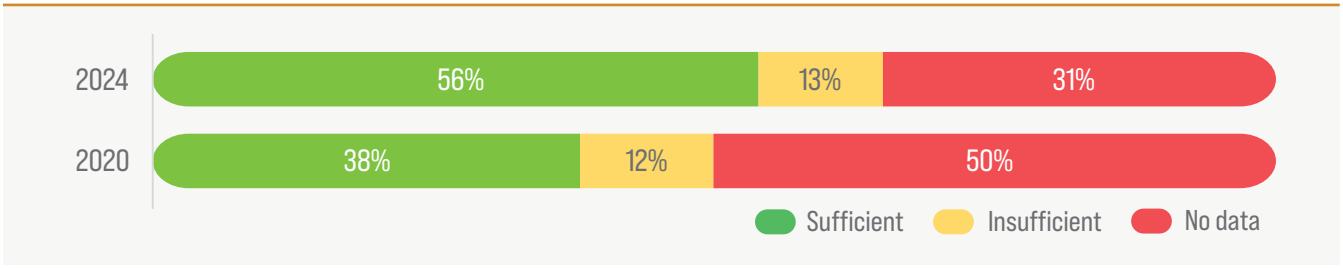




1

Data availability and progress assessment

Figure 1. Data availability for SDG indicators in the Arab region



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/data-availabilty/index.html?o=1 (accessed in March 2025).

Data availability

Robust and comprehensive data for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators are essential for driving sustainable development in the Arab region. Nevertheless, persistent challenges such as fragmented statistical systems, limited capacity of national statistical offices and geopolitical instability continue to hinder progress. Addressing these gaps is critical to ensuring informed decision-making, equitable resource allocation and measurable advancements towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

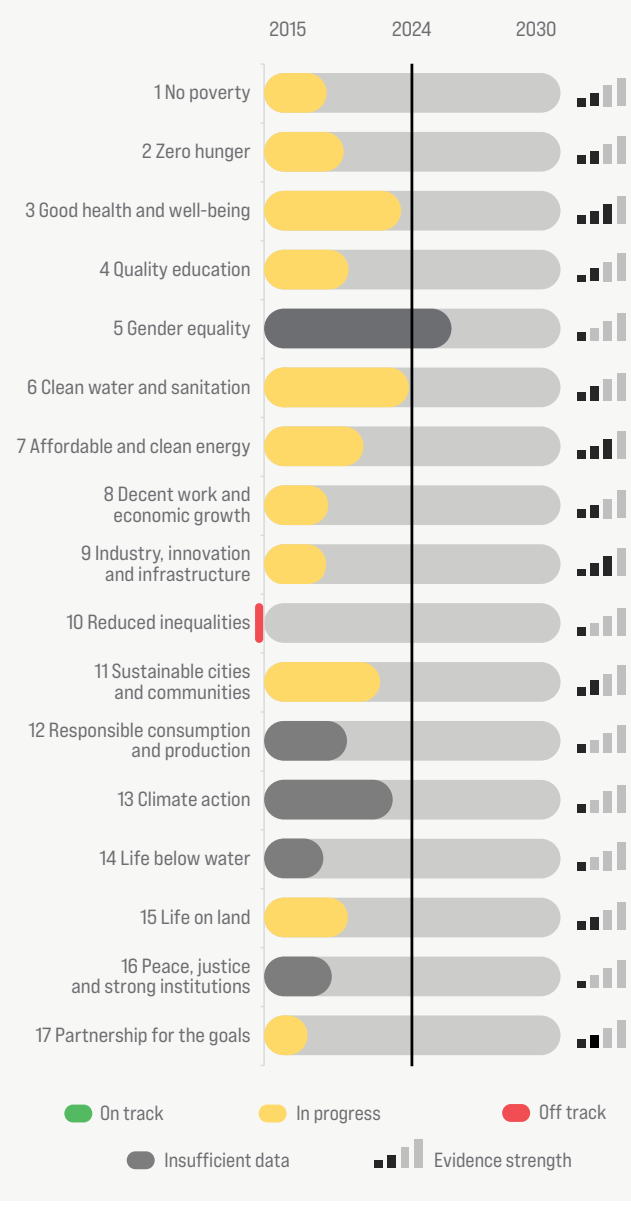
Progress assessment at the level of each Sustainable Development Goal

The Arab region has made progress in implementing the SDGs after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, but that progress has been uneven as a result of socioeconomic, political and environmental factors. This quantitative assessment is based on available data and evaluates the progress made in the achievement of the SDGs, highlighting positive developments but also persisting gaps and emerging challenges. These results emphasize the need for accelerated action, collaboration and innovative solutions to ensure sustainable and inclusive development, and to inform future strategies considering individual countries' contexts and needs.

Uneven progress across the different SDG targets is a common feature in high-income Arab countries. For some SDGs, encouraging trends are visible. For others, considerable challenges are evident. The high-income Arab countries have made substantial progress in five SDGs, and are on track to achieve the associated targets. The most apparent of these are SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). However, a lack of data hampers progress in six of the SDGs. The most affected SDG in this respect is SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities).

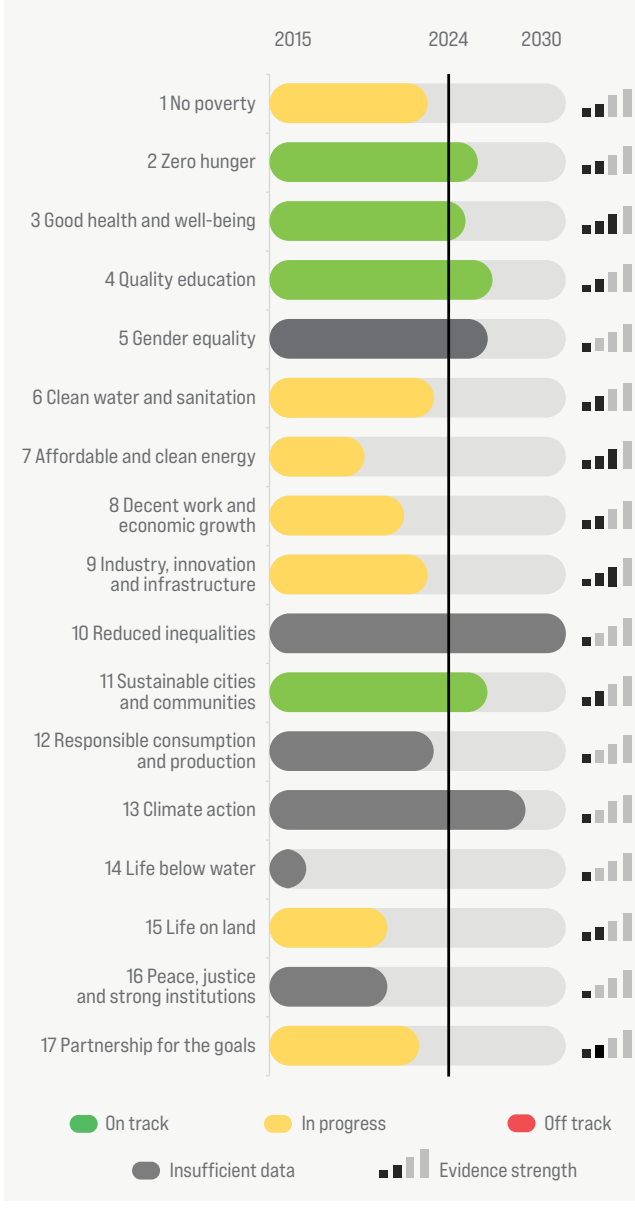


Figure 2. Progress of Goals towards the 2023 threshold level and the 2030 target



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/data-availabilty/index.html?o=1 (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 3. Progress towards the 2030 target in high-income Arab countries, by Sustainable Development Goal

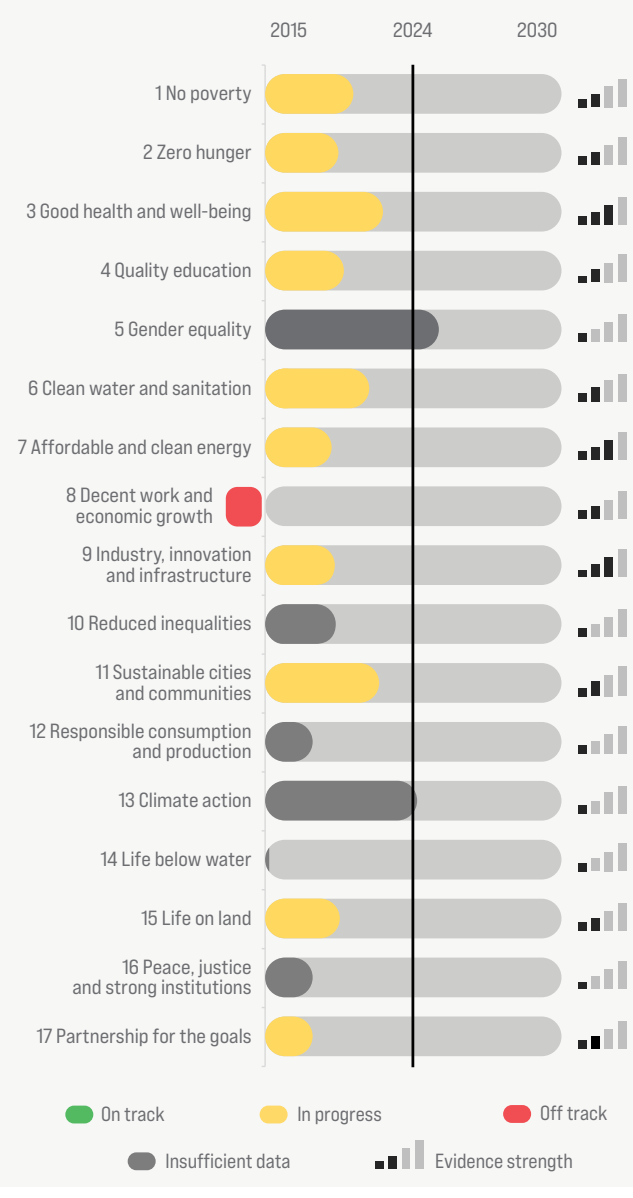


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Across the middle-income Arab countries, the 2030 targets are not on track to being met for a single SDG, progress towards achieving SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) being "off track". For six SDGs, there is a lack of sufficient data. This suggests an urgent need to make investments in data and information infrastructure to provide evidence for more targeted interventions and to measure progress for improved evidence-based policymaking.

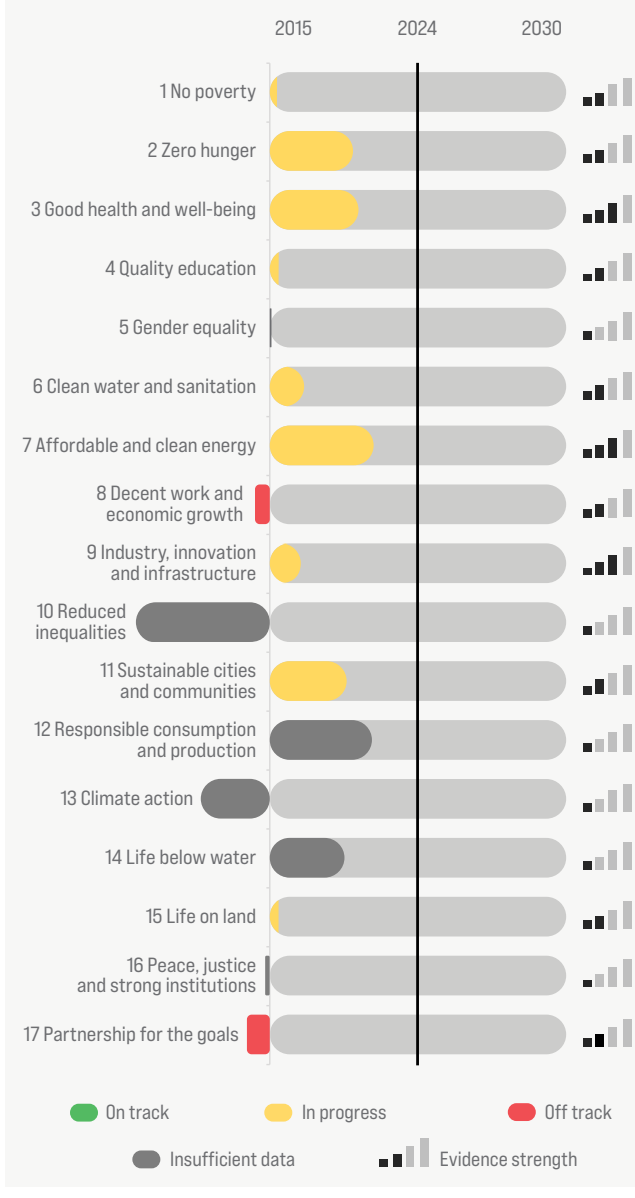
In low-income Arab countries, one of the most important SDGs (SDG 17) is not on track to being achieved. SDG 17 is instrumental as it is aimed at enabling the overall success of the SDGs. While many SDGs are related, SDG 17 is the one most closely linked to every single SDG's chance of success.

Figure 4. Progress towards the 2030 target in middle-income Arab countries, by Sustainable Development Goal



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 5. Progress towards achieving the 2030 target in the low-income Arab countries, by Sustainable Development Goal



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

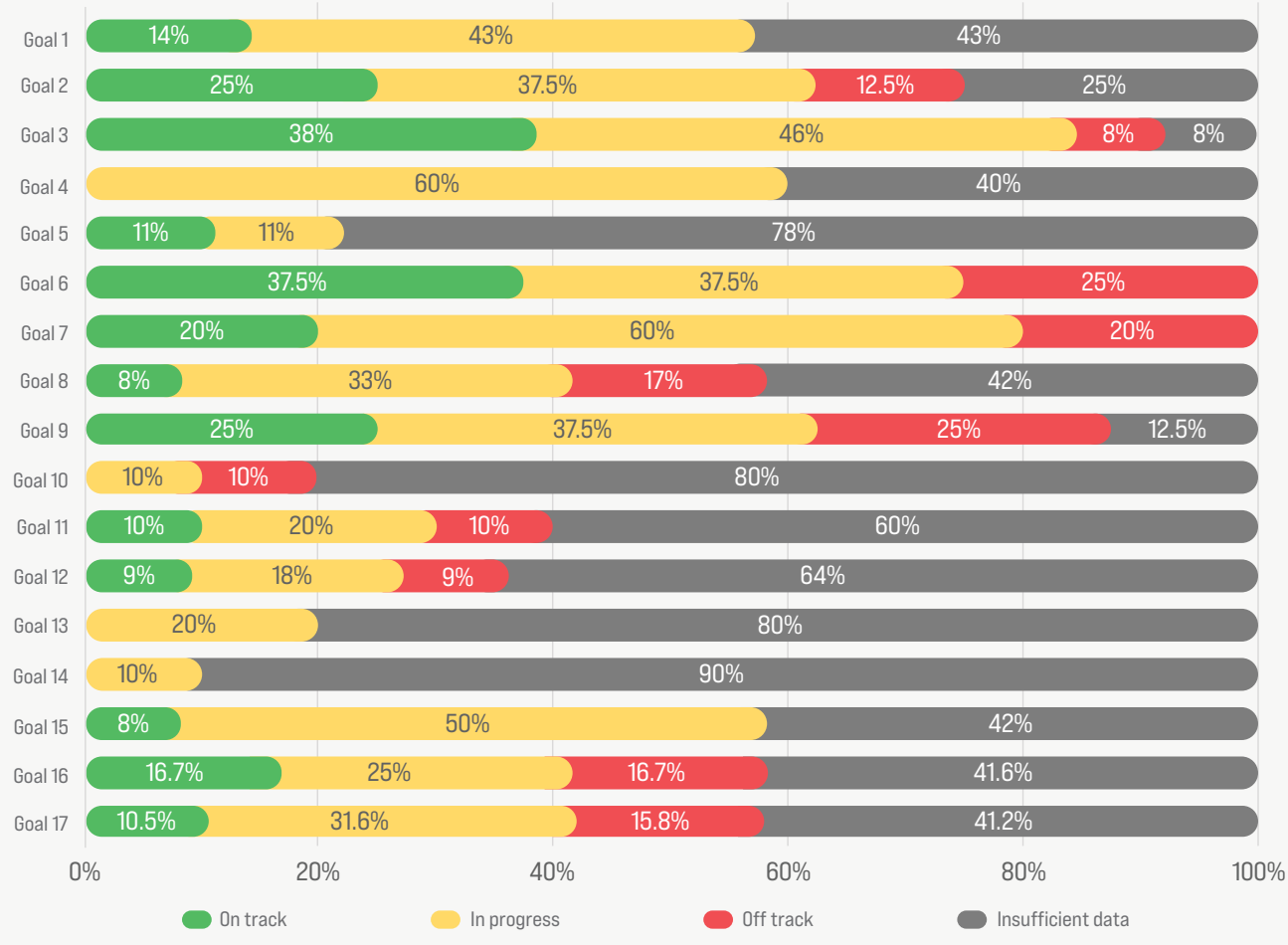
Progress at target level

In the Arab region progress across the different SDG targets is generally uneven. For some targets, encouraging progress has been made. For others, considerable challenges remain. Prioritizing data collection and addressing areas where further efforts are most necessary can help accelerate global efforts toward these targets.

Figure 6 shows the distribution of the progress of targets per goal in the Arab region towards the 2030 Agenda.

- **SDGs with the highest percentage of targets "on track"**:
  - SDG 3 (38 per cent) and
  - SDG 6 (38 per cent).

Figure 6. Distribution of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at target level



Source: ESCWA calculation from Arab SDG Monitor https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/data-availabilty/index.html?o=1 (accessed March 2025).

- **SDGs with highest percentage of targets "in progress":**
  - SDG 3 (46 per cent),
  - SDG 7 (60 per cent) and
  - SDG 4 (60 per cent).

- **SDGs with the highest percentage of targets "off track":**
  - SDG 9 (25 per cent),
  - SDG 8 (17 per cent) and
  - SDG 16 (17 per cent).

- **SDGs with the highest percentage of targets with insufficient data:**
  - SDG 5 (78 per cent),
  - SDG 10 (80 per cent),
  - SDG 12 (64 per cent),
  - SDG 13 (80 per cent) and
  - SDG 14 (90 per cent).

Figure 7 provides a snapshot of progress towards achieving the targets behind the SDGs. Targets which are on track to being met are marked in green, those in progress in yellow and those for which progress is not on track in red. Those targets for which insufficient data is available are marked in grey.

Figure 7. Snapshot of progress in SDG targets



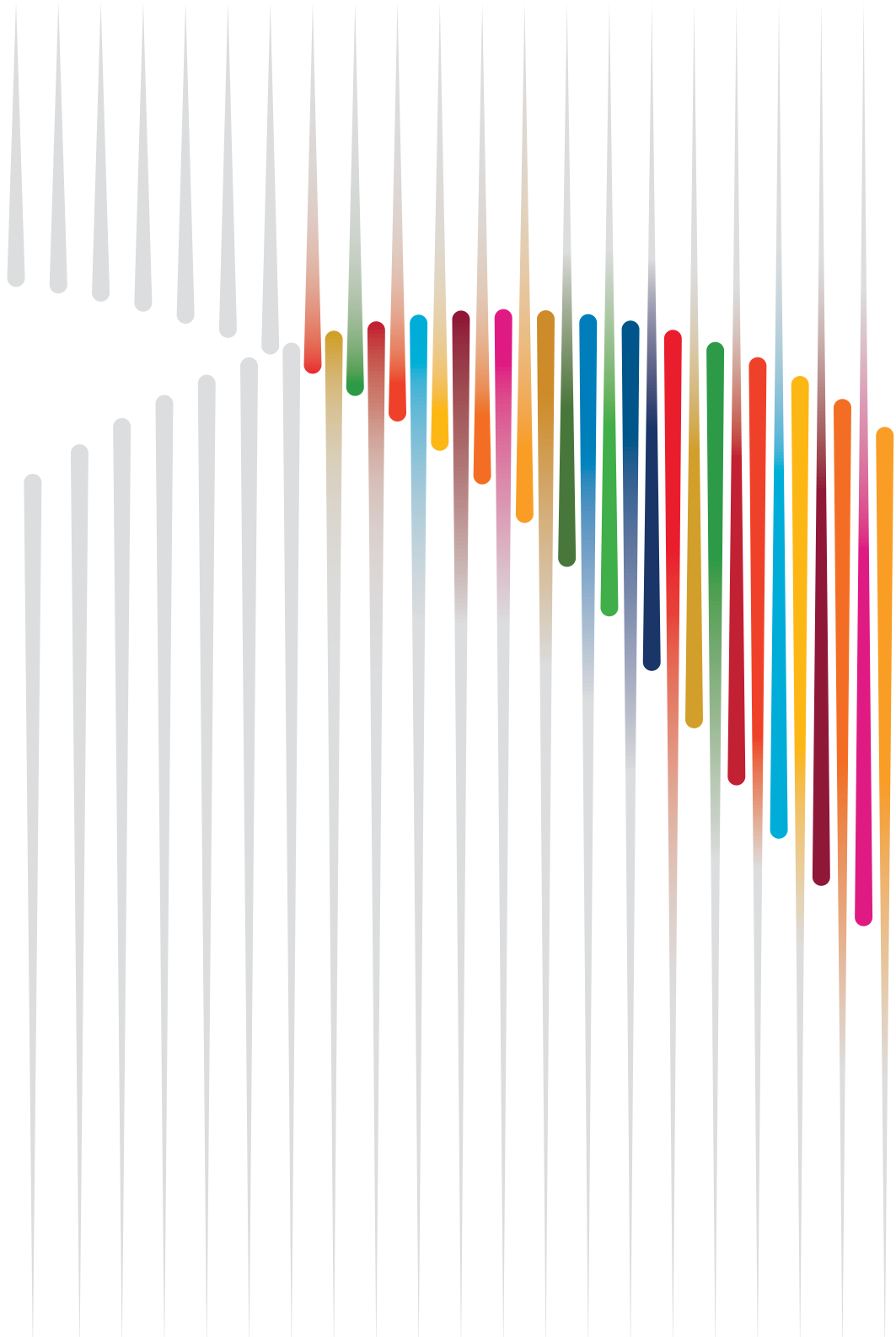
Source: Arab SDG Monitor, available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/data-availabilty/index.html?o=1 (accessed March 2025).

Data, monitoring and accountability

The Arab countries increasingly recognize the importance of modernizing national laws on official statistics. This recognition is reflected in the "Doha Declaration on Modernization of Official Statistics"[1] and developed in the "Guide to the Generic Law of Official Statistics in the Arab Countries".[2] In addition, Arab countries are increasingly using Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as an opportunity to broaden the scope of data collection and enhance data quality.

Key observations:

- Ten Arab countries do not have up-to-date laws in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics. They lack steering councils for statistics users, technical committees of active data producers and national strategies for statistics.[3] **Modernization of statistical legislation is of a high priority.**
- Nationally nominated trained data providers directly report most SDG indicators to United Nations custodian entities, but data is not always available at national statistical offices. **Coordination at national level is key to boosting data quality at national level.**
- Most countries have launched initiatives and measures to improve data collection, analysis and dissemination, recognizing the importance of producing high-quality, timely data to monitor progress on the SDGs and inform evidence-based decision-making. **Initiatives to strengthen data culture with links to the SDGs are key to boosting data for development.**
- Some Arab countries have launched policies and measures to upgrade conventional approaches to data collection by national statistical offices, including with innovative technologies and tools such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, satellite imagery and machine learning techniques. **Investment in tools to provide user-tailored data is key to building mutually beneficial partnerships with user communities**.[4]



2

SDGs: indicators and data analysis

Goal 1 – No poverty

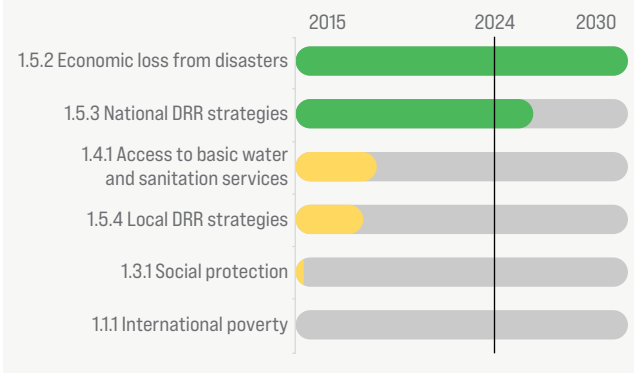
End poverty in all its forms

The Arab region is not on track to eradicate poverty by 2030, as poverty has worsened over the past decade as a result of political instability and economic crises. Since 2019, an additional 29 million people are living on less than $2.15 per day (the international extreme poverty line defined under SDG target 1.1).[5] This threshold was updated in 2022 from $1.90 to $2.15 per day.

Figures at a glance

- In 2022, approximately 10.2 per cent of the population in the Arab region was living below the international poverty line of $2.15 per day. This figure represents a significant rise compared to 2015 (5.9 per cent) and 2005 (5.1 per cent). This upwards trend flies in the face of global poverty reduction efforts and is primarily attributed to the severe economic and social impacts of prolonged conflicts in the region.
- Between 2010 and 2024, the proportion of the employed population living below the international poverty line has more than doubled from 3.4 to 7.7 per cent. This increase has been sharpest in the Arab low-income countries, where the figure rose per cent from 14.7 per cent to 39 per cent in that period.
- The proportion of workers in the Arab region considered to be in vulnerable employment has slowly declined since 2010, falling from 27.4 to 25.8 per cent by 2022. Female workers (28 per cent) and rural workers (37.6 per cent) are considerably more likely to be in vulnerable employment than the population at large.
- With only 32.5 per cent of the population covered by at least one social protection programme in 2023, the Arab region was far from realizing the right to social protection. Contingencies with the highest rates of coverage for eligible people include work injury (38.4 per cent), old-age pensions (45.5 per cent) and social protection benefit (32.5 per cent). The least covered contingencies were unemployment (2.1 per cent), disability (16.7 per cent) and maternity cash benefits (8.5 per cent).
- There are noticeable differences in the rates of access to essential amenities such as power, water and sanitation across Arab countries. Although over 89 per cent of the region had access to basic drinking water services in 2022, this percentage was 68.4 per cent in low-income Arab countries.

Figure 8. Progress in SDG 1 indicators

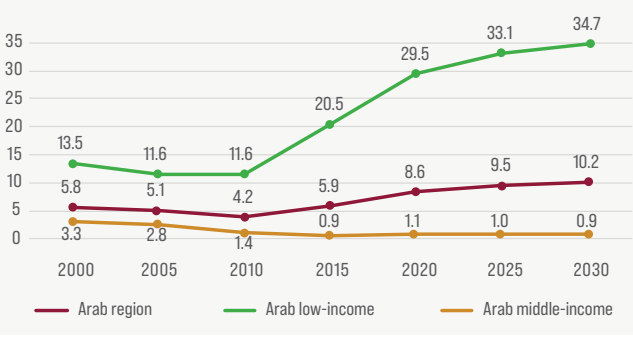


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Selected SDG 1 indicators:

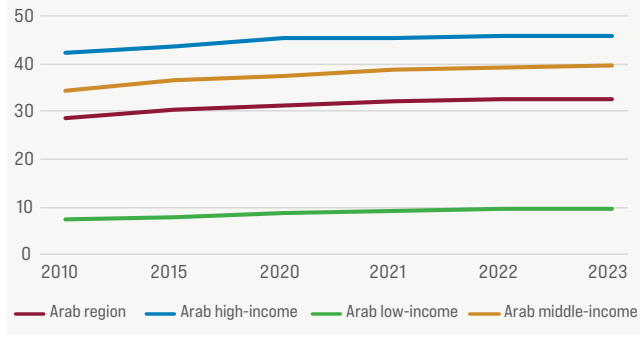
- 1.1.1 Employed population below international poverty line (2024): 7.7 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 6.9 per cent (world).
- 1.1.1 Proportion of population below international poverty line (2022): 10.2 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 9.0 per cent (world).
- 1.3.1 Proportion of the population with severe disabilities receiving cash disability benefit (2023): 16.7 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 38.9 per cent (world).
- 1.4x Employment in agriculture (per cent of total employment) (2022): 16 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 26.4 per cent (world).
- 1.4.1 Proportion of population using basic drinking water services (2022): 89.1 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 91.2 per cent (world).
- 1.4.1 Proportion of population using basic sanitation services (2022): 89.1 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 80.8 per cent (world).

Figure 9. 1.1.1: Proportion of population below international poverty line (Percentage)



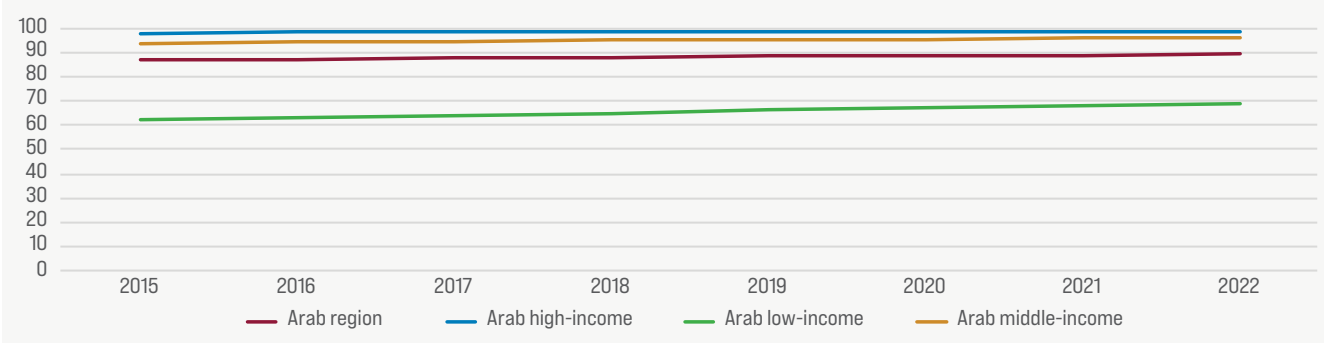
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 10. 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 11. 1.4.1: Proportion of population using basic drinking water services (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).



Goal 2 – Zero hunger

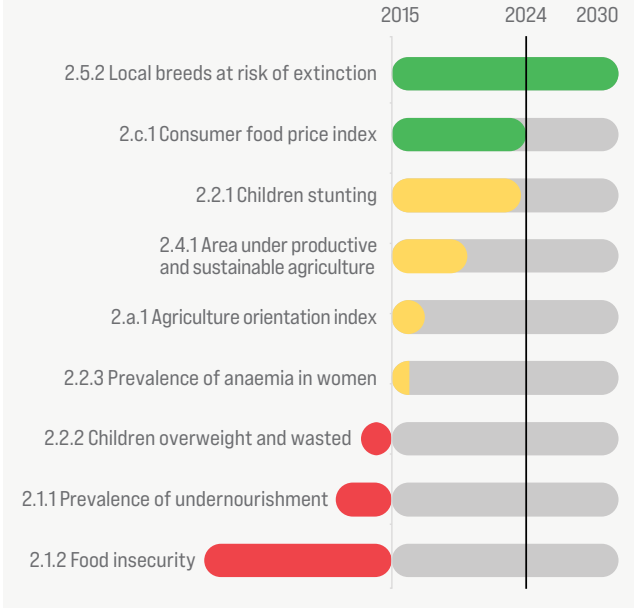
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The Arab region is falling short of achieving SDG 2, facing significant challenges such as food insecurity, undernourishment, childhood obesity and inadequate agricultural investment. Poverty, conflict and climate change, among other factors, worsen these issues, affecting vulnerable groups, especially women and children. Existing food security strategies have failed to protect against overlapping crises and global shocks, highlighting the urgent need to develop resilient food systems using national and regional resources.

Figures at a glance

- Undernourishment is chronic in the Arab low-and middle-income countries, with rates stagnating at high levels. The prevalence of undernourishment in 2023 was 31.1 and 9 per cent for these country groups respectively, compared to 14 per cent for the region.
- 2010 marked a turning point for Arab high-income countries, with a steady decline in undernourishment to 2.5 per cent in 2023. In Arab middle-income countries, the opposite occurred, and undernourishment reached 9 per cent in 2023.
- In 2023, more than one third of the Arab population experienced moderate or severe food insecurity (39.4 per cent). In conflict-affected countries, prevalence increased from 48 per cent in 2015 to 58 per cent in 2023, almost double the global average of 28.9 per cent.
- Arab low-income countries are the most affected by food insecurity. On average, 44 per cent of the population of those countries was food-insecure in 2019, with no improvement since 2015.
- Stunting among children has declined across the region, but remains high in the least developed and conflict-affected countries. More than half of the region's 10.5 million stunted children reside in the least developed countries, where the prevalence of stunting was 31.2 per cent in 2022.
- Obesity among children is on the rise. In 2022, the prevalence of obesity among children under age 5 reached 9.5 per cent, up from 8.8 per cent in 2000. The rate is presently 1.7 times the global average.

Figure 12. Progress in SDG 2 indicators

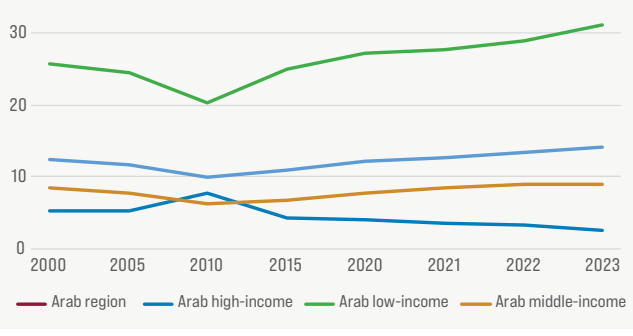


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Selected SDG 2 indicators:

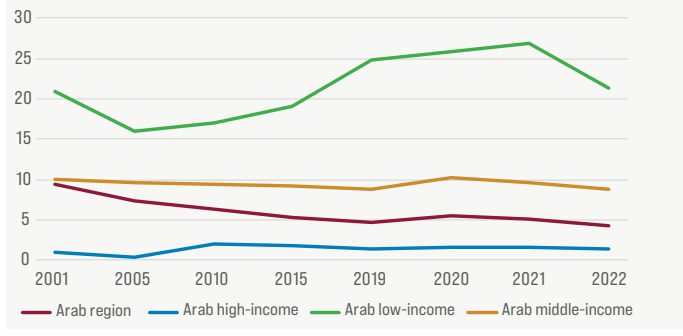
- 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment in the population (2023): 14 per cent.
- 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (2023): 39.4 per cent.
- 2.2.1 Proportion of children moderately or severely stunted (2022): 19.9 per cent.
- 2.2.2 Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight (2022): 9.5 per cent.
- 2.2.2 Proportion of children exhibiting moderate or severe signs of wasting (2022): 7.1 per cent.
- 2.2.3 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years with anaemia (2019): 33.2 per cent.

Figure 13. 2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 14. 2.a.1: Agriculture value added share of GDP (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 3 – Good health and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Arab region shows notable progress on SDG 3,[6] with improvements in maternal and infant mortality, tuberculosis incidence, and vaccine access. However, significant challenges remain in achieving universal healthcare coverage, sexual and reproductive health and healthcare affordability.

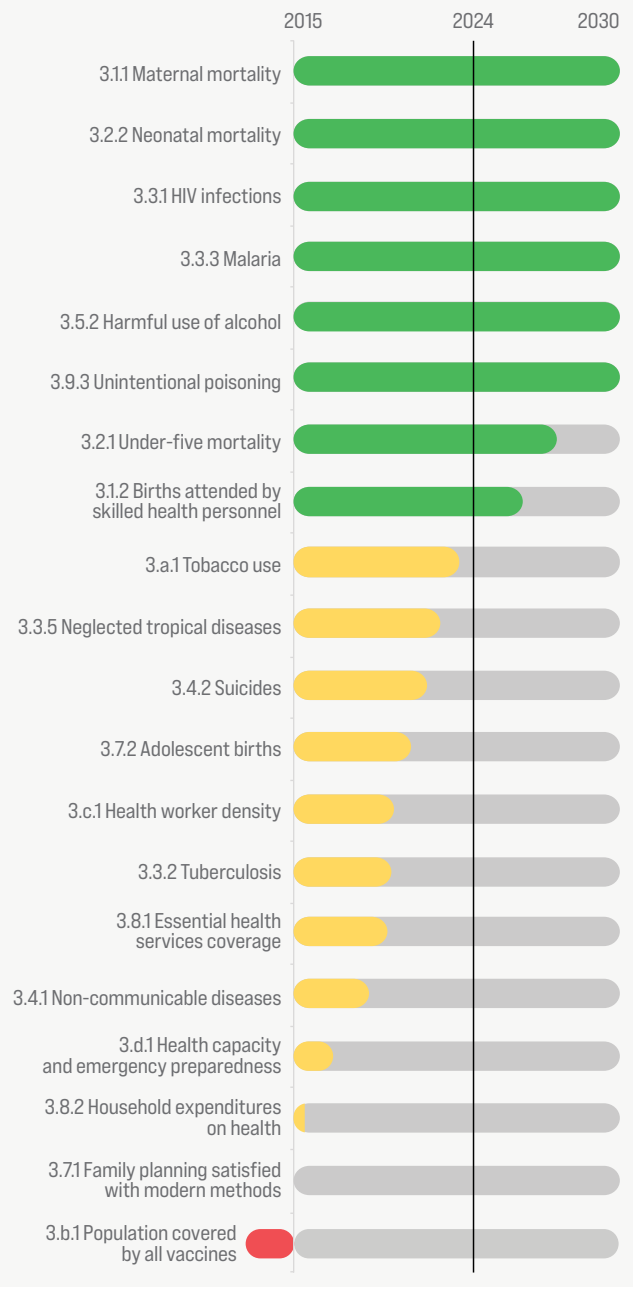
Non-communicable diseases are rising, while health inequalities persist, linked to gender, geography, education, poverty and migration. Protracted conflicts and displacement are straining healthcare systems, exacerbating issues such as mental health, reproductive care, nutrition and long-term injuries, particularly among women and girls.

Figures at a glance

- The Arab region has reduced maternal mortality, but the current ratio remains high, roughly double the global target of less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

  This issue is particularly challenging in the Arab low-income countries, where slightly less than one in four women gives birth without skilled health personnel.

Figure 15. Progress in SDG 3 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

- The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in Arab low-income countries has increased from 62 per cent in 2015 to 76 per cent in 2024 Arab high-income countries maintained high-quality service in this respect, with the proportion reaching 99.7 per cent in 2024.
- In the Arab region, under-5 mortality rates vary by income. For instance, under-5 mortality stands at 56.3 per 1,000 live births in lower-income groups compared to 20.1 in middle-income groups, while the regional average was 31.8 per 1,000 live births of under-5 children in 2023. Neonatal and under-5 mortality rates have declined in the region, to 15.5 and 31.8 per 1,000 live births respectively in 2023. However, rates remain higher than global targets.
- The region is far from achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning. The proportion of women of reproductive age who have their family planning needs satisfied with modern methods has increased (from 61.4 per cent in 2010 to 63.8 per cent in 2024) but remains below the world average (64.4 per cent).
- The adolescent birth rate is slowly decreasing in the region (43.9 per 1,000 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in 2024, down from 53.3 in 2015). However, the rate remains higher than the global average (40.7 per 1,000), notably in the low-income Arab countries (69 per 1,000).
- Progress towards universal healthcare coverage is improving at different paces, as almost two in three people (63 per cent in 2021) benefit from universal health coverage.
- Malaria incidence per 1,000 population at risk remains high in Arab low-income countries – 46.6 in 2023, compared with 18.8 in the Arab region as a whole. The global average[7] was 58.4 in 2022. Arab-high income and low-income performed very well in this indicator.

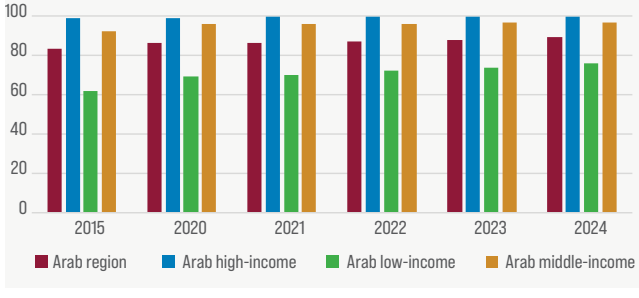
In 2019, the mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene was 27 per 100,000 people in the Arab low-income sub-region, compared to 10 per 100,000 in the Arab region, while the global average was 18.5 per 100,000.

Selected SDG 3 indicators:

- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births (2020): 139.3 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, with down of 3 per cent since 2000.

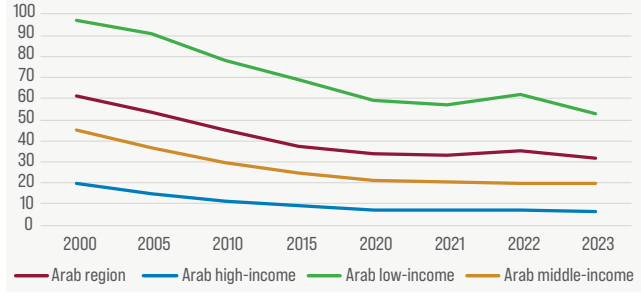
- 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (2024): 88.9 per cent.
- 3.2.1 Mortality rate, under 5 years per 1,000 live births (2023): 31.8.
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate, before reaching 28 days of age per 1,000 live births (2023): 15.5 deaths.
- 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (2023): 0.05.
- 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population at risk (2023): 18.8.
- 3.7.2 Adolescent (ages 15–19) birth rate per 1,000 women (2024): 43.9.
- 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis, human papillomavirus (2023): 3 per cent.

Figure 16. 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (Percentage)



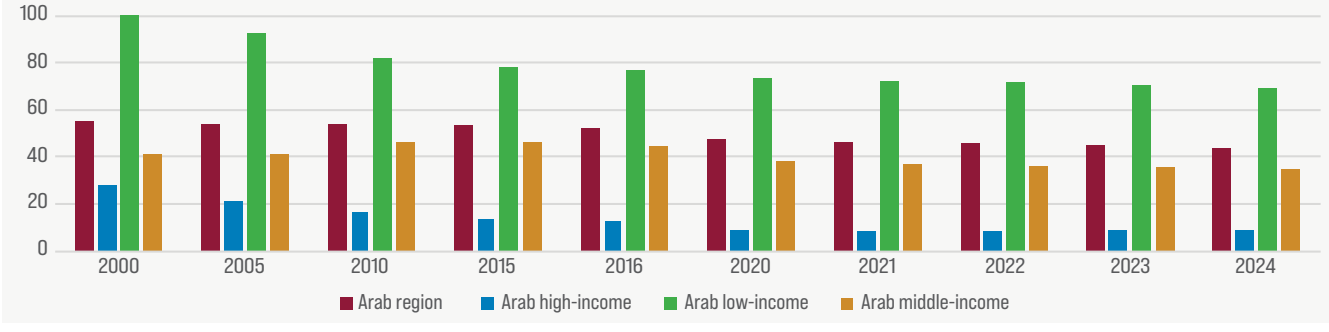
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 17. 3.2.1: Under-five mortality rate (Per 1,000 live births)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 18. 3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (Per 1,000 women aged 15–19)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 4 – Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Despite Arab countries' higher primary school completion rates, poor student competency levels persist. Gender disparities and unequal teaching standards hinder progress towards the achievement of SDG 4 and affect children from all backgrounds, including underprivileged students and rural communities.

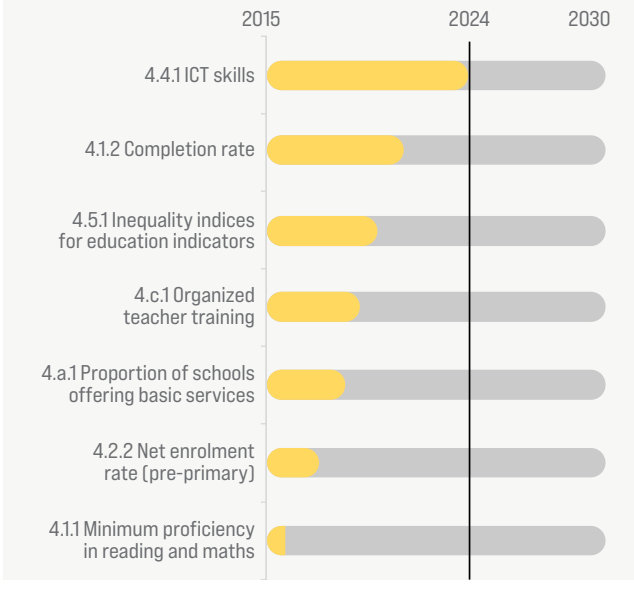
Figures at a glance

- Primary school completion rates increased from 75 per cent in 2000 to 82 per cent in 2022: 81 per cent for girls and 84 per cent for boys. Lower secondary completion rates grew from 55.2 to 67.5 per cent during the same period, although this remains well behind the global average of 76.6 per cent.
- In terms of school infrastructure, the region exceeds global averages in the number of schools with access to electricity, computers, schools, the Internet, handwashing facilities, single-sex sanitation facilities and drinking water.
- The proportion of primary teachers with required qualifications declined from 82 per cent in 2015 to 81.2 per cent in 2023. The region is now slightly behind the global average of 85.1 per cent. In contrast, the proportion of secondary teachers with the required credentials was 86.2 per cent, exceeding the global average of 84 per cent in 2023.
- Since 2000, net secondary school enrolment has increased from 51.9 to 63.5 per cent. Despite this progress, the region remains below the global average of 66.3 per cent. It still has a gender gap, with 61.3 per cent of net enrolment of girls compared to 65.6 per cent of boys.
- In 2020, 13.9 per cent of primary-school-aged children were out of school, including 15.5 per cent of girls and 12.4 per cent of boys. This figure is much higher than the global average of 8.8 per cent.

Selected SDG 4 indicators:

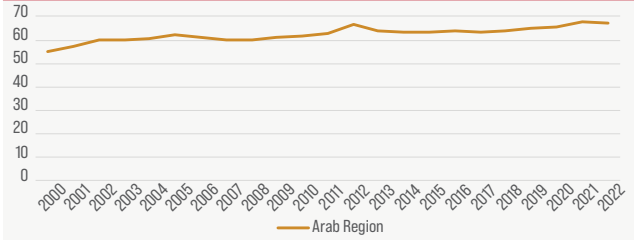
- 4.1.2 Completion rate (lower secondary education) (2022): 74.6 per cent.
- 4.2x Children out of primary school (2020): 13.9 per cent.
- 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) (2022): 42.7 per cent.
- 4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities (2023): 68.8 per cent.

Figure 19. Progress in SDG 4 indicators



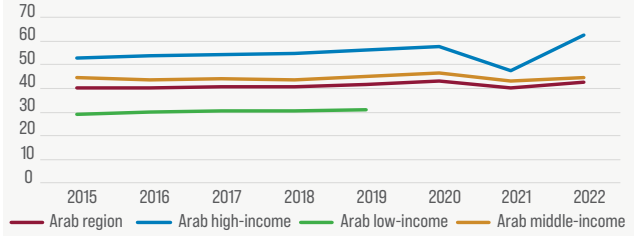
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 20. 4.1.2: Completion rate (lower secondary) (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 21. 4.2.2: Participation rate in organized learning (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 5 – Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Arab region has made progress on SDG 5, amending legislation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. However, challenges persist, including low female representation in leadership positions, legal gaps, violence against women, and disparities in access to healthcare and contraceptive use. Women also carry out a large proportion of unpaid care work, contributing to low female labour force participation and economic disparities.

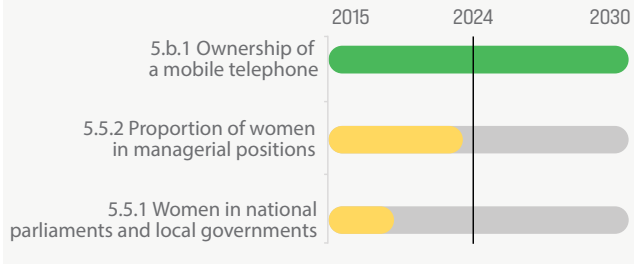
Figures at a glance

- A little over one third of women in the Arab region will likely endure intimate partner violence, with the rate significantly increasing in some settings, including conflict-affected areas.
- 16.4 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 years were married or in a union before age 18 in the Arab region in 2024, but only 3.3 per cent in high-income Arab countries.[8]
- Women held 17.7 per cent of seats in national parliaments in the region in 2024, a significant increase from 3.8 per cent in 2000 and a slight decrease from the 2015 level of 18.8 per cent. The global average is 26.9 per cent.
- Women are also underrepresented in local government, where they held 18 per cent of seats in 2024 compared to 35.5 per cent globally.
- The proportion of women in managerial positions was 16.9 per cent in 2023, a slight rise from 10.3 per cent in 2015, compared to a world average of 30 per cent.
- Increasing education levels among women in the region and amendments to labour laws have not effectively translated into greater female economic participation. The female labor participation rate was 18.3 per cent in 2023, less than half the global average of 47.9 per cent. This compares to 70.1 per cent for men. The female unemployment rate stood at 19.5 per cent in 2023, three and a half times higher than the world average of 5.8 per cent.
- A key factor influencing the low economic participation of women is unpaid care work, which is significantly unevenly distributed between women and men in the region. Women perform 80 to 90 per cent of all unpaid care tasks, spending on average 4.7 times more time on these than men.

Selected SDG 5 indicators:

- 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in local governments (2023): 19.5 per cent.

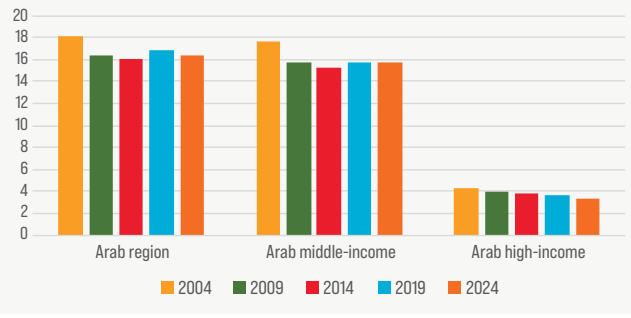
Figure 22. Progress in SDG 5 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

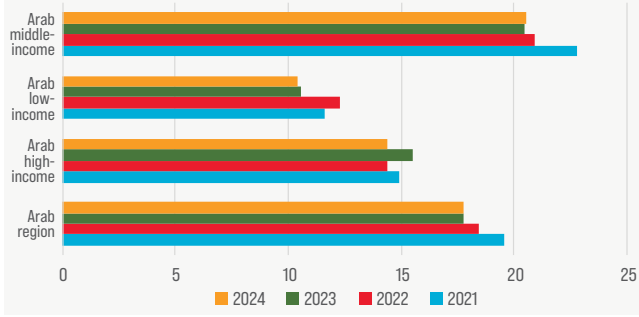
- 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions (2023): 16.9 per cent.
- 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone (2023): 82.6 per cent.
- 5.6.2 Extent to which countries have laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care (2022): 67 per cent.

Figure 23. 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 24. 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (Percentage)



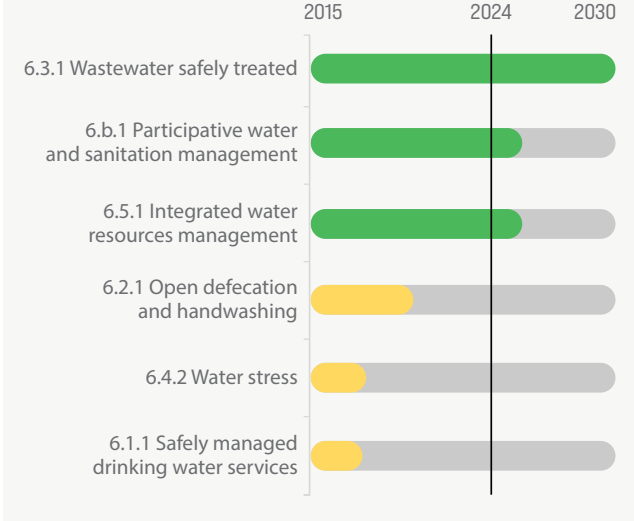
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Water scarcity poses formidable challenges to achieving water security and sustainable development in the Arab region. Progress so far on SDG 6 remains insufficient. Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are uneven both among and within countries. Furthermore, water-use efficiency has regressed, and freshwater withdrawals have risen to highly unsustainable levels. More efforts are needed to implement integrated water resource management (IWRM), including through transboundary water cooperation. The region's pursuit of SDG 6 is also challenged by climate change and a lack of adequate financing. Notably, official development assistance directed to sustainable water management has declined, underscoring the urgent need for renewed commitment and investment in WASH-related initiatives.

Figure 25. Progress in SDG 6 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

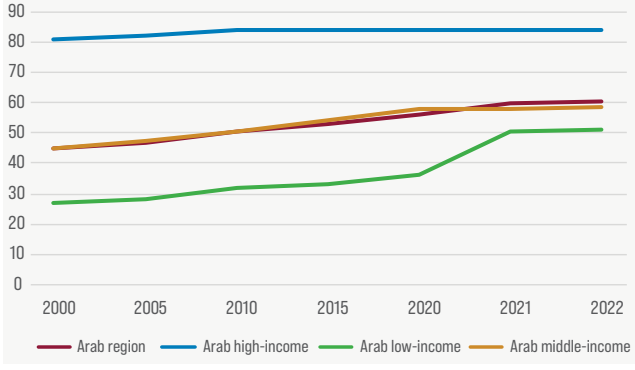
Figures at a glance

- The proportion of the population with access to safely managed drinking water services rose from 72.9 per cent in 2015 to 75.1 per cent in 2022.
- The proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 53.2 to 60.2 per cent over the same period. Nevertheless, these modest rates of progress are insufficient to ensure universal access to safely managed WASH services by 2030. Large disparities persist among and within countries, particularly between rural and urban areas.
- From 2000 to 2022, middle-income Arab countries closely aligned with the regional average in terms of safely managed sanitation services. Low-income Arab countries recorded a score of 51 per cent, compared to 84 per cent for high-income Arab countries.
- In 2022, a significant gap remained in safely treated domestic wastewater flows, with middle-income Arab countries at 59 per cent and high-income Arab countries at 86 per cent, while the regional average was 62 per cent.
- Water-use efficiency, measured as the ratio of value added to the volume of water use, slightly increased from $10.8 to $11.55 per cubic meter from 2015 to 2022.
- In 2022, water use efficiency in Arab high-income countries was significantly higher, at 45.1, than the regional average of 11.6. Meanwhile, both middle- and low-income countries fell well below the regional average, at 7.0 and 2.2 respectively.
- Freshwater withdrawals increased from 101 to 113.9 per cent of available resources from 2015 to 2022. Water stress is higher than in any other region, and six times higher than the global average of 18.6 per cent.
- The average IWRM implementation score, assessed on a scale from 0 to 100, increased from 45.1 in 2017 to 50 in 2023. It remained within the medium-low range, slightly below the global average score of 57.
- Only 27 per cent of transboundary basins in the region had an operational arrangement for water cooperation in 2023.
- The amount of official development assistance received for water and sanitation declined by 34 per cent from 2015 to 2021.

Selected SDG 6 indicators:

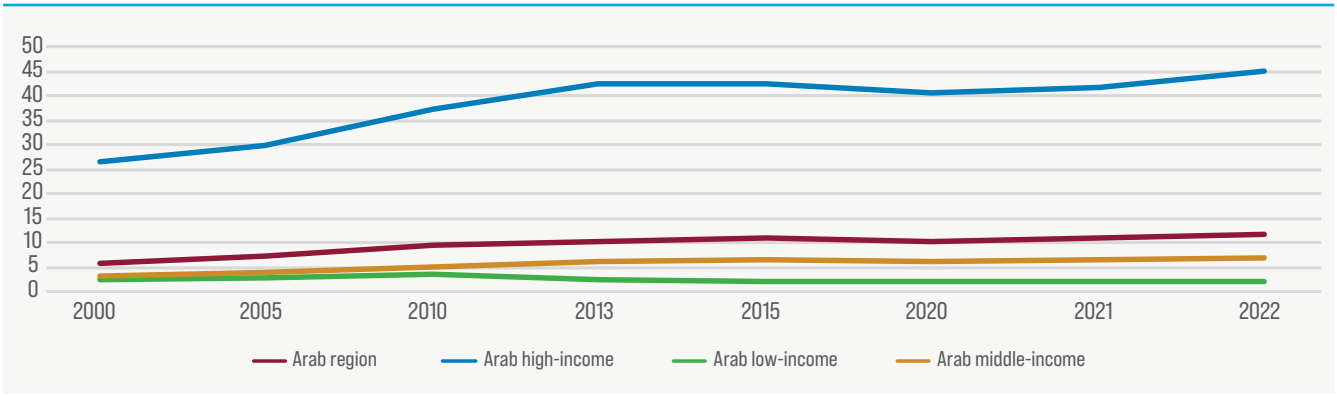
- 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (2022): 75.1 per cent.
- 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (2021): $10.9/m^3.
- 6.2.1 Proportion of population practising open defecation (2022): 1.8 per cent.
- 6.3.1 Proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater flows (2022): 62.5 per cent.
- 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (2022): 113.9.
- 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (2023): 50 per cent.

Figure 26. 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 27. 6.4.1: Water use efficiency (Dollars per cubic meter)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 7 – Affordable and clean energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The Arab region is making progress in universalizing energy access, but challenges persist owing to limited renewable energy penetration and high primary energy intensity. Disparities in energy access, particularly between rural and urban areas, and the lack of reliable, affordable and clean energy highlight the need for accelerated efforts to meet SDG 7 targets by 2030.

Figures at a glance

- The proportion of the population with electricity access increased from 89.1 per cent in 2015 to 91 per cent in 2022. Significant disparities remain between rural areas (81.3 per cent) and urban areas (97.5 per cent).
- The proportion of the population relying on unclean fuels and technologies for cooking, heating and lighting decreased from 16 per cent in 2005 to 14 per cent in 2023.
- Arab low-income countries lag behind, at 55 per cent, when it comes to the proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology; this is far below the regional average of 86 per cent.
- Renewable energy accounted for only 5 per cent of the Arab region's total final energy consumption in 2021. This was the lowest renewables proportion of any region globally, and only around a quarter of the world average of 18.7 per cent.
- As for the renewables proportion of total final energy consumption, Arab middle-income countries came close to the Arab regional average: both reached 5 per cent in 2021.
- Installed renewable-electricity-generating capacity per capita increased from 31.6 watts in 2015 to 55.5 watts in 2022. This is still less than one fifth of the global average. A recent surge

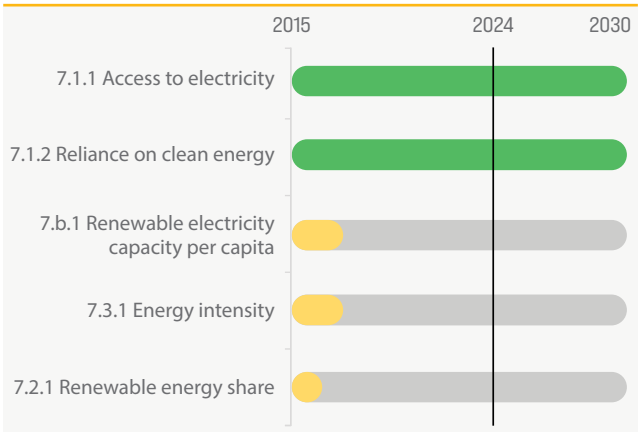
in renewable energy investments, however, suggests the potential for significant capacity growth soon.

- Energy intensity increased by just 0.24 per cent between 2015 and 2021, which is insufficient to reach the goal of doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. It compares unfavourably to the 7 per cent reduction observed on average globally during the same period.

Selected SDG 7 indicators:

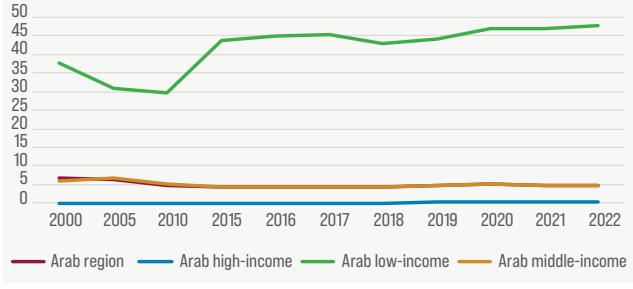
- 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity (2022): 91 per cent.
- 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (2023): 86 per cent.
- 7.3.1 Energy intensity level of primary energy (2021): 4.98 megajoules per unit of purchasing power parity GDP in constant 2017 dollars.
- 7.b.1 Installed renewable-electricity-generating capacity (2022): 55.5 watts per capita.

Figure 28. Progress in SDG 7 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 29. 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Arab region is not on track to achieve SDG 8. It is losing ground or stagnating on several key indicators. Countries have struggled to overcome long-standing challenges to ignite economic growth, increasing labour productivity and creating decent work opportunities. Patterns of low growth benefiting relatively narrow portions of the population and high unemployment rates have severely affected the achievement of other SDGs, constraining efforts to end poverty (SDG 1) and reduce inequality (SDG 10) and limiting investment in key sectors.

Figures at a glance

- Since 2015, real GDP per capita has fallen across the region. Driven by slow rates of annual growth, major setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation, real GDP per capita fell by 3.7 between 2015 and 2022. At global level, real GDP per capita grew by more than 10 per cent during the same period.[9]

- The region has the highest unemployment rate in the world, at 10.2 per cent in 2024 compared to 5 per cent globally. This has been a long-standing issue; regional unemployment has rarely fallen below 10 per cent since 2000. The situation is especially acute for women. At 18.3 per cent, the region's female unemployment rate in 2024 was more than triple the global average of 5.2 per cent. In 2024, youth unemployment was 25.2 per cent, far exceeding the global average of 12.6 per cent. For young women, the rate was even higher, at 37.8 per cent. At the same time, informal employment represents more than 56.4 per cent of all jobs in the region in 2024.

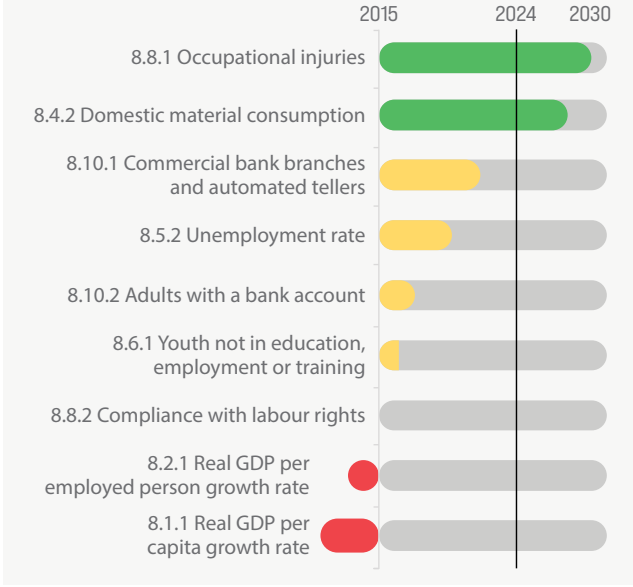
- Further highlighting the lack of opportunities for young people, the rate of young people not in education, employment or training was 30.7 per cent in 2023. The rate has been over 30 per cent since at least 2005, exceeding the global rate of 21.7 per cent. Important gender divides are evident as 42.1 per cent of young Arab women fall into this category.

- Real labour productivity growth stagnated between 2015 and 2023 as slow increases were erased by steep declines during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a gain of just 1 per cent during this period at the regional level. In contrast, worldwide real labour productivity grew by 11.8 per cent during this period.[10]

Selected SDG 8 indicators:

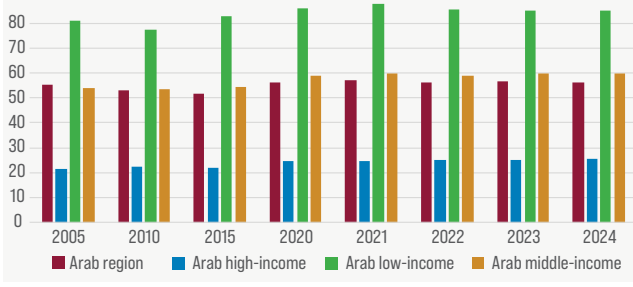
- 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (2023): -1.3 per cent.
- 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (2022): 1.4.
- 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (2023): -0.78 per cent.
- 8.5.2 Unemployment rate for persons aged 15+ years (2024): 10.2 per cent (female: 18.3 per cent; male: 8.3 per cent).
- 8.5.2 Unemployment rate for people aged 15–24 years (2024): 25.2 per cent.
- 8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (0–10) (2022): 5.2.

Figure 30. Progress in SDG 8 indicators



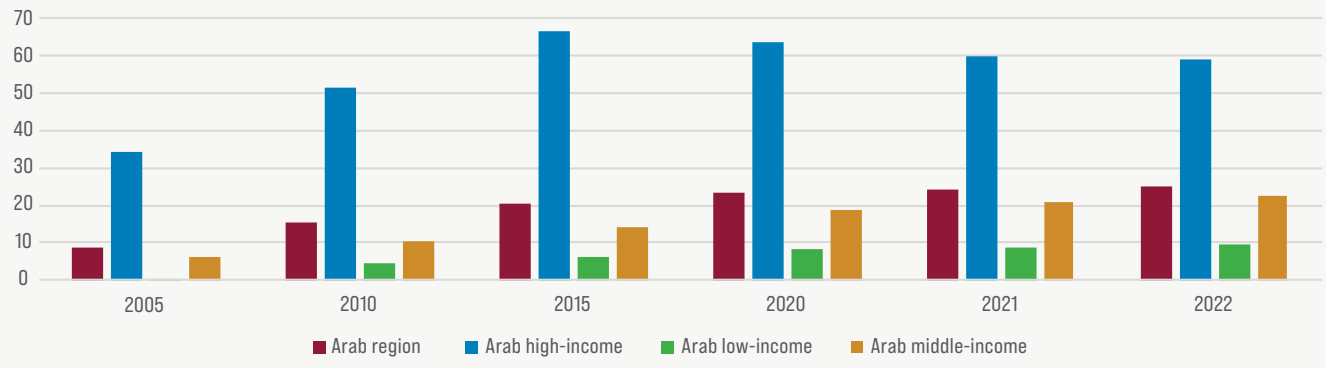
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 31. 8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 32. 8.10.1: Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) (Per 100,000 adults)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Despite advancements in R&D, there is still a disconnect between industrial demand and scientific research, and technologies are not fully integrated into manufacturing processes. The fact that the Arab world is lagging behind in technological progress is a matter of significant concern.

Figures at a glance

- Manufacturing remains weak despite progress after the COVID-19 pandemic. Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP was 11.4 per cent in the Arab region in 2024 compared to a world average of 16.5 per cent.
- Manufacturing value added per capita was $691 in 2024, around one third of the world average of $1,934.5. The regional value has slightly improved since 2015; it was further negatively affected by the pandemic.
- In the context of de-industrialization, manufacturing employment in the region has regressed since 2000 and was 9.8 per cent in 2022, compared to a world average of 14.1 per cent.
- Small-scale industries lack financial support. Only one in seven small manufacturers benefited from a loan or line of credit in 2024, which was less than half the global value.
- Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value have decreased in the region since 2015, reaching 0.975 kilograms per dollar in 2021,[11] but they are still around double the world value. Carbon dioxide emitted from fuel combustion in the region is low compared to other regions and constituted 4.6 per cent of the amount emitted globally in 2020.[12]
- Innovation remains underfunded and under-prioritized. In 2022, the region had 642 full-time

researchers per million inhabitants compared to a world average of 1,420. Only 0.67 per cent of GDP was spent regionally on research and development; the world average was 1.95 per cent in 2022.

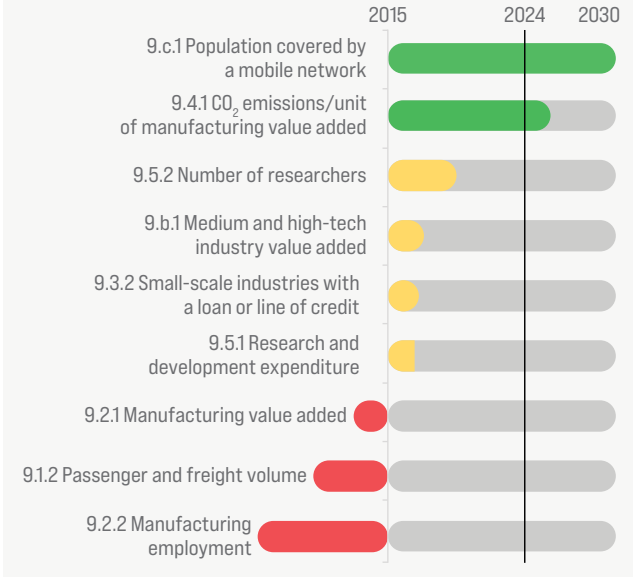
- The proportion of medium- and high-tech manufacturing value reached 29.6 per cent of total value added in 2021. Although this proportion has fluctuated over the years, it has seen an overall increase of 1.2 per cent since 2000. The global trend has regressed.
- Across the region, 2G mobile network coverage exceeded 97.2 per cent in 2022, almost equal to the world average. The percentage was the same for 3G coverage. 4G coverage was 81.4 per cent compared to a world average of 88 per cent.
- Researchers (full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants has been rising steadily since 2008 and reached 642 in 2022.
- Arab region expenditure on research and development as a proportion of GDP reached 0.7 in 2022 compared to 0.6 in 2015.
- The volume of passengers travelling by air increased regionally and globally from 2017 to 2019 but dropped worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2021, recovery in the Arab region had been slow, reaching only one third of pre-pandemic figures.
- Freight volume transported by air (ton-kilometres) dropped by approximately 14 per cent in 2020 owing to the pandemic. It fully recovered and exceeded its pre-pandemic values in 2021, reaching over 33 billion ton-kilometres or 15 per cent of the global value. Most of this value is transported by high-income countries in the region, which rank third after Europe and North America and East and South-East Asia.

Selected SDG 9 indicators:

- 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (2024): 11.4 per cent.
- 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added per capita (2024): $691.
- 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment – 13th International Classification for Labour Statistics (2022): 9.8 per cent.
- 9.4.1 Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value added (2022): 0.9.

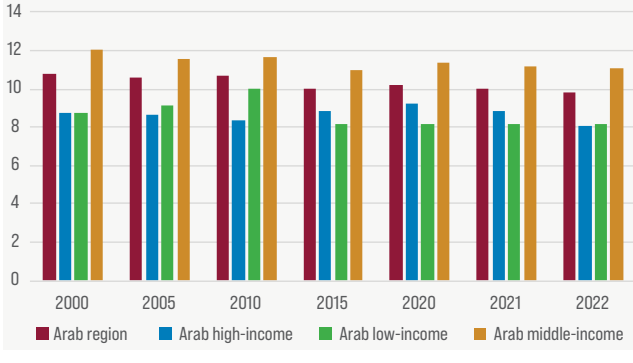
The proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line credit was about 18.3 in Arab middle-income countries compared to less than 3 for each Arab high and low-income country. The Arab region average was 14.4.

Figure 33. Progress in SDG 9 indicators



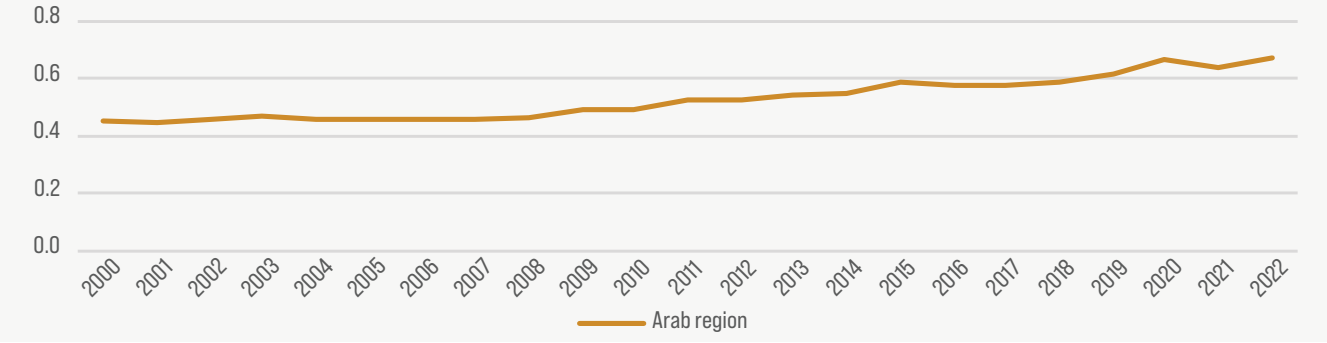
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 34. 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 35. 9.5.1: Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality between and among countries

The lack of officially published data on inequality in the region, including income and wealth distribution, discrimination and the redistributive impacts of public policies, poses a significant obstacle to understanding the evolution of cross-cutting inequalities. Economic growth has not been sufficiently inclusive, and redistributive policies remain weak. Long-running conflicts and social inequalities contribute to inequalities of opportunities. Reducing inequality requires Arab countries to reassert the role of the State as a guarantor of economic and social rights through policies promoting pro-poor growth and decent job generation.

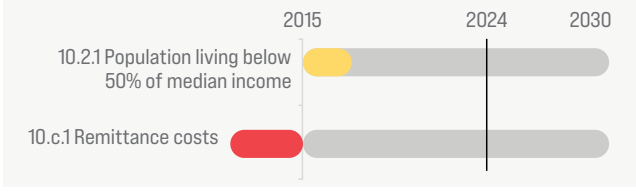
Figures at a glance

- Women's share of national income in the region is below the global average. On average, women across the region earn at least 15 per cent less than men. No country in the region exceeded the global average in this respect.
- The region is a significant hub for international migration and forced displacement, attracting nearly 41.4 million migrants, including 9.4 million refugees, representing 15 per cent of global migration.
- Since 2010, the region has seen a significant increase in displacement and forced migration, leading to a significant increase in the number of refugees per 100,000 people, accounting for over 40 per cent of global refugee numbers.

Selected SDG 10 indicators:

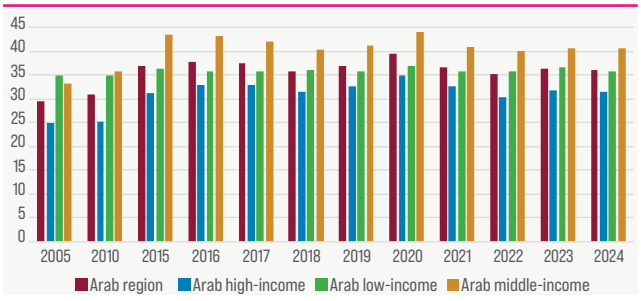
- 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP (total output) (2024): 36.1 per cent.
- 10.c.1 Average cost of sending a $200 remittance to a receiving country as a proportion of the amount remitted (2023): 6.2 per cent.

Figure 36. Progress in SDG 10 indicators



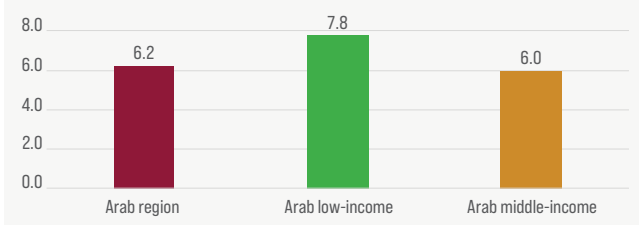
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 37. 10.4.1: Labour share of GDP (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 38. 10.c.1: Average remittance costs of sending $200 to a receiving country as a proportion of the amount remitted, 2023 (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 11 – Sustainsable cities and communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

By 2050, 75 per cent of people in Arab countries will live in cities, making urban planning crucial for their welfare.

Coastal cities are vulnerable to natural disasters and are the top destination for displaced people.

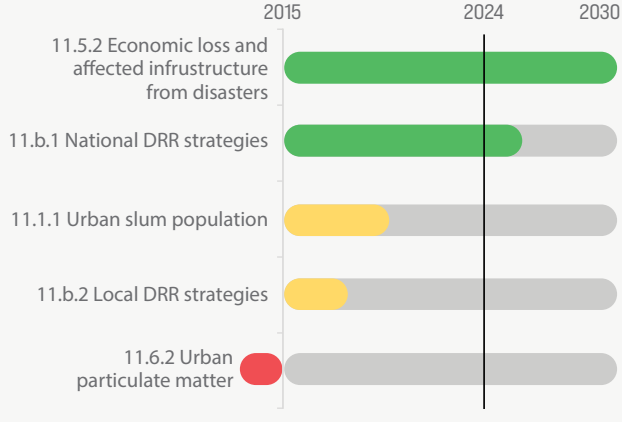
Figures at a glance

- In the Arab region, the percentage of urban dwellers living in slums, informal settlements or substandard housing fell from 33.4 per cent in 2006 to 27.4 per cent in 2010, 20.3 per cent in 2018 and 20.9 per cent in 2022 (about 61 million urban residents in 2018). In 2022, the global average was 24.8 per cent.
- The urban population in the region has varied access to public transport, with cities in middle-income countries having better coverage. Middle-income countries have higher reliance on private cars. Tunisia has 48 per cent public transport coverage. In Dubai and Kuwait, coverage is 39 and 36 per cent respectively.

Selected SDG 11 indicators:

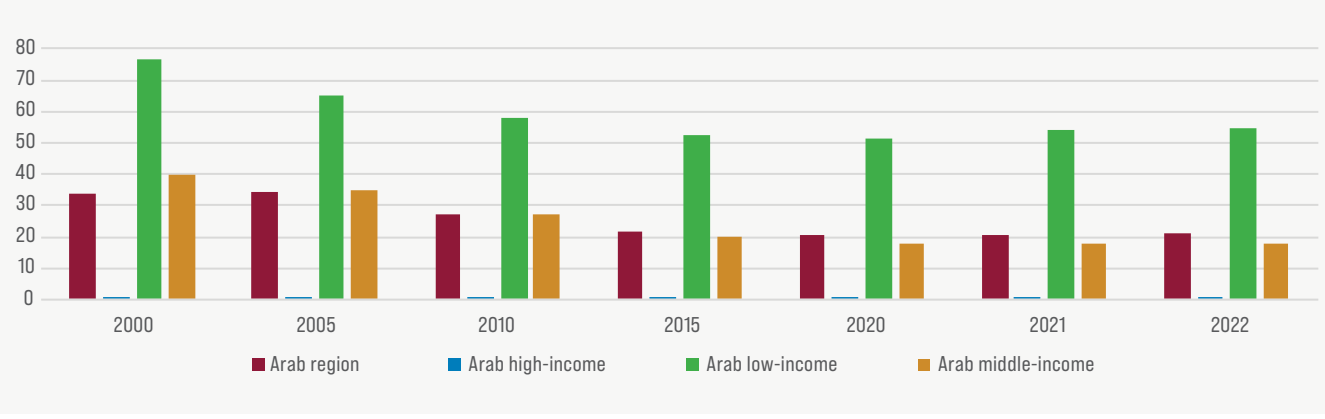
- 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums (2022): 20.9 per cent.

Figure 39. Progress in SDG 11 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 40. 11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 12 – Responsible consumption and production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Sustainable development is a key component of SDG 12; however, it is very unlikely that the region can get on track. Subsidies related to the consumption and production of fossil fuels have doubled in one year, from $331 per capita in 2021 to $670 per capita in 2022. Food waste per capita increased by 36 per cent between 2019 and 2022 for households. The current linear economic paradigm depletes natural resources, and the Arab world's economies are highly carbon-intensive, despite not reaching developed countries' levels of resource consumption.

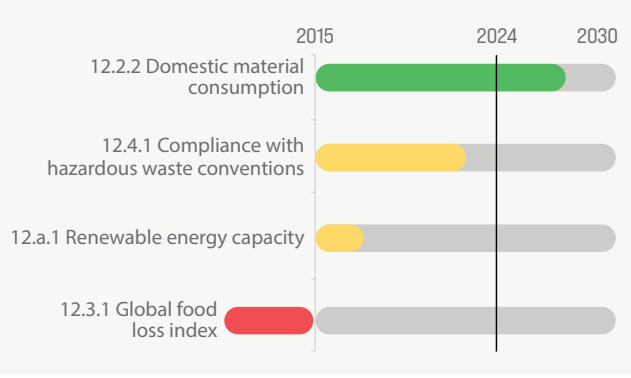
Figures at a glance

- Electronic waste has increased over the years in the Arab region: 6.8 kg per person in 2022, compared to 5.7 kg in 2015, and 4.5 kg in 2010.
- Arab economies are highly dependent on the extraction and consumption of natural resources activities. The region's material footprint per unit of GDP decreased from 1.7 kg per constant dollar in 2015 to 1.5 kg in 2022. It decreased from 1.2 to 1.1 kg globally over the same period.
- Arab economies depend strongly on fossil fuels, as exemplified by domestic petroleum consumption per unit of GDP, which was at 1.2 kg per dollar in 2019 against 0.05 on average globally.
- Food waste stood at 16.4 per cent in 2021, compared to 13.3 per cent globally. Household wasted food per capita in 2022 was 128.6 kg compared to 79.1 kg on average globally.

Selected SDG 12 indicators:

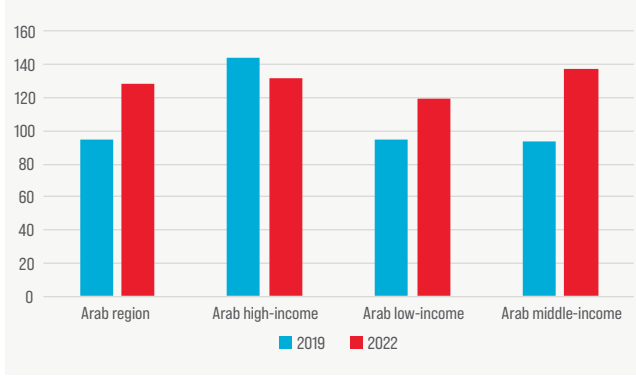
- 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (2022): 1.4.
- 12.3.1 Global food loss index (2021): 101.7.

Figure 41. Progress in SDG 12 indicators



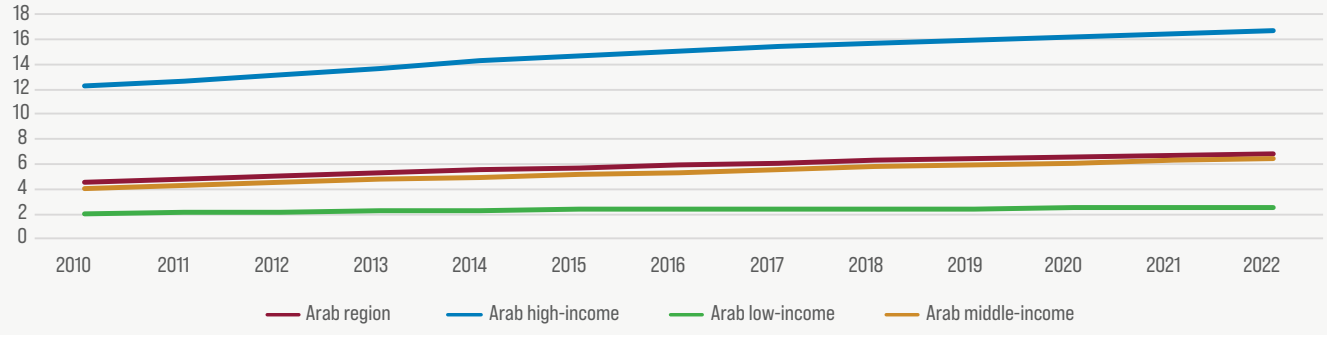
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 42. 12.3.1: Household Food waste (Kg per capita)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 43. 12.4.2: Electronic waste generated (Kg per capita)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 13 – Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The Arab region is highly vulnerable to climate change, with limited adaptive capacity and increasing population, water scarcity, droughts and desertification. Despite a low greenhouse gas footprint, emissions have increased twice as fast as global rates. The region faces obstacles in achieving SDG 13 and needs improved climate finance.

Figures at a glance

- Vulnerability to climate change is moderate to high across all subregions, particularly in the water and agriculture sectors, with a general upward trend over time.
- Around 90 per cent of the Arab population, or 400 million people, live in countries affected by water scarcity. Vast numbers of people are faced with escalating droughts and other

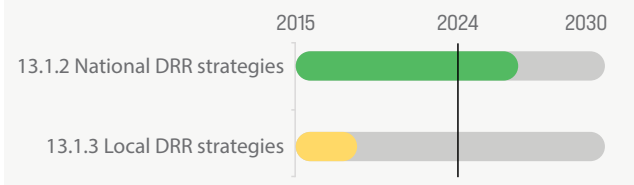
disasters, which fuel food insecurity and displacement.

- The number of new internal displacements associated with disasters fluctuated from 2018 to 2021, with a peak of 1.8 million in 2020 and a low of 568,000 in 2021.
- Between 2000 and 2020, greenhouse gas emissions increased by 68 per cent, twice as fast as the global average. As a result, the region's share of global emissions rose from 4.7 to 5.8 per cent. The region is home to some of the world's top per capita carbon-emitting States.
- Renewable energy accounted for only 5 per cent of the Arab region's total final energy consumption in 2021, significantly below the world average of 18.7 per cent.
- Arab States received $34.5 billion in core public international climate finance from 2010 to 2020. This was heavily focused on mitigation (72 per cent), directed primarily to middle-income countries (93 per cent) and provided mainly as loans (87 per cent), most of which were non-concessional. Notably, this funding represented only 6 per cent of the $570 billion needed to fulfil the goals of the nationally determined contributions of the 11 Arab countries that have costed their climate finance requirements until 2030.

Selected SDG 13 indicators:

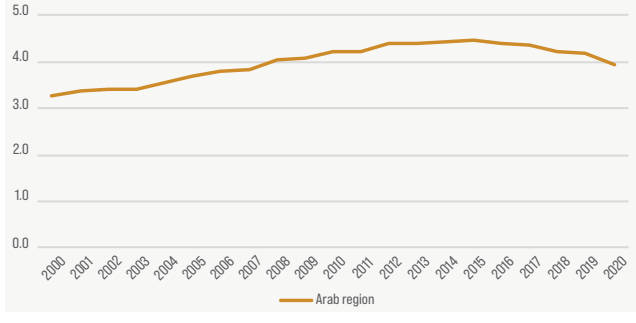
- 13.1x Internally displaced people, new displacement associated with disasters (2023): 33.1, per 100,000 of the population.
- 13.2x Renewable energy consumption as proportion of total final consumption (2022): 4.9 per cent.

Figure 44. Progress in SDG 13 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 45. 13.2.2: CO2 emissions (Metric tons per capita)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 14 – Life below water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The Arab region is falling behind on several SDG 14 targets, notably those related to the protection of marine ecosystems from pollution and the regulation of fishing activity. Sustainable aquaculture remains in its infancy in most of the region, and is unable to fulfil the growing demand for fish. While good progress has been achieved in some places in designating marine protected areas, protection activities have not been enough to halt degradation.

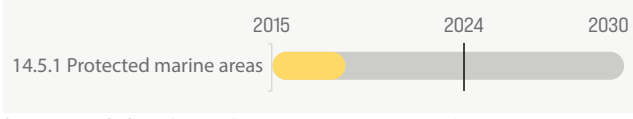
Figures at a glance

- One of the highest levels of coastal eutrophication globally is in the Arabian Sea. In 2022, marine and coastal waters around the least developed countries exhibited particularly high algae growth levels in the region (chlorophyll-a deviations from 2000–2004 baseline of 2.1 per cent; however, this remains below the world average of 3.2 per cent).
- Sustainable fisheries constitute an insignificant proportion of GDP in the region, well below the global average.
- In applying a legal, regulatory, policy or institutional framework that recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries, 10 countries with available data in 2018–2022 score 3 out of 5 or higher.
- Some 35.8 per cent of marine key biodiversity areas were covered by protected areas in 2022. Middle-income countries are ahead of other country groups in the region and the global average with 64.1 per cent of key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas. This compares to a global average of 45.6 per cent. Marine key biodiversity area coverage is particularly low for countries in conflict, at 19.5 per cent.
- Countries have not improved in implementing international instruments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, remaining in 2022 at a mid-level score of 3 out of 5, below the global score of 4.

Selected SDG 14 indicators:

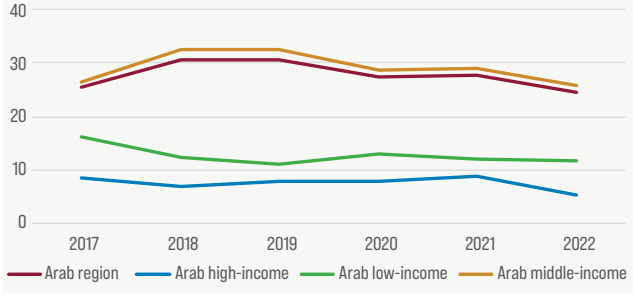
- 14.1.1 Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that ends in the ocean (2022): 24.4 per cent.
- 14.5.1 Average proportion of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas covered by protected areas (2022): 35.8 per cent.

Figure 46. Progress in SDG 14 indicators



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 47. 14.1.1: Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that ends in the ocean (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 15 – Life on land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The Arab region is progressing on SDG 15, albeit at a slow pace. Improvements comprise actions to protect important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity and to manage forest areas.

Yet regressions are also evident in terms of land degradation, the limited protection of endangered species, and the insufficient mobilization of development aid to finance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

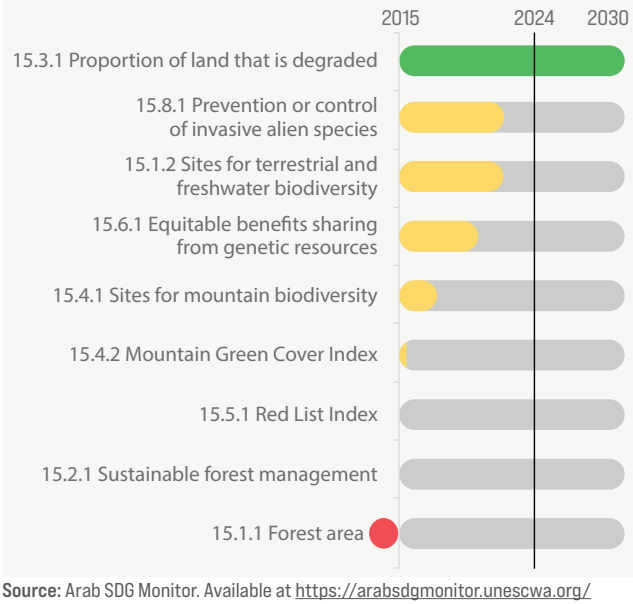
Figures at a glance

- The region is naturally poor in forests, comprising 1 per cent of the world's forested area.
- The proportion of terrestrial and freshwater key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas in the region is increasing. However, it remains markedly lower than the global average, at 23 per cent in 2022 compared to 44 per cent globally. Mountain key biodiversity areas are the least protected in the region, with only 15.6 per cent covered by protected areas.
- Official development assistance on conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity received by Arab countries peaked in 2015 at $843 million. It has since trended downward, reaching $412 million in 2021. Between 2015 and 2021, middle-income countries received around two thirds of this assistance; the proportion that went to the least developed countries was 13 per cent.
- While updated figures on land degradation are lacking, available data suggest that land degradation has more than doubled across the region, increasing from 3.4 per cent in 2015 to 8.7 per cent in 2019. Low-income countries had the highest percentage of degraded land in absolute terms, at 14.4 per cent in 2019, while high-income countries saw the sharpest increase, from 0.7 per cent in 2015 to 9.5 per cent in 2019.
- In 2023, 72.7 per cent of countries were parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, yet only 27 per cent had legislative, administrative and policy frameworks or measures for adequate implementation.

Selected SDG 15 indicators:

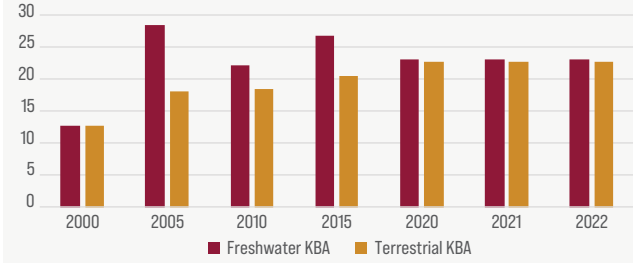
- 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area (2020): 2.8 per cent.
- 15.8.1 Proportion of countries with a national biodiversity strategy and action plan: 72.7 per cent.

Figure 48. Progress in SDG 15 indicators



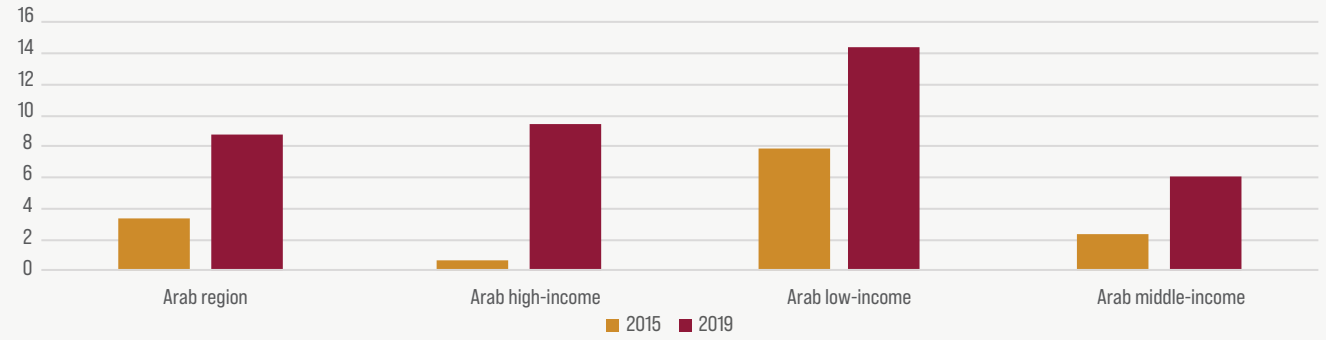
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 49. 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 50. 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

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

In the Arab region, sufficient data are available to track only 7 out of 24 indicators under SDG 16. The Arab region is among the world's high-conflict zones, leading to reduced safety and peace, as well high levels of human trafficking. Notably, only about 32 per cent of Arab countries have independent national human rights institutions that comply with the Paris Principles.

Figures at a glance

- The Arab region is the least peaceful in the world; 38 per cent of the population (173 million people) lives in conflict-affected areas. More than 65 million people need humanitarian assistance in seven countries in conflict.[13]
- Low-income countries have the highest intentional homicide rate in the Arab region, at 16.4 per cent per 100,000 inhabitants in 2022 compared to a regional average of 6.8. Both middle- and high-income countries in the Arab region are below the regional average at 4.1 and 0.7 per cent respectively. The impacts of conflict and resulting deaths have been largely concentrated in Iraq, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The war in Gaza, State of Palestine, has reversed the decline, however, with over 46 thousands Palestinians killed after 15 months of the conflict that broke out on 7 October 2023 (by 15 January 2025).
- Representing only 5.8 per cent of the world's population, the region is the origin of about 14.8 million refugees. It hosted 9.4 million refugees under the mandates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the

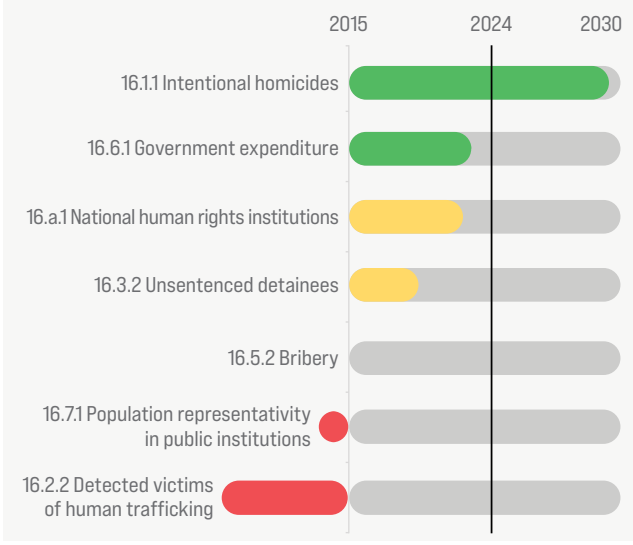
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in 2023. These figures are about 40.5 and 25.4 per cent of all refugees worldwide, respectively. More than 6.5 million refugees have come from the Syrian Arab Republic. The region has around 19.4 million internally displaced people.

- Bribery is more prevalent in low-income countries in the Arab region, where at 40.9 per cent, the rate is almost double the regional average, and ten times higher than in high-income Arab countries in 2024.
- Registration of births is not a common practice in Arab low-income countries. Almost half of children under 5 years of age have not been registered.
- Of 163 countries ranked by the 2023 Global Peace Index,[14] including 21 in the Arab region, only two and four Arab countries fell into the first and second quantiles respectively. This denotes relatively high levels of peace: Qatar is ranked at 21, Kuwait at 35, Oman at 48, Jordan at 62, the United Arab Emirates at 75 and Tunisia at 81.[15] Five Arab nations – Iraq, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen – were listed among the ten least peaceful places in the world.

Selected SDG 16 indicators:

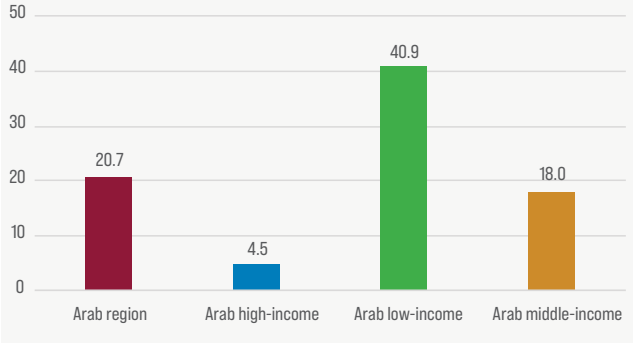
- 16.5.2 Bribery incidence, 2024: 20.7 per cent of firms experienced at least one bribery payment.

Figure 51. Progress in SDG 16 indicators



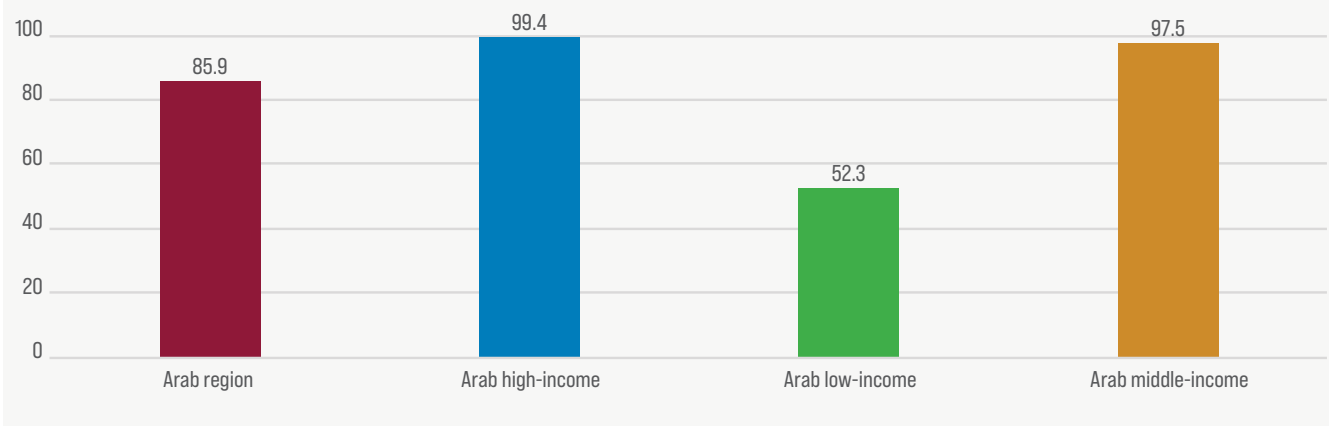
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 52. 16.5.2: Bribery incidence, 2024 (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 53. 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, 2023 (Percentage)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The Arab region has made some economic gains, but challenges persist. Tax revenues stand at 5.3 per cent in the Arab region compared to 14.4 per cent globally, and foreign direct investment increased from 0.5 per cent of GDP in 2000 to 2.2 per cent in 2022, reflecting stronger investor interest. However, this has not translated into broader financial stability, as total reserves declined, and fiscal deficits worsened – rising from -4 per cent of GDP in 2014 to -8.7 per cent in 2015 – despite a slight improvement in tax revenue. Inflation has remained relatively stable, but government and household spending trends suggest growing economic pressures.

Trade and investment flows have been volatile, with exports and imports seeing sharp declines, particularly during global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic. While increased foreign direct investment is a positive sign, weak capital investment (-1.2 per cent in 2021) and shrinking trade highlight ongoing vulnerabilities. Moving forward, strengthening fiscal policies, diversifying investment, and improving trade resilience will be key to ensuring sustainable growth in the region.

Figures at a glance

- Public debt has grown rapidly across the region, growing from an estimated 10 per cent of GDP in 2008 to around 47 per cent in 2023, and has been accompanied in many cases by unsustainable debt servicing burdens. There is significant variation among countries and sub regions, with the problem being particularly acute for middle-income and least developed countries.
- In 2023, incoming personal remittances amounted to 2.4 per cent of GDP at regional level.
- Foreign direct investment inflows in 2022 amounted to $53.8 billion, nearly 40 per cent below their 2008 peak. More than 90 per cent of these inflows went to just five countries (Egypt, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates); 45 per cent of the total went to extractive industries. The region sees $1.50 in foreign direct investment outflows per $1 in inflows, rendering it a net exporter of capital.
- Tax systems in the region are subject to multiple distortions and leakages and suffer from high rates of tax evasion and abuse. The region has a substantial tax gap (the difference between what should be collected based on prevailing tax rates and what is collected). Tax gaps amount to 15 per cent of non-oil GDP in hydrocarbon-exporting countries and 17.9 per cent in hydrocarbon-importing countries. An estimated $8.9 billion in annual revenue is lost due to corporate tax abuse, while tax competition cost the region an estimated $50 billion between 1980 and 2020.[16]
- Internet users per 100 inhabitant is lowest in Arab low-income countries at 30 in 2023 compared to about 70 in the region. In both high- and middle-income countries, the total exceeds the regional average, at 100 and 80 respectively.
- Illicit financial flows are a major contributor to lost revenue in the region, with trade miss invoicing alone accounting for an estimated $77.5 billion

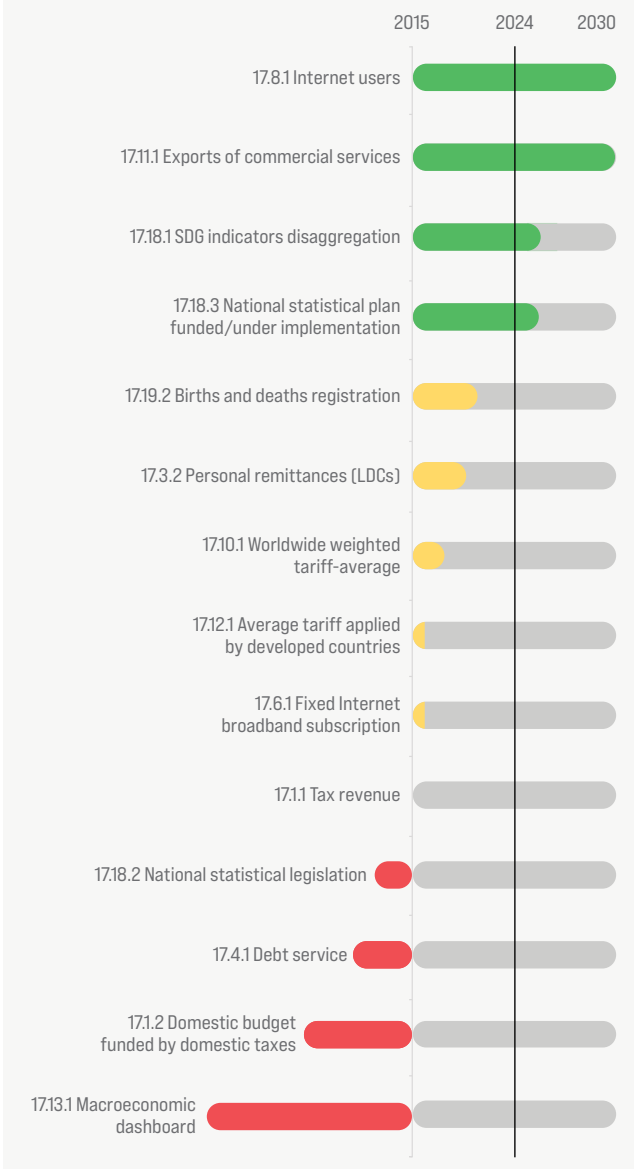
in forgone revenue collection. This number is greater than both foreign direct investment and official development assistance inflows to Arab countries and is estimated to affect at least 8.2 per cent of the region's non-oil trade.

- The number of Internet users per 100 inhabitants in the Arab region reached 68.9 in 2023, up from a pre-pandemic value of 55.2 in 2019. The current level surpasses the global average of 67.4.
- In 2023, the rate of fixed-broadband penetration was 11.7 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, compared to a global average of 18.6. Significant differences exist between the penetration rate in Arab high-income countries (22.5 per cent) and least developed countries (1.1 per cent).
- In 2024, the publication of data on gender-related SDG indicators by Arab countries ranged from 35 per cent of the total in Libya to 80 per cent in Tunisia. The publication of indicators disaggregated by sex ranged from 18 to 52 per cent.
- In 2023, only eight countries (36 per cent) had updated and approved national strategies for the development of statistics and disseminated them online.

Selected SDG 17 indicators:

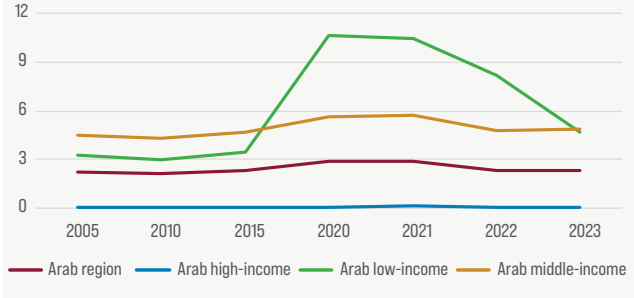
- 17.3.2 Personal remittances received as a proportion of GDP, 2023: 2.4 per cent.
- 17.6.1 Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2023: 11.7.
- 17.8.1 Internet users per 100 inhabitants, 2023: 68.9.
- 17.11.1 Developing countries and least developed countries' share of global services imports, 2022: 5.6 per cent.
- 17.13.1 Annual inflation, consumer prices for 2023: 3.6 per cent.
- 17.18.3 Countries with government-funded national statistical plans declined in 2023 to 45.5 per cent.

Figure 54. Progress in SDG 15 indicators



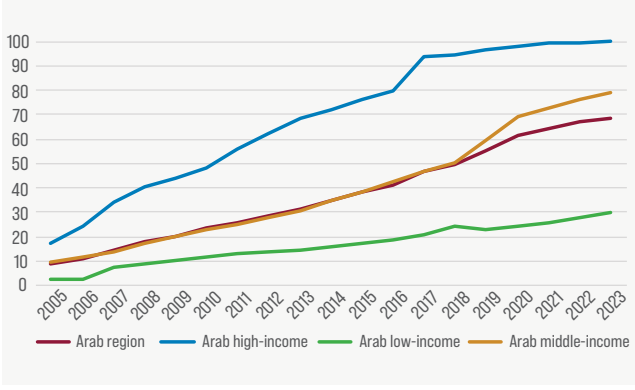
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 55. 17.3.2: Volume of remittances ($) as a proportion of total GDP (Percentage)



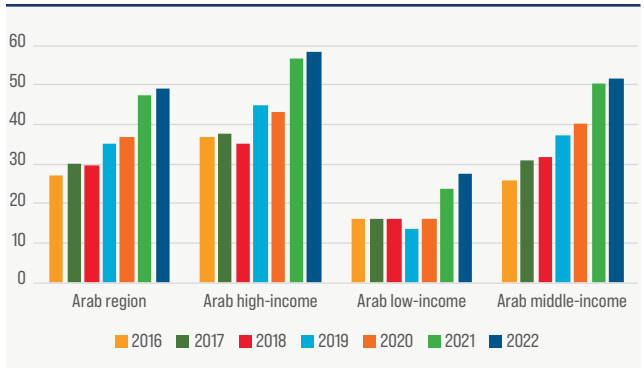
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 56. 17.8.1: Internet users (Per 100 inhabitants)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

Figure 57. 17.18.1: Data Infrastructure performance index (Pillar 5)



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/ (accessed in March 2025).

3

Overview by Goal

1 NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Targets	7
Indicators	13
Evidence strength	46%

49.4 million people (12.3%) living in extreme poverty in 2024

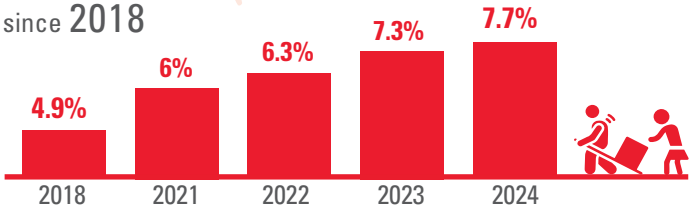
72.6 million of the population (31.5%) is expected to live in national poverty in 2025

58 million people (23.5%) living in multidimensional poverty as per latest surveys

Working poverty rate

2024

rose by **56.4%** since 2018



5.5% increase in only one year (2023–2024)

GDP to social expenditure

Arab region **8%**

World **20%**

Health | **Education** | **Social protection**

Social protection coverage in the region

32.5% of population covered by at least 1 social protection benefit programme

- **1 IN 5** — **22.9%** child cash
- **1 IN 12** — **8.5%** maternity cash
- **2 IN 5** — **38.4%** work injury
- **1 IN 2** — **45.4%** old-aged pensions
- **1 IN 50** — **2.1%** employment cash
- **1 IN 6** — **16.7%** disability cash

33 million people are in vulnerable employment

25.8% of the work force

Women's share higher than men's

28% | 2022 | **25.3%**

Water scarcity remains a significant challenge in the Arab region:

50.8 million people remain deprived of basic drinking water services (10.93%)

2022

Investment to improve **sanitation** infrastructure has started to reap benefits, however

50.8 million people remain deprived of basic sanitation services (10.89%)

2 ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Targets	8
Indicators	14
Evidence strength	57%



66.1 million people are undernourished

47.2 million people live in **conflict-hit countries**

2023

1 IN 3 of people **are undernourished** in Arab LDCs 28.8%

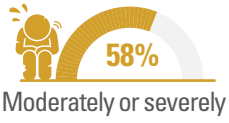
1 IN 7 of people **are undernourished** in the Arab region 14%



186.5 million people do not have **enough food to eat** **2 IN 5**

72.7 (15.4%) million people suffer from **severe food insecurity**

105.3 million people suffer from food insecurity (15.4%) in conflict-hit countries



2023



Anaemia among women is decreasing

but remains **significantly high** among pregnant woman



1 IN 3 pregnant women have **anaemia**



35+ million women suffer from **anaemia**

33%



34%



33%

Malnutrition persists in the Arab region, jeopardizing children's well-being and future development

Children under 5 years of age suffer from 2022

stunting



10.5 million children

1 IN 5

wasting



3.7 million children

1 IN 14

overweight



5 million children

1 IN 10

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Targets	13
Indicators	28
Evidence strength	71%

Maternal deaths

decreasing

from 20 (2000)

to 14 thousand deaths (2020)

However, **maternal mortality** ratio remains **high**

139 deaths per **100,000** live births

Adolescent birth rate remains high

15–19 years

Arab region: **43.9** PER **1,000** population

LDCs: **76.6** PER **1,000** population

World: **40.7** PER **1,000** population (2024)

Births by skilled health personnel increasing

2015: 83% → 2020: 86% → 2022: 87% → 2024: 89%

11% of women **still undergo unsafe births**

1 IN 3 people remained uncovered by universal health services (2021)

Tuberculosis (TB)

2000	73 PER 100,000 population
2023	40 PER 100,000 population

Malaria

2000	27 PER 100,000 population
2023	19 PER 100,000 population

Over the past 20 years

TB incidence decreased by **45%**

Malaria incidence decreased by **30%**

813,323 child deaths in 2023, a decrease of over **37,000** since 2020 (2022)

- **175,324 newborns**
- **285,995 infants** below 1 year
- **352,004 children** under 5

For every **10 people**, **3 men** and **1 woman** died due to road traffic-related injuries (2019)

1/3+ women of reproductive age (15–49 years) remain with unmet needs for family planning (2024)

Suicide cases

Arab region **18,551** | World **712,356**

5.8 PER **100,000** population — x2 higher

2.5 PER **100,000** population

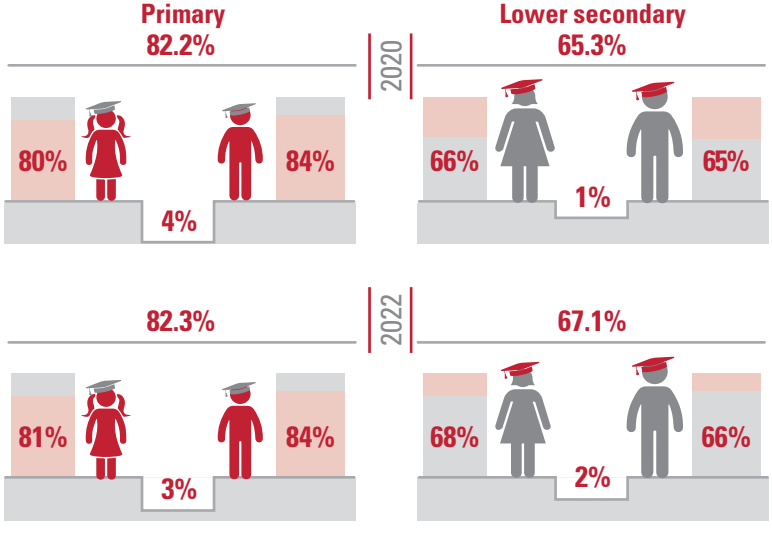
4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Targets	10
Indicators	12

Evidence strength: 58%

Completion rates are rising, but the pace is slow, uneven and still below world average



School enrolment 2019

10.9 million girls are out of school

compared to **9.5 million boys**



Illiteracy rate 2023

1 IN 4

24%



Illiterate women 31.1%

Illiterate men 17.2%



Despite the **increased** number of **trained teachers** 2023

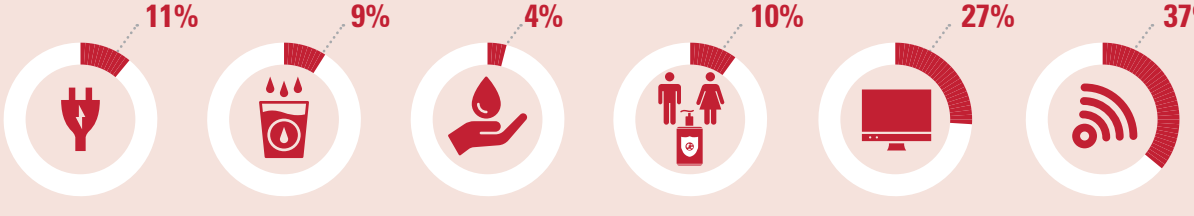


2 IN 10 primary teachers and **1 IN 10** secondary teachers remain without training

19% 14%

Primary schools lack:





2023

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Targets	9
Indicators	14

Evidence strength: 21%

Child marriage among young women/girls

2024

1 IN 35 girls are married before their **15th birthday** — 3%

1 IN 6 girls are married before their **18th birthday** — 16%

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

2023

Over **40 million girls** still undergo female genital mutilation

1 IN 2 girls aged 15-19 have undergone FGM

54.8%

in Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen

1 FOR EVERY 6 parliament seats **is for a woman**

Legislated gender quotas

are effective in achieving equality in **women's representation** in politics

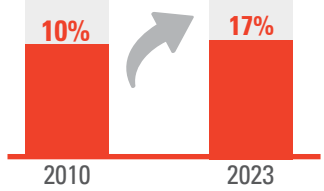
- 52% Countries applying quotas
- 14% Countries without quotas
- 34% No information

Despite **a 5x increase in 2020**, parliament seats for women **decreased in 2024**

- 2000: 4%
- 2020: 19.5%
- 2022: 18.4%
- 2024: 17.7%

Share of **female managers increased**





Latest data

- 18% — **4 OUT OF 22 countries** intend to address gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) through programmes/policies and resource allocations
- 9% — **2 OUT OF 22 countries** have planning and budget tools to track resources for GEWE throughout the public financial management cycle
- 0% — **No country** is transparent to make allocations for GEWE publicly available.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Targets	8
Indicators	11
Evidence strength	55%

People without access

to safe drinking water services 2022

25%

115.7 million people

to safe sanitation services 2022

40%

184.4 million people

basic handwashing facilities 2020

22%

97 million people

People with access

80% of the urban population

66% of the urban population

52% of the rural population

85% of the urban population

69% of the rural population

1.8% practised open defecation 2022

Decreased by 6x since 2000, especially in **rural areas**

26% 2000 → **4%**

Water scarcity and desertification are **major issues**

19 **countries** suffer from water scarcity

17 **countries** are affected by desertification and land degradation

114% level of water stress 2022

Freshwater withdrawal **increased by**

12.9% annually since 2015

50% **of integrated water** resources management is implemented 2023

27% **of transboundary basin area** is covered by operational arrangements

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

Targets	5
Indicators	6

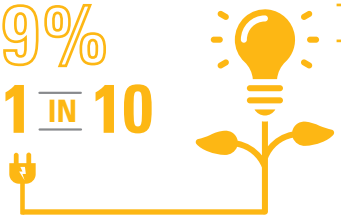
83%

41.4 million people lived in the dark 2022



9% 2022

1 IN 10 lacked access to electricity



91% 2021

have access to electricity in the Arab region



56 + million are deprived

Still use inefficient and polluted cooking systems



1 IN 7 people 2022

use unsafe and inefficient cooking systems



14%

still do not have access to **clean fuel** and **technology** for **cooking** 2022



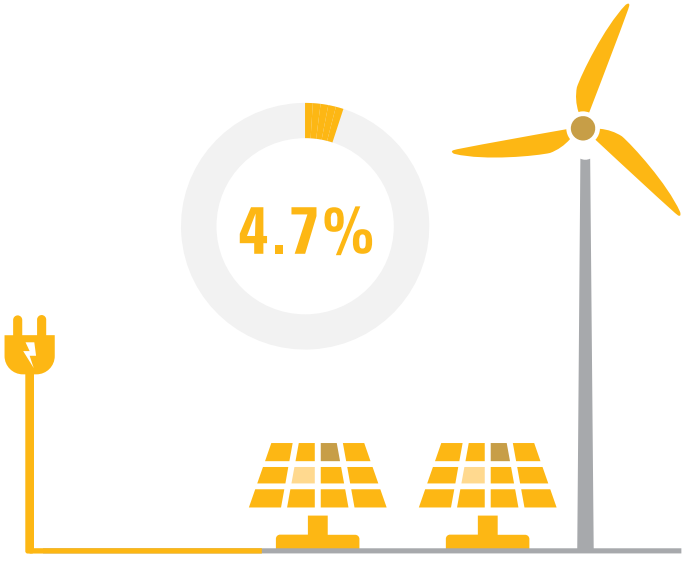
Energy intensity remains as **high** as **world** average 2021



5 megajoule (MJ)

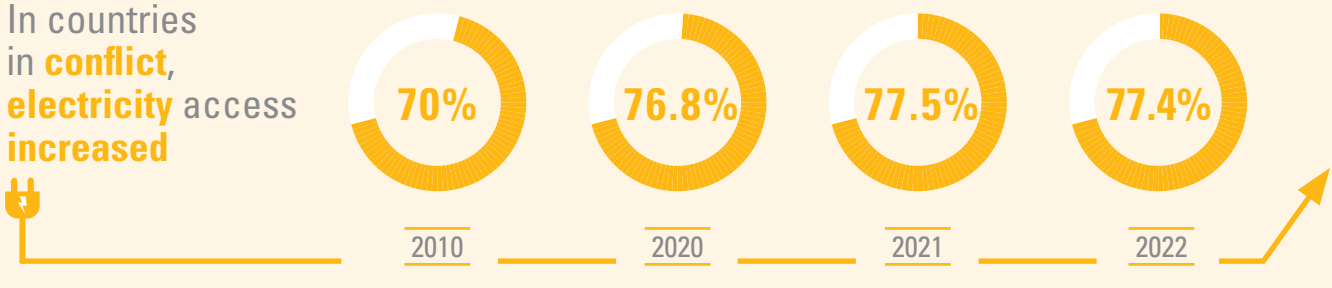
Renewable energy 2022

rates penetration continues to lag behind **energy consumption** in the **Arab region**





In countries in **conflict**, **electricity** access **increased**

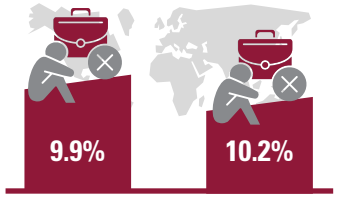


8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

Targets	12
Indicators	16
Evidence strength	56%

Regional unemployment rate is the **highest** globally



1 IN 3 **28.2+**
million young people
not in education, employment or training

Young **women** are more than **2x** as likely as young **men** to be in **NEET**

20.5%

45.2%

1 IN 5 Males

5 IN 10 Females

2024

14.3
million
individuals were already unemployed prior to the **COVID-19** pandemic

15.2
million
individuals unemployed
2024

Per 100,000 adults

World	
8 banks	**14** banks
25 ATMs	**64** ATMs

2022

56.4%
Informal employment
in the Arab region with poor working conditions and limited job stability

37.8%
of the population
with account ownership, well below the world average of **73.9%**

28.9% Arab women

71.4% World women

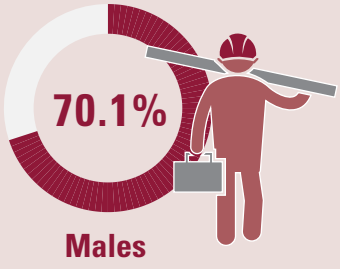
2021

58.3% Males

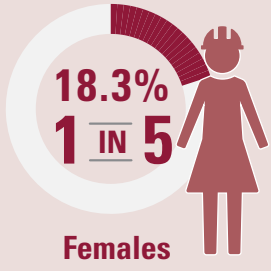
47.5% Females

workers were in precarious informal jobs and were likely to be in vulnerable employment
2024

Labour force participation rates



2023



Share of employment

15.1%

64.7%

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Targets	8
Indicators	12

75%

Regional manufacturing growth slightly increased

Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP

	Arab region	World
2023	10.9%	16.7%
2022	10.7%	16.7%
2021	10.7%	16.8%
2020	10.5%	16.4%

Manufacturing employment

	Arab region	World
2022	9.9%	14.1%
2021	10%	14.2%
2020	10.3%	14.2%

Mobile broadband access

An increase from 75% in 2015

	Arab region	World
2022	94.5%	95%

Small-scale industries lack access to financial support for recovery

1 IN 7 small manufacturers benefits from loan or line of credit

LDCs lack further behind (14.4%) 2024

1/3 of the value added came from medium and high-tech manufacturing in the Arab region in 2021

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
29.7	30.8	31	34.6	33.1	30	29.6

Participation of women in research and STEM fields remains far from parity

2 IN 5 researchers are **women**

2021

23% of science, engineering and ICT jobs regionally are **held by women**

2022 The **Arab region** needs to **increase** investment in **innovation, research** and **development**

Arab region	World
642	1,420

researchers per 1,000,000 inhabitants

Arab region	World
0.67% of GDP	1.95% of GDP

expenditure on R&D

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Targets	10
Indicators	14

14%

29.1

million people were forcibly displaced in **2023**



2,434

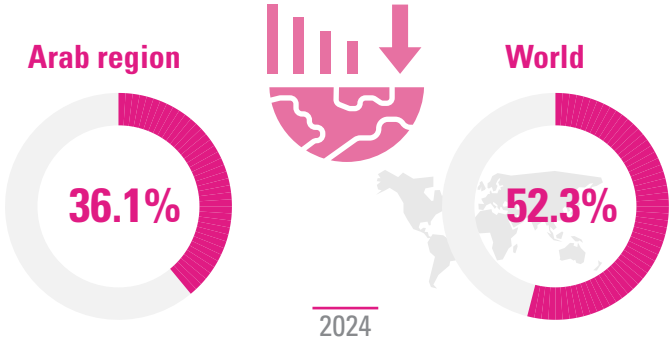
migrants lost their lives in **2022**



The tragic loss of lives along migratory routes underscores the pressing need for **immediate action** to ensure **safe migration**

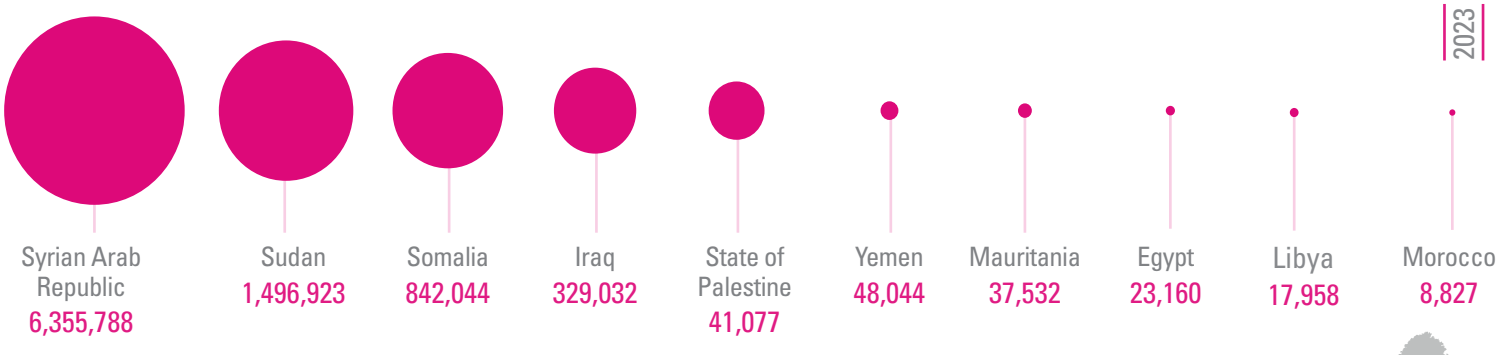
The region continue to struggle to improve living conditions

GDP accrued to employees



The 10 countries that have the highest number of refugees

2023





Personal remittances accounted for



Arab region
2.4%
of GDP

3x the world average

World
0.84%
of GDP

2023

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets	10
Indicators	14

36%

5 **countries** have **national disaster** loss databases

2 **countries** have **local disaster risk** reduction strategies



National disaster loss **databases** doubled from

3 **countries** 2010 to **5** **countries** 2021



local disaster risk **reduction** strategies dropped

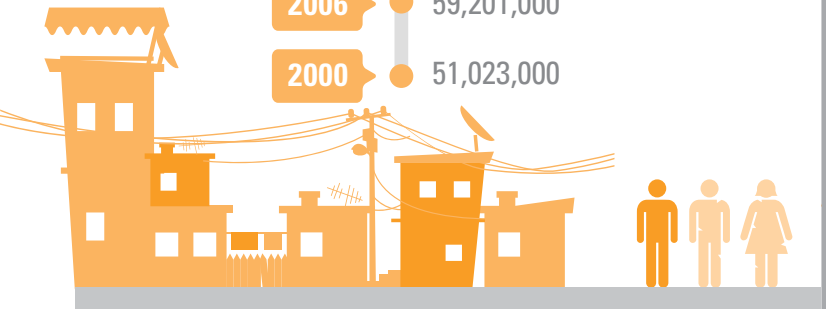
2 **countries** 2022 and **1** **countries** 2023



57+ **million** slum dwellers in the Arab region

2022

2022	57,156,000
2020	53,534,000
2016	48,766,000
2010	55,099,000
2006	59,201,000
2000	51,023,000



3.3 2023

million people are internally displaced due to disasters



Levels of fine particulate matter

$PM_{2.5}$

in Arab cities

2019

increased by 3.2% reaching **39** since 2000



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Targets	11
Indicators	13

31%

The region reliance on natural resources

rose from **7 tons** (2000) to **9.8 tons** (2022)



Electronic waste NOT recycled

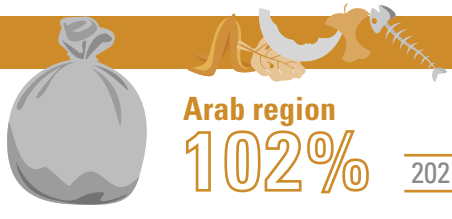
2020

On average **1 person** generated **7 kilograms**

4% increase since 2000

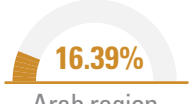
Food waste

81.3 million tons



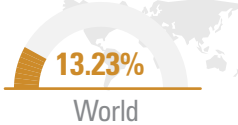
Arab region 102% 2021

Food loss



Arab region

2021



World



Household food waste

Arab region 175kg

World 132kg

2022

The region lowered its installed **energy capacity** after a peak in **2022** to supply modern and **sustainable energy** services by expanding infrastructure and **upgrading technology in the past 20 years**

26 watt per capita 2000	**46.9 watt** per capita 2020
50 watt per capita 2021	**55.5 watt** per capita 2022

Material footprint increasing gradually in the region (per capita)

2000	2003	2006	2009	2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
6.8	7.6	9	10.5	10.8	11	9.6	9	9.4	9.7	9.8

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Targets	5
Indicators	8

25%

Since **2017**

8

countries
scored over

0.70

in **reducing risk** and **losses**, including the adoption and implementation of national **DRR strategies**

Algeria	2023	0.75
Bahrain	2021	0.65
Comoros	2020	0
Egypt	2022	8.3
Iraq	2018	0.85
Jordan	2022	0.88
Kuwait	2017	0.5
Lebanon	2019	0.65
Morocco	2022	0.75
Qatar	2023	1
Saudi Arabia	2021	0.05
Somalia	2018	0.75
State of Palestine	2018	0.4
Sudan	2019	0.55
United Arab Emirates	2020	0.75

CO_2 Energy-related emissions

increased by 4%

2000	3.3
2019	4.2
2020	3.9

Climate finance

falls short of

$570 billion

until 2030
with the majority allocated to Egypt, Iraq and Morocco

Public international climate finance commitments to the Arab region were weak

Arab States received only a total of

$34.5 billion (2010–2020)

2015–2020
Energy and **transport** sectors combined received

45%

of all **climate finance flows** to the region

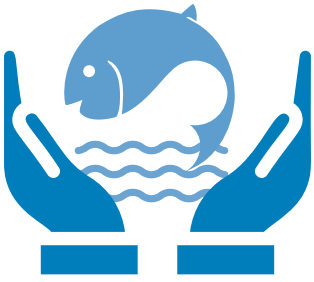
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Targets	10
Indicators	10

10%

Marine resources are at risk of irreversible damage to habitats, ecological functions and biodiversity in the Arab region 2021



Arab region	European Union	World
3.6%	25%	12%
of territorial waters	of territorial waters	of territorial waters

were designated as marine protected areas

Litter that ends in the beach

307 thousand tons (2019) → 262.5 thousand tons (2022)



2018

672 fish species **threatened** by **overfishing, illegal, unreported** and **unregulated** fishing and **destructive** practices



2020



More than **3%** **of the GDP of Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen** is the cost of **environmental pollution**



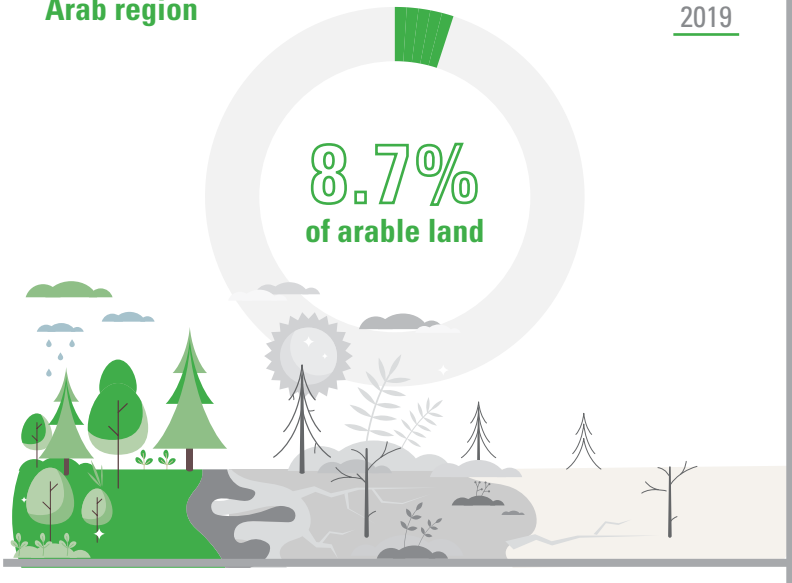
2.8% **of the GDP of Tunisia** is the cost of **coastal erosion**

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

Targets	12
Indicators	14
Evidence strength	64%

Land degradation affecting at least

Arab region 2019



16 **Arab countries** ratified the **Nagoya Protocol** to address access to **genetic resources** and their **fair** and **equitable** use

2023



An increase by **3 countries** since 2021



Forest area decreasing

2020

367,981 km²

Less than **3%** **of the land** is forest area

Only **18%** **of the land** is protected



Protected **terrestrial** areas increased while protected **freshwater** areas decreased 2022

	Protected terrestrial areas	Protected freshwater areas
2022	22.8	23.1
2018	22.6	27.7
2015	20.4	26.9



33.4% **of the forest area** has a long-term management plan 2020

86.4% **of countries**



reporting on Compliance of the International **Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** through the Online Reporting System 2023



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Targets	12
Indicators	24

29%

Migrated or forcibly displaced

World

108.4
million people

Arab region

33
million people
17.1 million IDPs

2023

1/3
of the world's **displaced persons** are in the Arab region

Corruption is found in every region

Received bribe requests from public officials

Arab region

1 IN 5
businesses
(19.7%)

2023

World

1 IN 7
businesses

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

2023

82.8%
children
aged 1-14
experienced **violence**

The number of children aged 1-14 experiencing violence decreased

118 **million** 2021

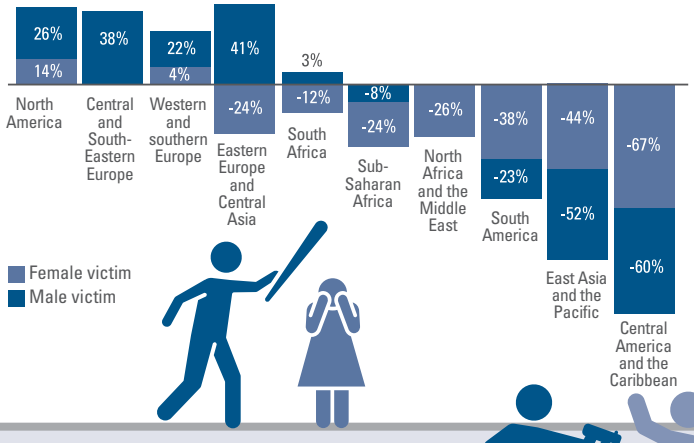
122 **million** 2023

2023

Arab Maghreb	84.8
Arab Mashreq	81.9
Central Asia	62.6
World	77.7

40%
decrease
in the number of **detected victims in the MENA region**

2020



The highest number of international homicides

Arab region

6.8+ per 100,000 people

32,051 **lives lost** 2022

Data per 100,000 pop

2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022
6	6	5.4	6.4	6.4	7.7	6.8

9 IN 10
victims
are male

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Targets	19
Indicators	24

58%

Remittance flows

2.9% 2021

of total GDP

2.4% 2023

Digital connectivity 3x

332.3 million internet users

23.3% 2010

68.9% 2023

Arab countries

50% 2023

updated their National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

68.2% 2023

nearly 1/3

updated their statistical laws that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

59%

registered at least **90%** of births

41%

registered at least **75%** of deaths

The share of merchandise exports from the Arab region

4% 2000

5.9% 2023

Bridging the SDG financing gap

Original estimate

$2.5 trillion per year

For **developing countries** to achieve SDGs by 2030

$2.3 trillion per year for **developing countries** to achieve SDGs by 2030

$660 billion per year needed by **12 Arab countries** to achieve selected SDGs by 2030

$25 trillion

Holdings of transnational corporations and some pension funds

Annex

Technical notes

Countries and country groups in the Arab region

The Arab region consists of 22 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

World Bank income-based classification

High-income countries (HICs)	Middle-income countries (MICs)	Low-income countries (LICs)
Bahrain	Algeria	Somalia
Kuwait	Egypt	Syrian Arab Republic
Oman	Iraq	Sudan
Qatar	Jordan	Yemen
Saudi Arabia	Lebanon	
United Arab Emirates	Libya	
	Morocco	
	State of Palestine	
	Tunisia	
	Comoros	
	Djibouti	
	Mauritania	

Source: https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups#:~:text=For%20the%20current%202024%20fiscal,those%20with%20a%20GNI%20per.

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The report presents a comprehensive overview of the Arab region's progress in 2024 toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), amidst a context of prolonged instability and emerging global challenges. It evaluates the region's advancement across all 17 SDGs, their 169 targets and associated indicators, using a 2015 baseline to assess progress toward the 2030 Agenda. While notable gains have been made in areas such as health and sanitation, the region continues to face major challenges in eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and addressing climate change. Geopolitical and economic instability have further strained development efforts and disrupted essential data production.

The report identifies progress and gaps, highlighting immediate priorities and proposing strategies to accelerate implementation. It emphasizes the critical role of timely, disaggregated data, integrated policies and regional cooperation in overcoming persistent challenges. Key messages are provided for each Goal to guide action and inform decision-making. The 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development called for a new phase of accelerated action on the SDGs. It is therefore more urgent than ever to drive development and compile the evidence needed to measure progress, stagnation and setbacks. As Arab countries navigate complex socio-economic landscapes, the report serves as a vital resource for Governments, stakeholders and development partners committed to achieving sustainable development and ensuring that no one is left behind.

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