

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



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



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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.



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

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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.

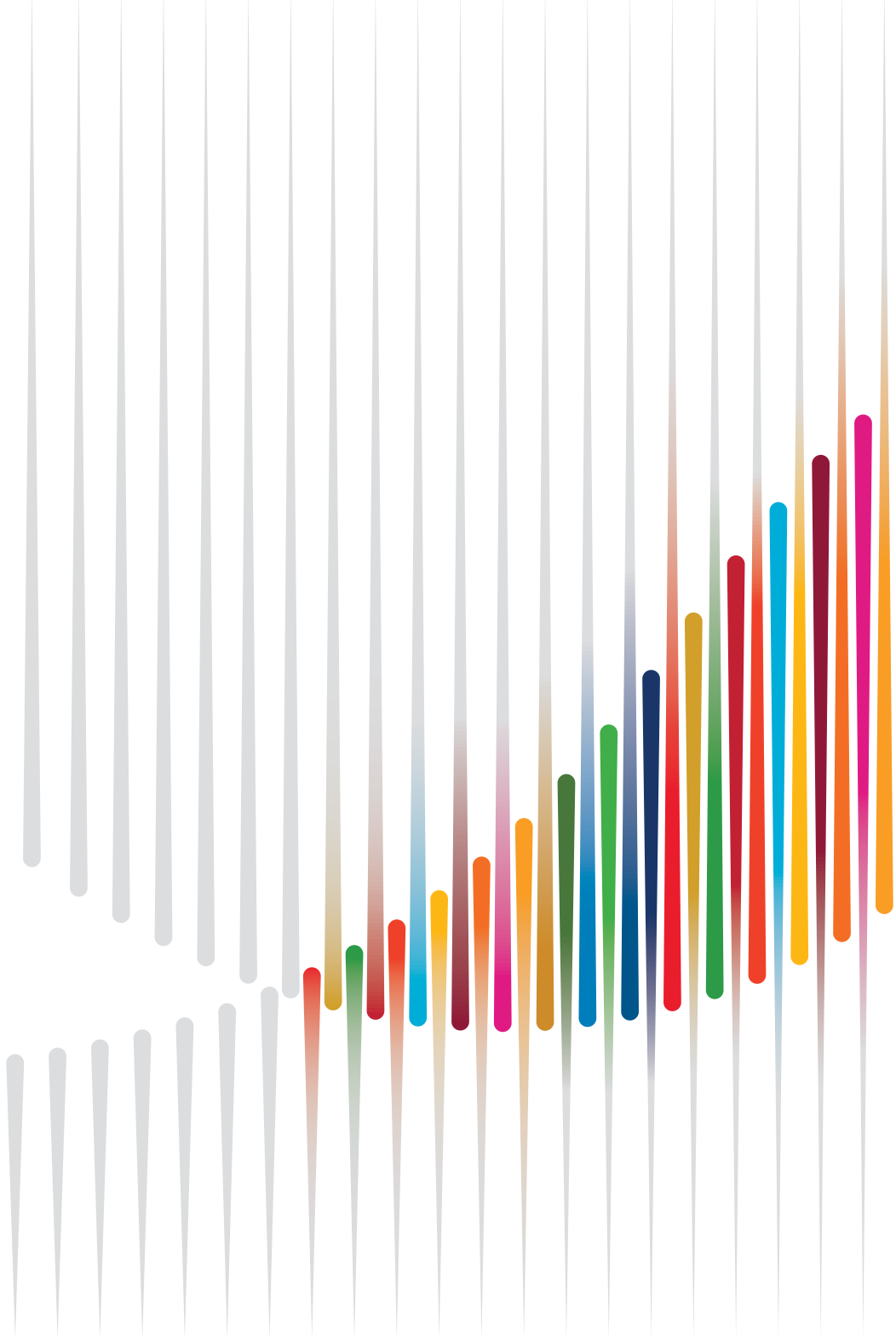
This report shines a spotlight on the challenges on the road to achieving the SDGs. It provides information on the region's progress in each of the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets and associated indicators. It also draws an overview, broken down by SDG, to reflect the region's progress in terms of goals, 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.



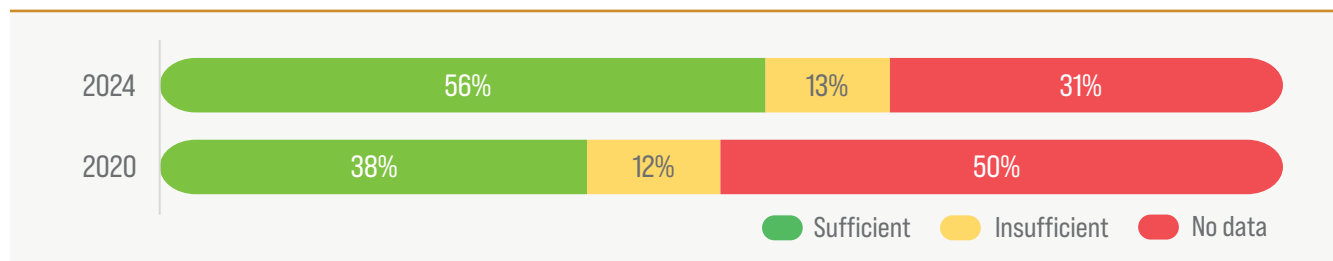




A decorative graphic in the top left corner consisting of numerous vertical lines of varying heights and widths, all in a dark red color, creating a textured, rain-like effect.

**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-availability/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

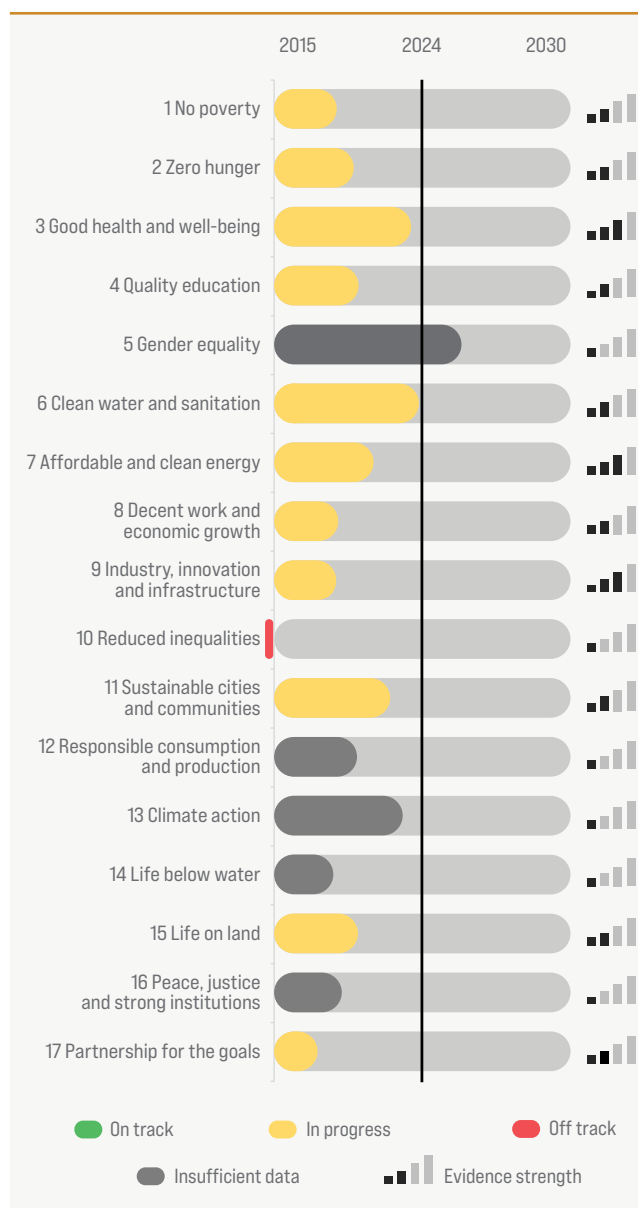
The Arab region has made progress in implementing the SDGs after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, but that progress has been uneven as a result of socioeconomic, political and environmental factors. This quantitative assessment is based on available data and evaluates the progress made in the 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).



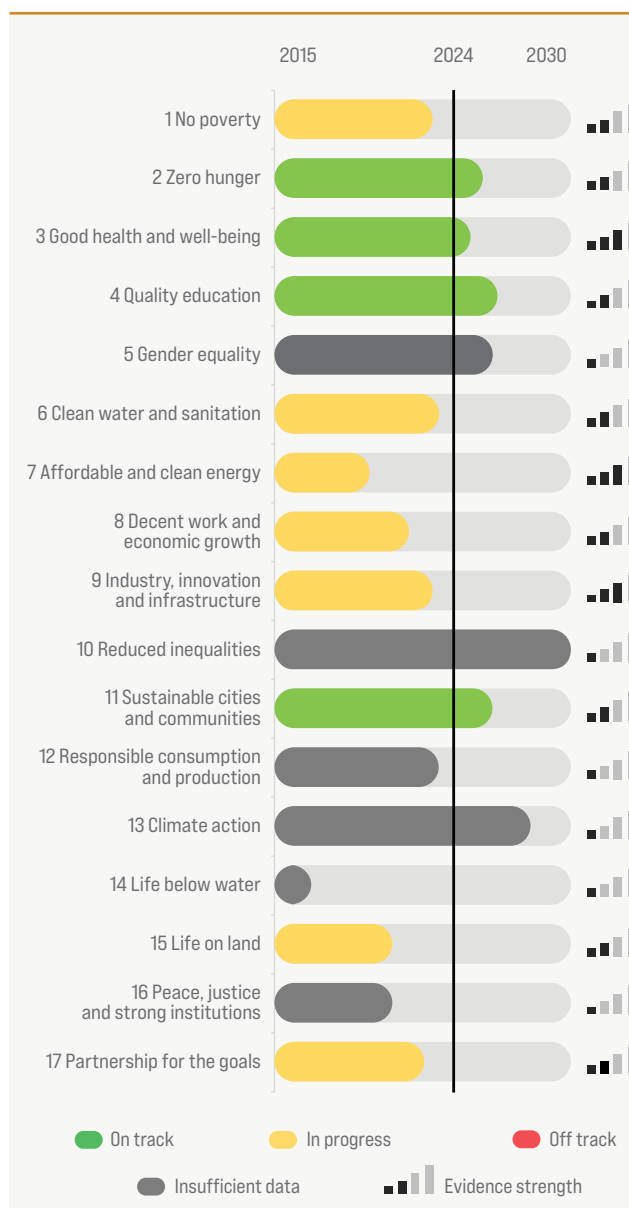
**Figure 2. Progress of Goals towards the 2023 threshold level and the 2030 target**



Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/data-availability/index.html?o=1> (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.

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

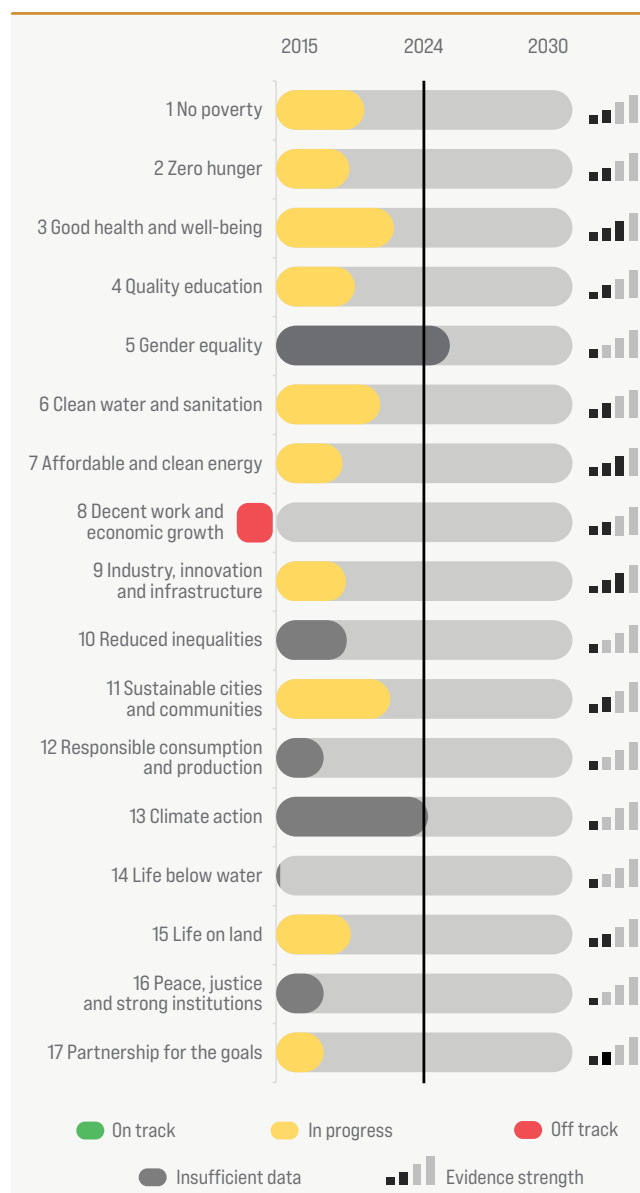


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

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.

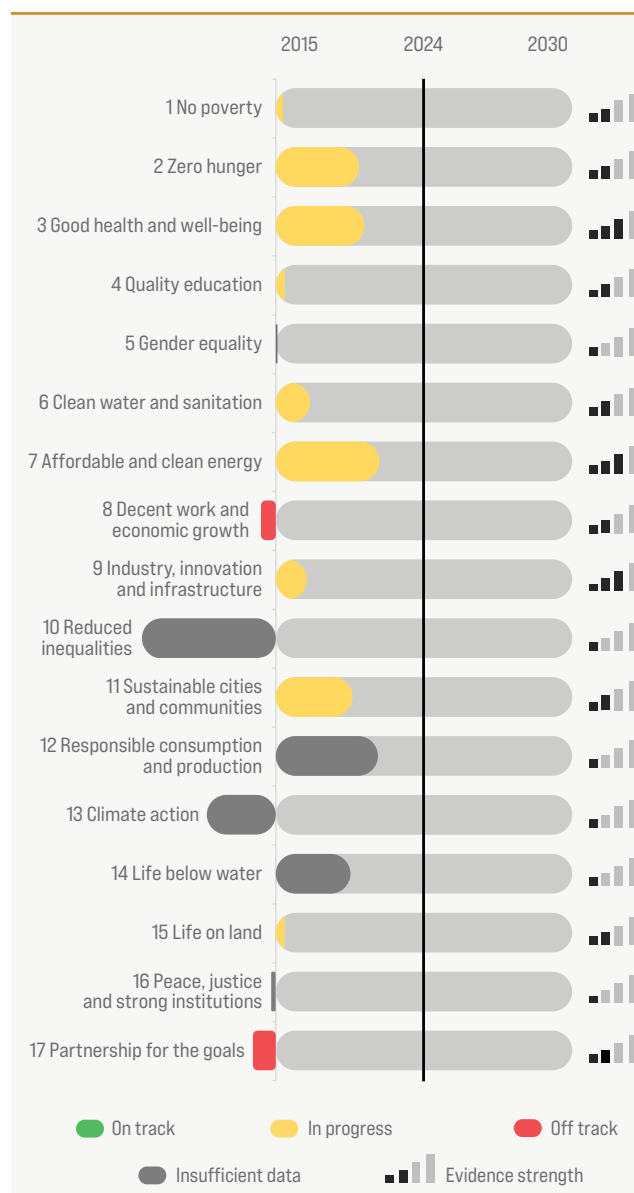


**Figure 4. Progress towards the 2030 target in middle-income Arab countries, by Sustainable Development Goal**



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.

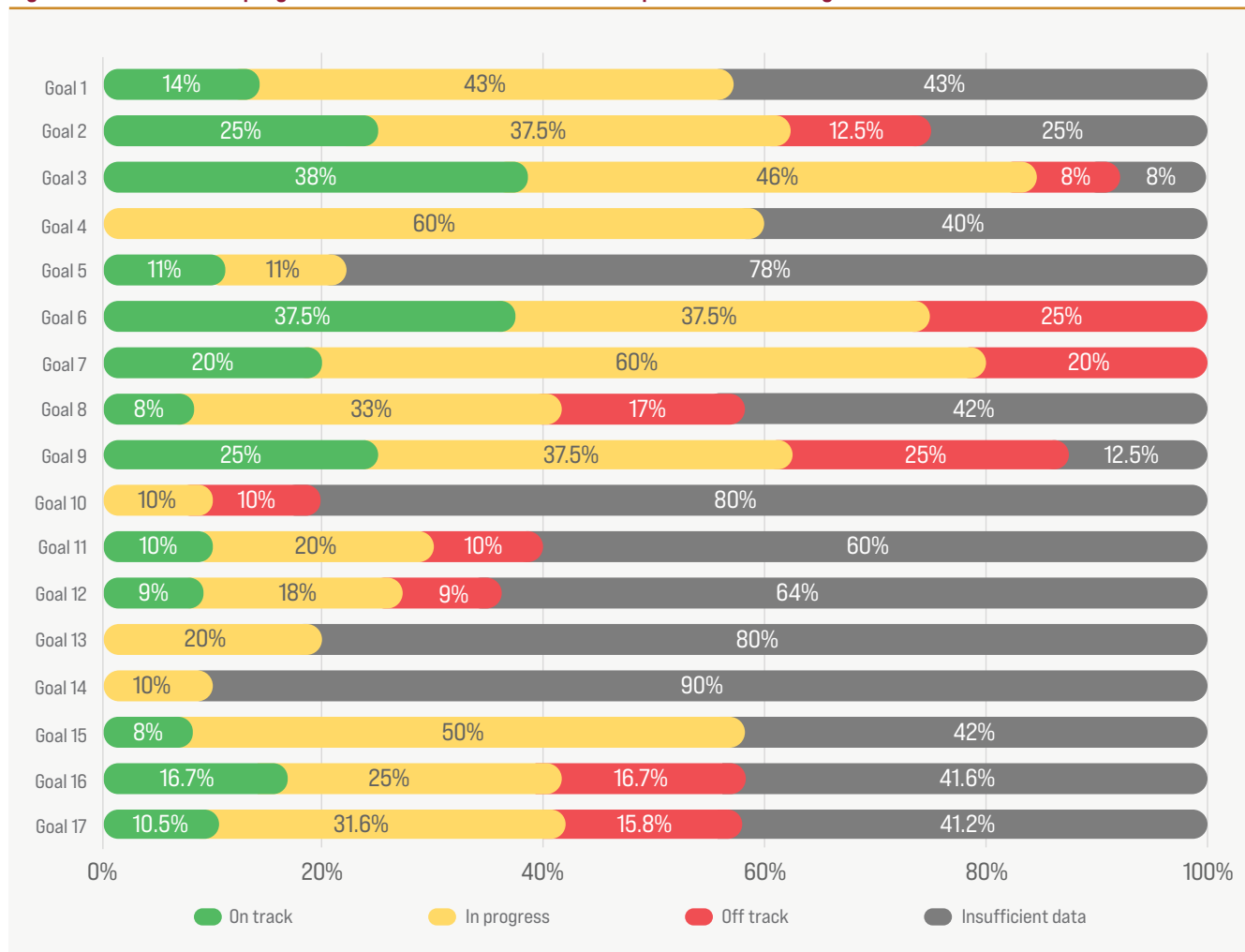
Figure 6 shows the distribution of the progress of targets per goal in the Arab region towards the 2030 Agenda.

△ **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-availability/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”:**

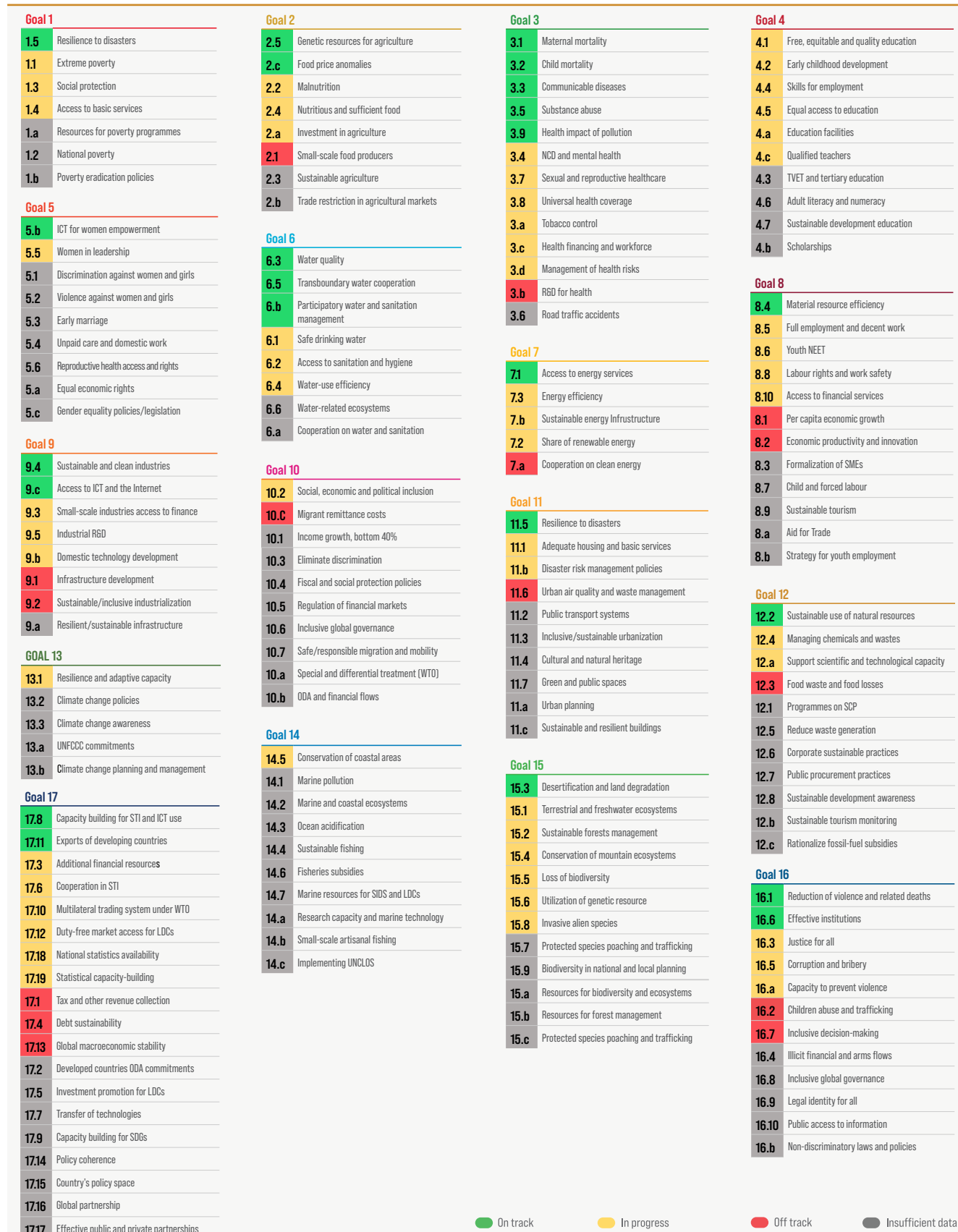
- SDG 9 (25 per cent),
- SDG 8 (17 per cent) and
- SDG 16 (17 per cent).

**△ 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-availability/index.html?o=1> (accessed March 2025).

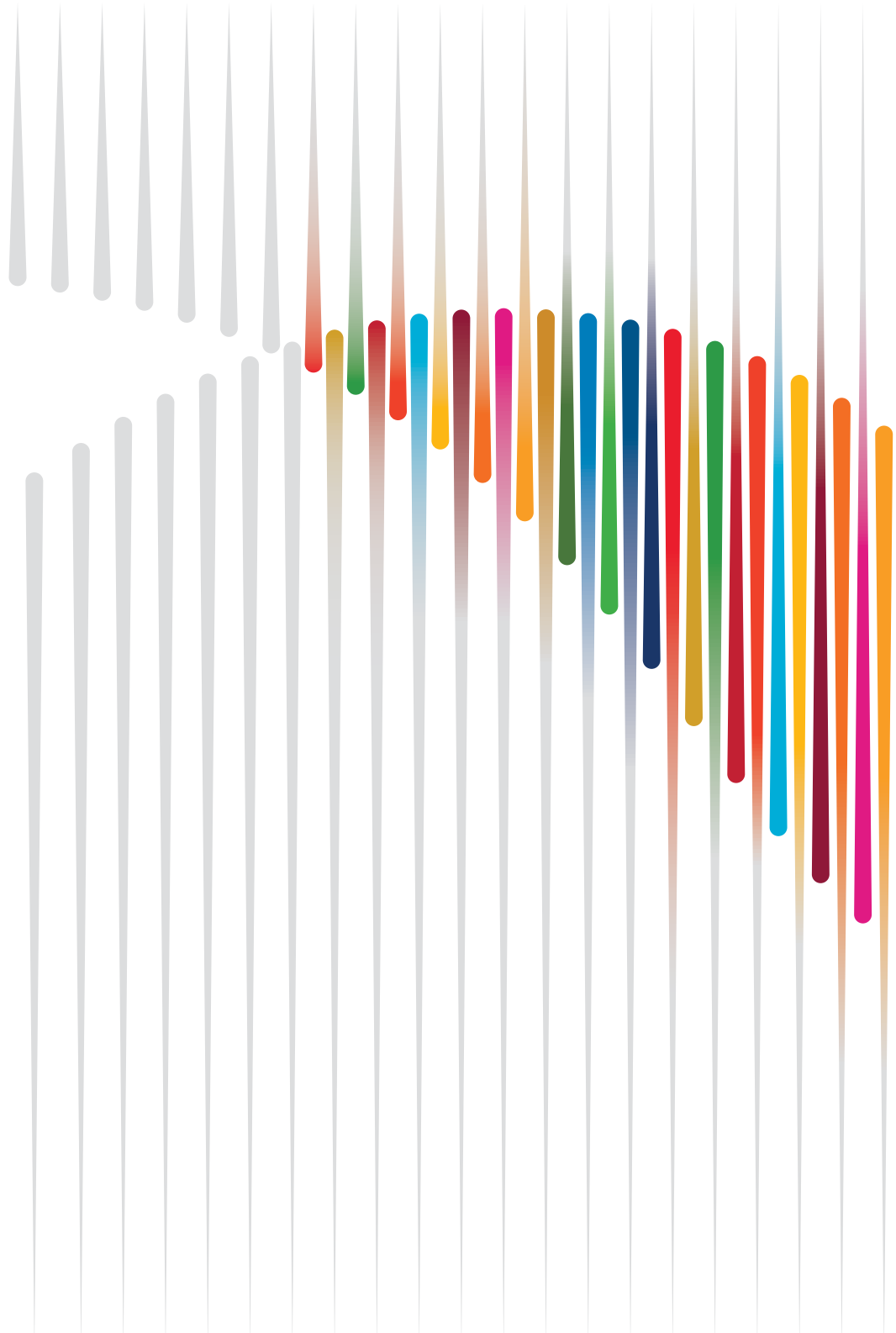
## Data, monitoring and accountability

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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”<sup>1</sup> and developed in the “Guide to the Generic Law of Official Statistics in the Arab Countries”.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> **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.**<sup>4</sup>





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).<sup>5</sup> 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.

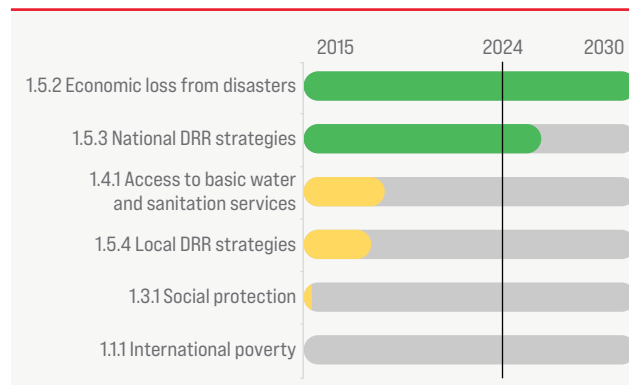
△ The proportion of workers in the Arab region considered to be in vulnerable employment has slowly declined since 2010, falling from 27.4 to 25.8 per cent by 2022. Female workers (28 per cent) and rural workers (37.6 per cent) are considerably more likely to be in vulnerable employment than the population 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

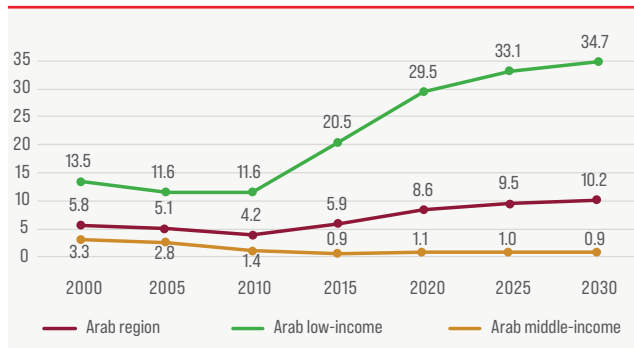


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsgdmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

### Selected SDG 1 indicators:

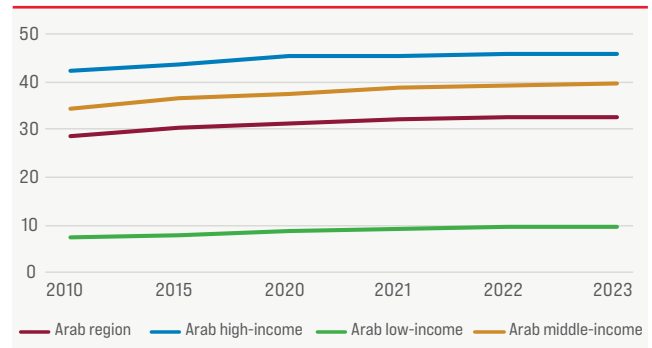
- △ 1.1.1 Employed population below international poverty line (2024): 7.7 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 6.9 per cent (world).
- △ 1.1.1 Proportion of population below international poverty line (2022): 10.2 per cent (Arab countries) vs. 9.0 per cent (world).
- △ 1.3.1 Proportion of the population with 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)**



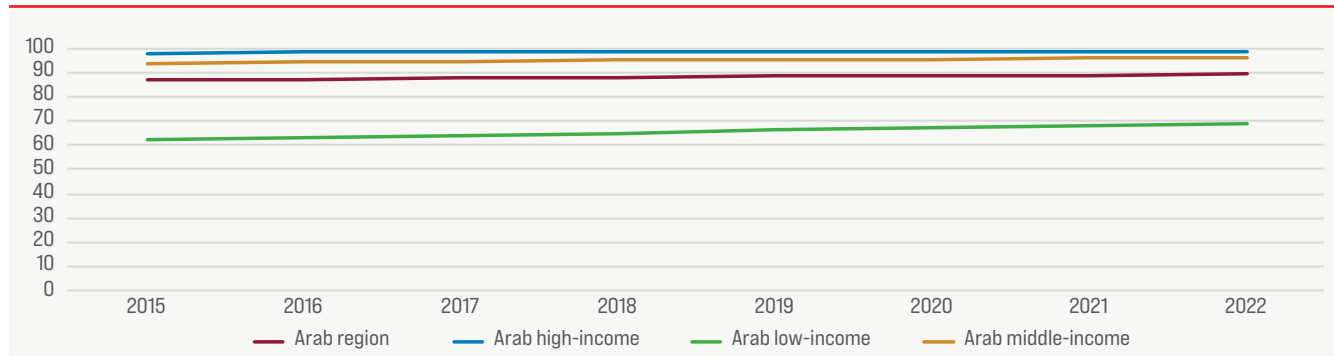
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

**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.

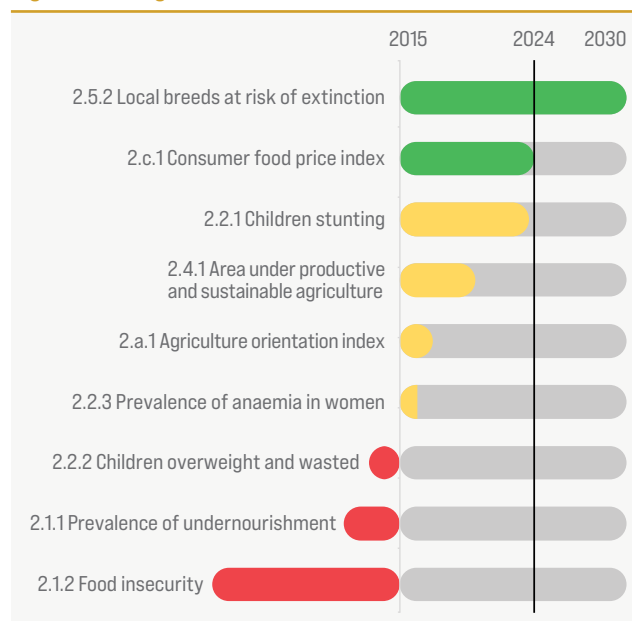
#### Figures at a glance

- △ 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

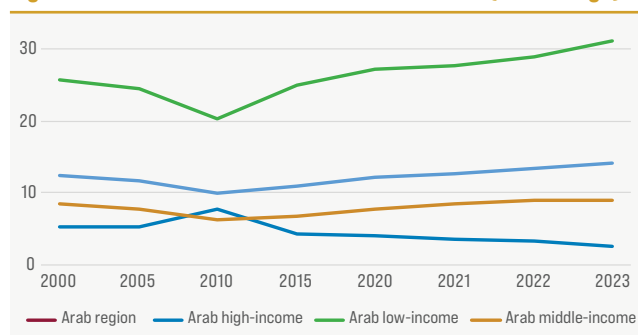


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

### Selected SDG 2 indicators:

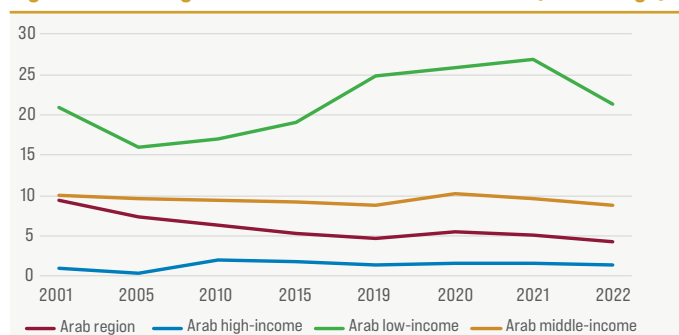
- △ 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment in the population (2023): 14 per cent.
- △ 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (2023): 39.4 per cent.
- △ 2.2.1 Proportion of children moderately or severely stunted (2022): 19.9 per cent.
- △ 2.2.2 Proportion of children moderately 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

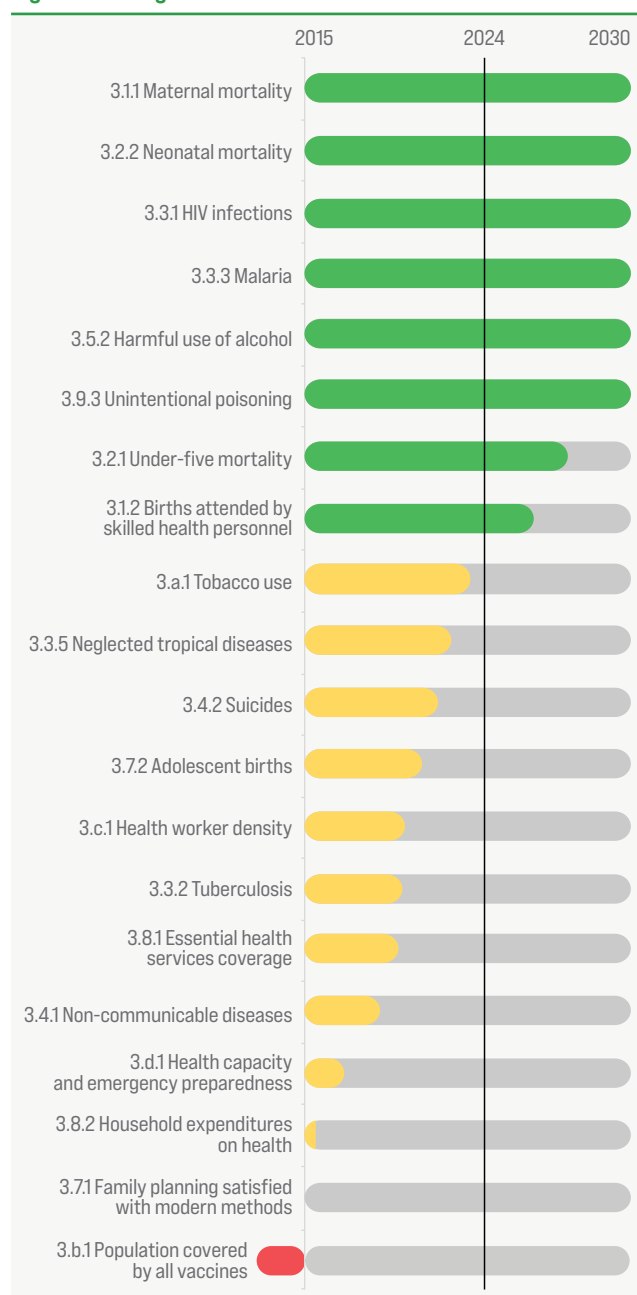
The Arab region shows notable progress on SDG 3,<sup>6</sup> with improvements in maternal and infant mortality, tuberculosis incidence, and vaccine access. However, significant challenges remain in achieving universal healthcare coverage, sexual and reproductive health and healthcare affordability.

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<sup>7</sup> was 58.4 in 2022. Arab-high income and low-income performed very well in this indicator.

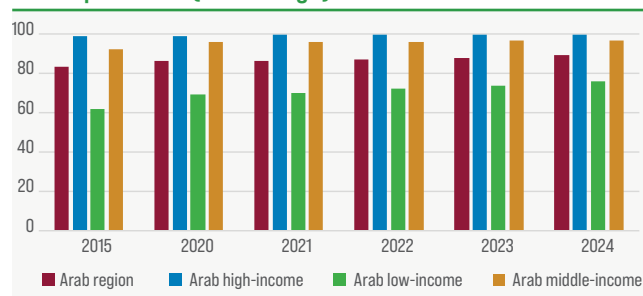
In 2019, the mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene was 27 per 100,000 people in the Arab low-income sub-region, compared to 10 per 100,000 in the Arab region, while the global average was 18.5 per 100,000.

#### 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.

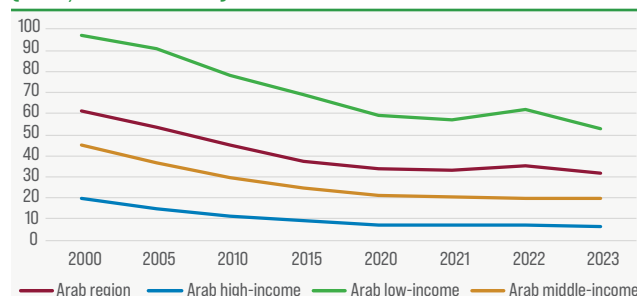
**Figure 16. 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (Percentage)**



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

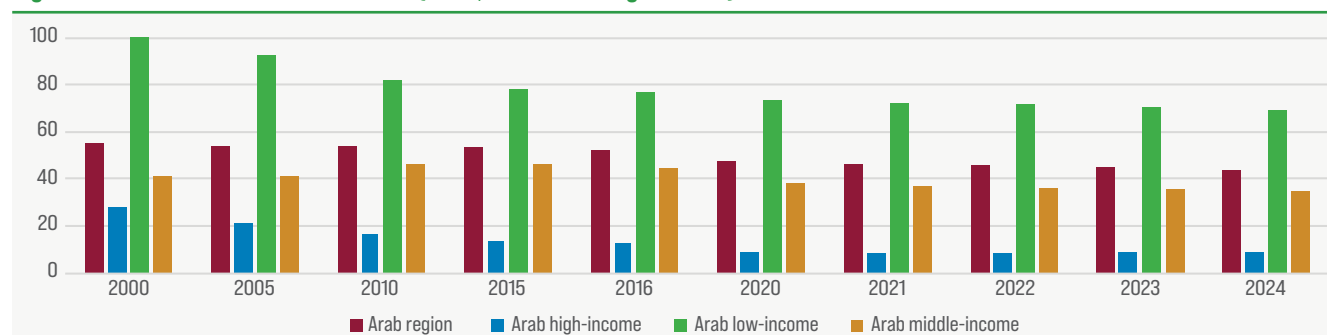
- △ 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population at risk (2023): 18.8.
- △ 3.7.2 Adolescent (ages 15–19) birth rate per 1,000 women (2024): 43.9.
- △ 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis, human papillomavirus (2023): 3 per cent.

**Figure 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

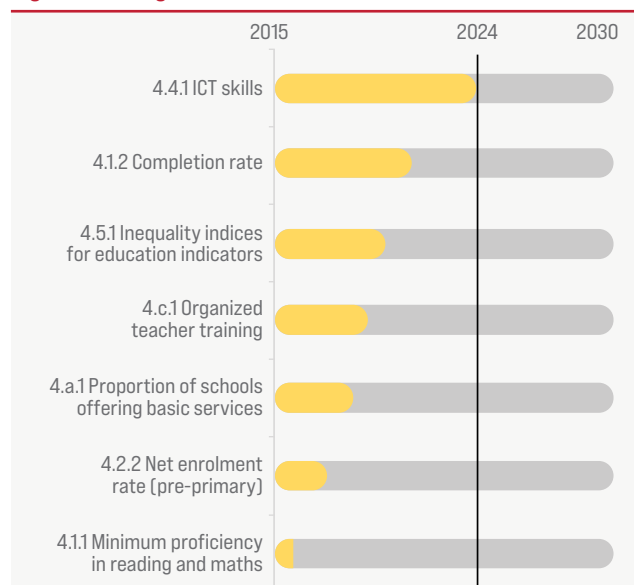
- △ Primary school completion rates increased from 75 per cent in 2000 to 82 per cent in 2022: 81 per cent for girls and 84 per cent for boys. Lower secondary completion rates grew from 55.2 to 67.5 per cent during the same period, although this remains well behind the global average of 76.6 per cent.
- △ 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.

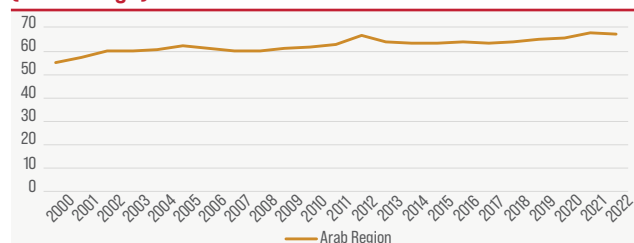
- △ 4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities (2023): 68.8 per cent.

**Figure 19. Progress in SDG 4 indicators**



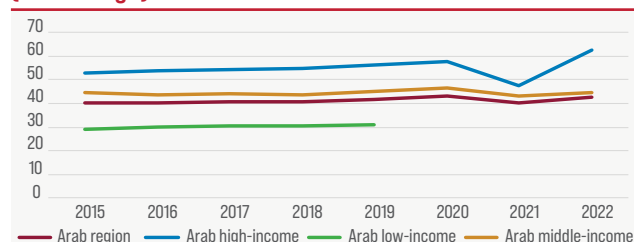
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

**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

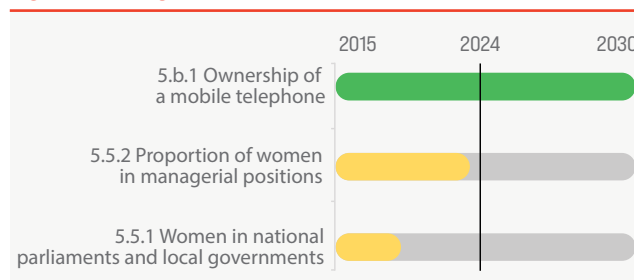
The Arab region has made progress on SDG 5, amending legislation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. However, challenges persist, including low female representation in leadership positions, legal gaps, violence against

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.<sup>8</sup>
  - △ 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**

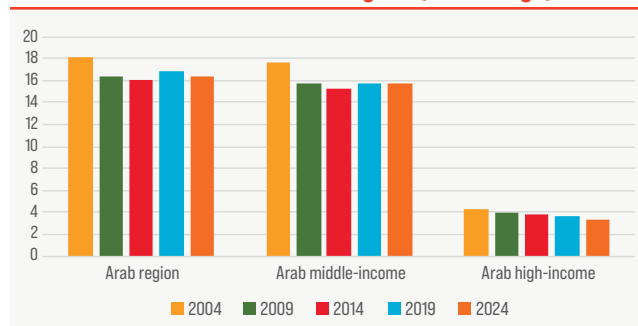


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

△ 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.

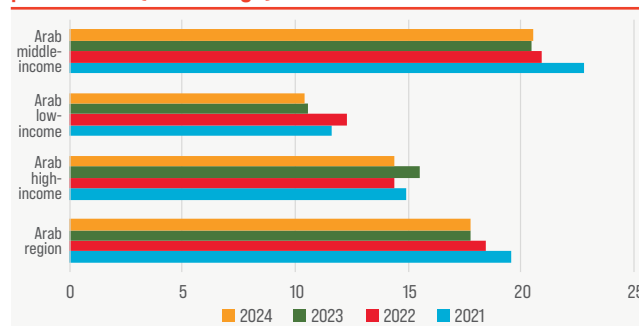
**Figure 23. 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 (Percentage)**



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

△ 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 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).

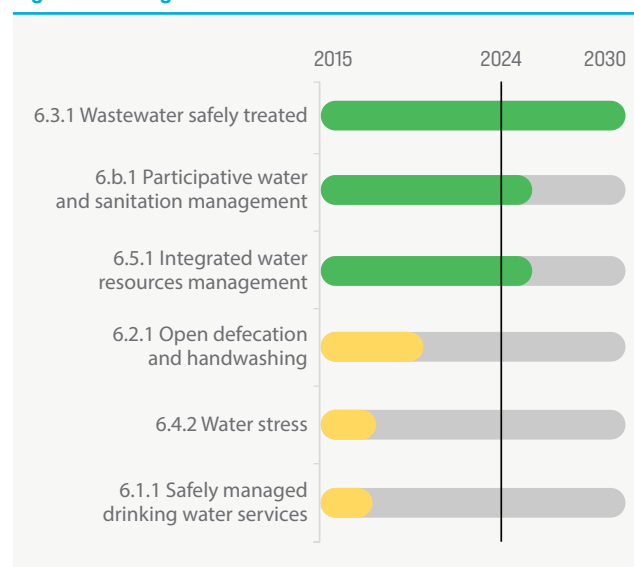
## Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation



### 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

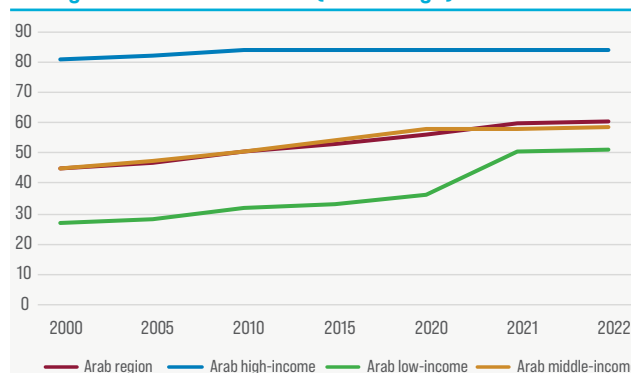
the medium-low range, slightly below the global average score of 57.

- △ 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:

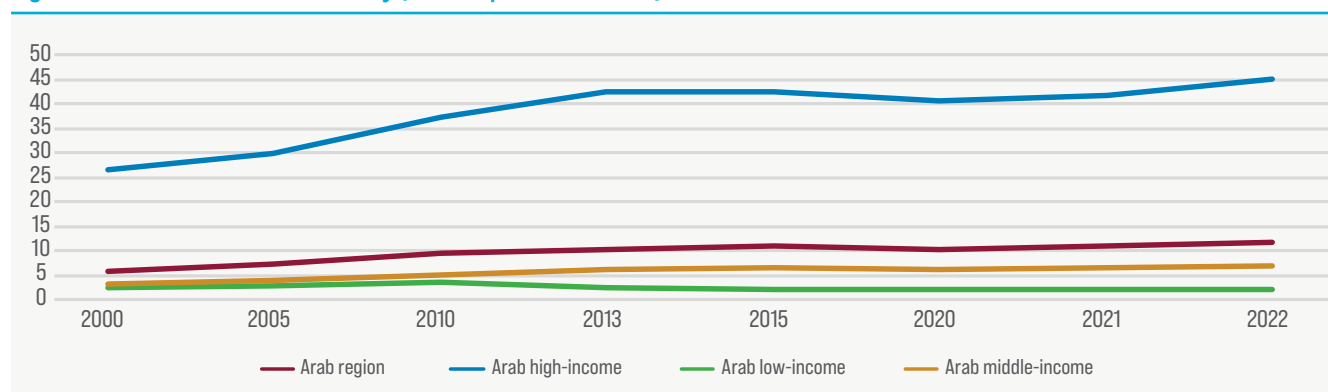
- △ 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (2022): 75.1 per cent.
- △ 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (2021): \$10.9/m<sup>3</sup>.
- △ 6.2.1 Proportion of population practising open defecation (2022): 1.8 per cent.
- △ 6.3.1 Proportion of safely treated 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

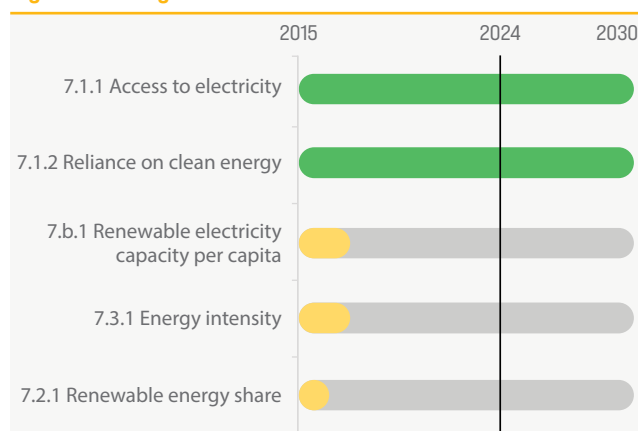
in renewable energy investments, however, suggests the potential for significant capacity growth soon.

- △ 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:

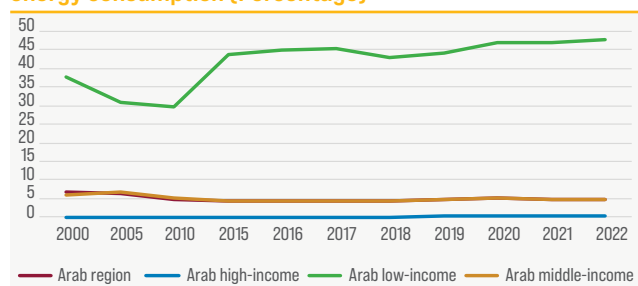
- △ 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity (2022): 91 per cent.
- △ 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (2023): 86 per cent.
- △ 7.3.1 Energy intensity level of primary energy (2021): 4.98 megajoules per unit of purchasing power parity 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

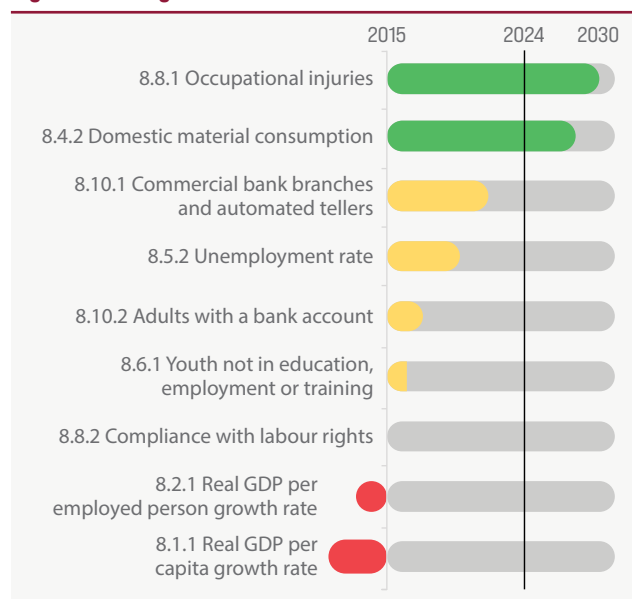
The Arab region is not on track to achieve SDG 8. It is losing ground or stagnating on several key indicators. Countries have struggled to overcome long-standing challenges to ignite economic growth, increasing labour productivity and creating decent work opportunities. Patterns of

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

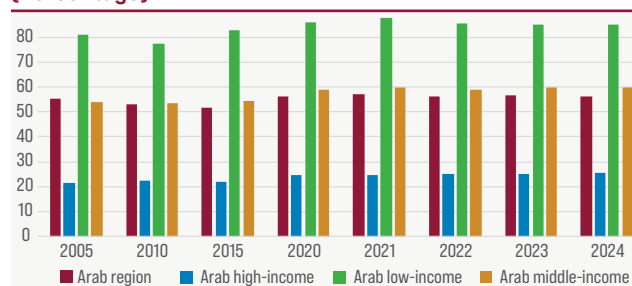
- △ Since 2015, real GDP per capita has fallen across the region. Driven by slow rates of annual growth, major setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation, real GDP per capita fell by 3.7 between 2015 and 2022. At global level, real GDP per capita grew by more than 10 per cent during the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

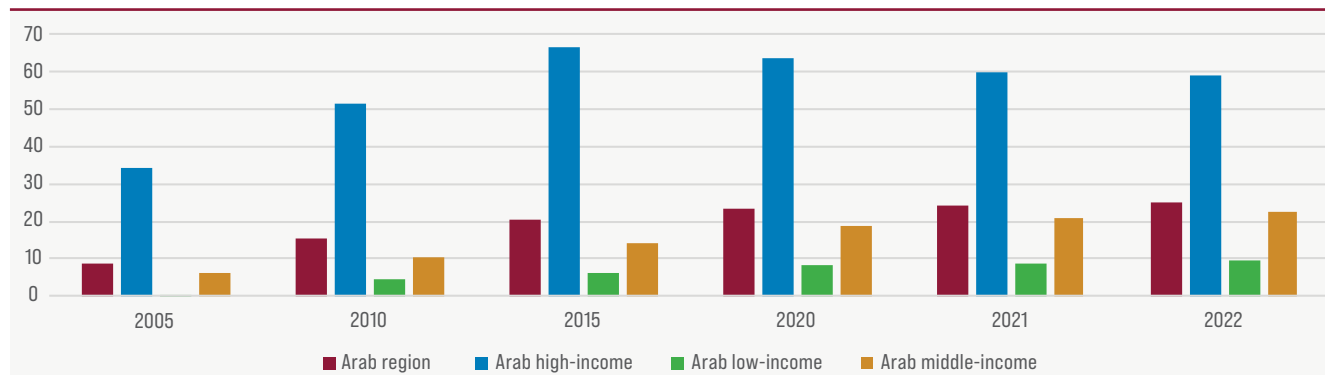


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

### Selected SDG 8 indicators:

- △ 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (2023): -1.3 per cent.

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,<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup>
- △ 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:

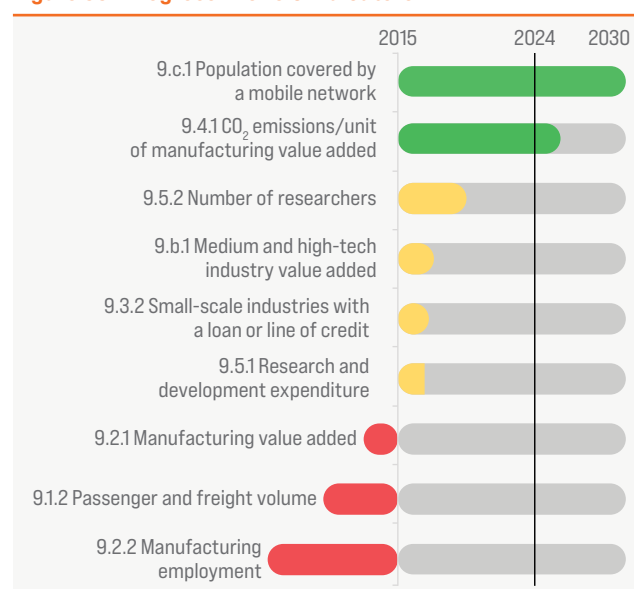
- △ 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (2024): 11.4 per cent.
- △ 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added per capita (2024): \$691.

- △ 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment – 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

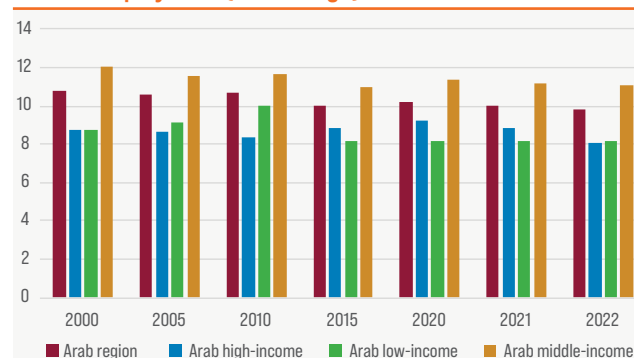
The proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line credit was about 18.3 in Arab middle-income countries compared to less than 3 for each Arab high and low-income country. The Arab region average was 14.4.

Figure 33. Progress in SDG 9 indicators



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

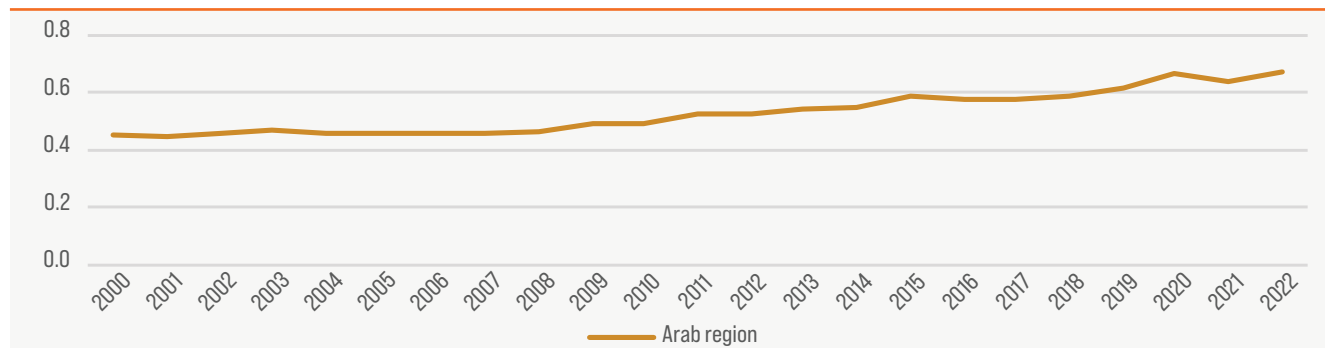
Figure 34. 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (Percentage)



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.

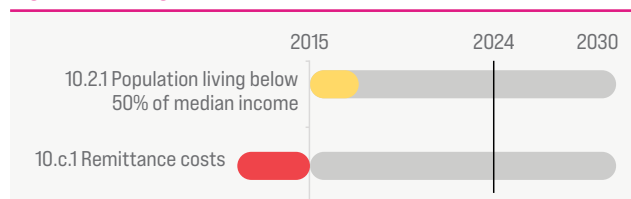
### Figures at a glance

- △ 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:

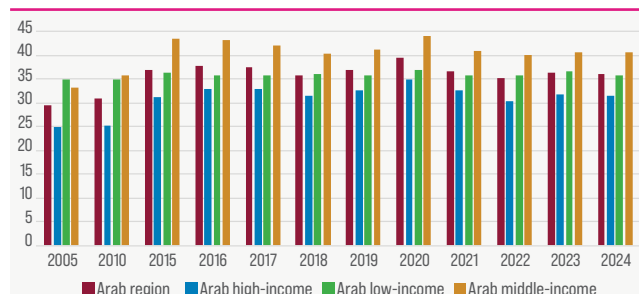
- △ 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP (total output) (2024): 36.1 per cent.
- △ 10.c.1 Average cost of sending a \$200 remittance to a receiving country as a proportion of the amount remitted (2023): 6.2 per cent.

**Figure 36. Progress in SDG 10 indicators**



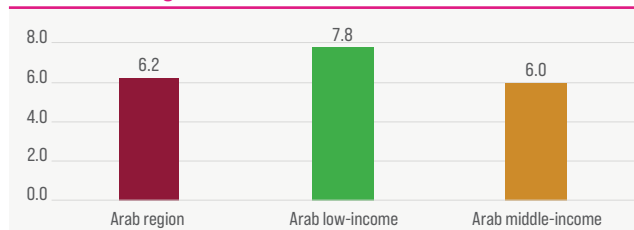
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

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 – Sustainable 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.

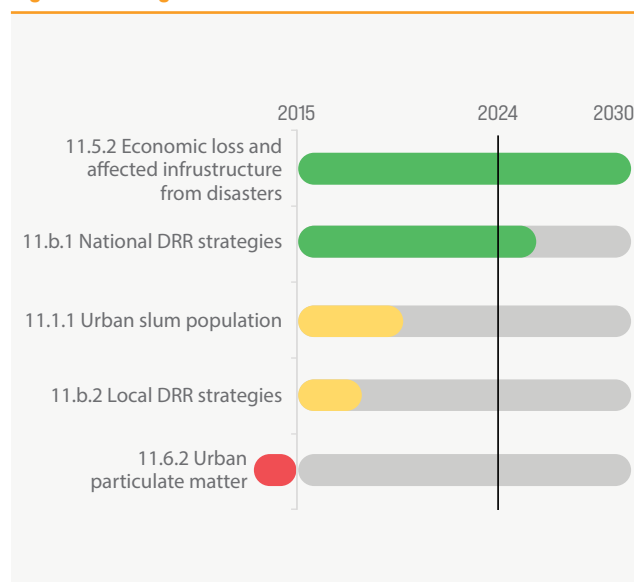
### Figures at a glance

- △ 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:

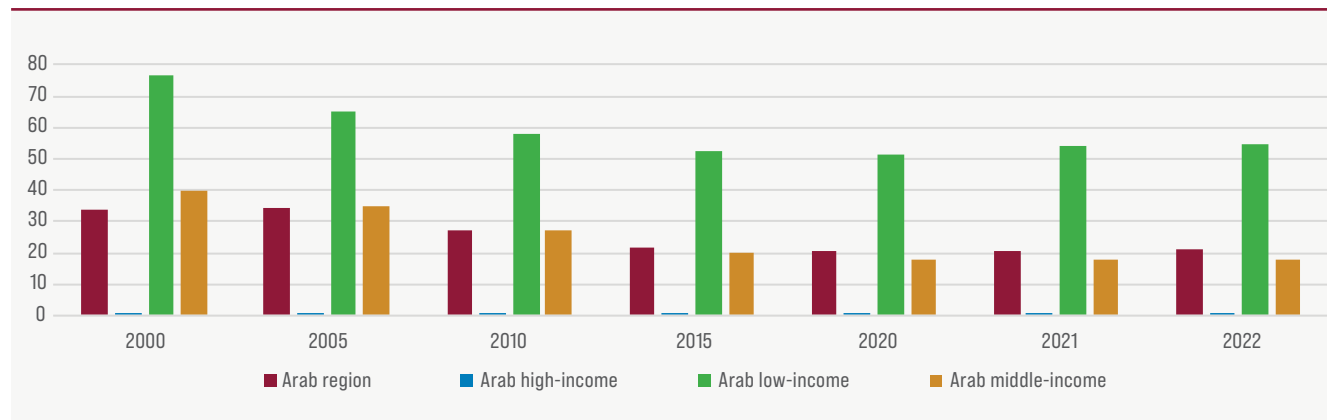
- △ 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums (2022): 20.9 per cent.

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

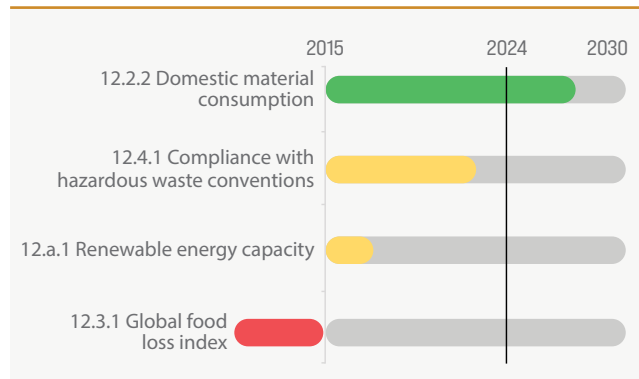
per unit of GDP, which was at 1.2 kg per dollar in 2019 against 0.05 on average globally.

- △ 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:

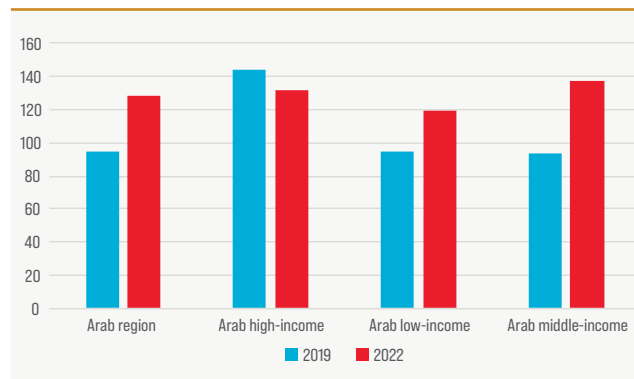
- △ 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (2022): 1.4.
- △ 12.3.1 Global food loss index (2021): 101.7.

Figure 41. Progress in SDG 12 indicators



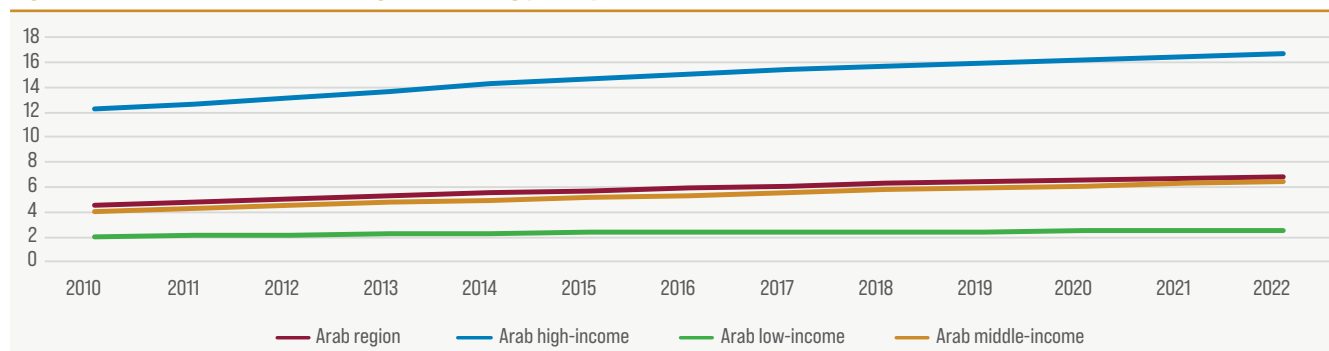
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

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

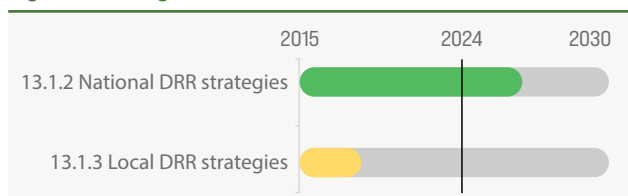
disasters, which fuel food insecurity and displacement.

- △ 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:

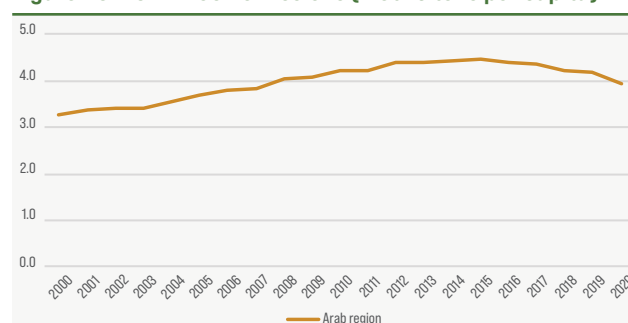
- △ 13.1x Internally displaced people, new displacement associated with disasters (2023): 33.1, per 100,000 of the population.
- △ 13.2x Renewable energy consumption as proportion of total final consumption (2022): 4.9 per cent.

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

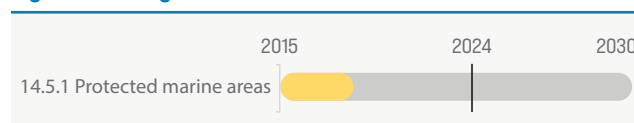
- △ One of the highest levels of coastal eutrophication globally is in the Arabian Sea. In 2022, marine and coastal waters around the least developed countries exhibited particularly high algae growth levels in the region (chlorophyll-a deviations from 2000–2004 baseline of 2.1 per cent; however, this 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:

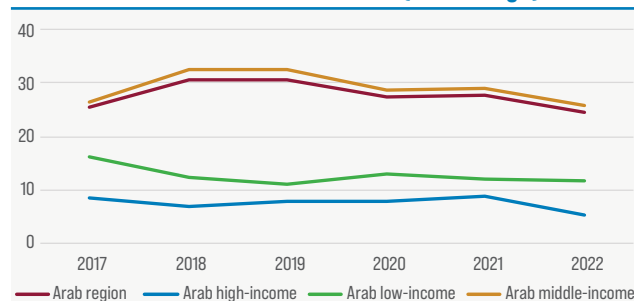
- △ 14.1.1 Beach litter originating from national land-based sources that ends in the ocean (2022): 24.4 per cent.
- △ 14.5.1 Average proportion of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas covered by protected areas (2022): 35.8 per cent.

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.

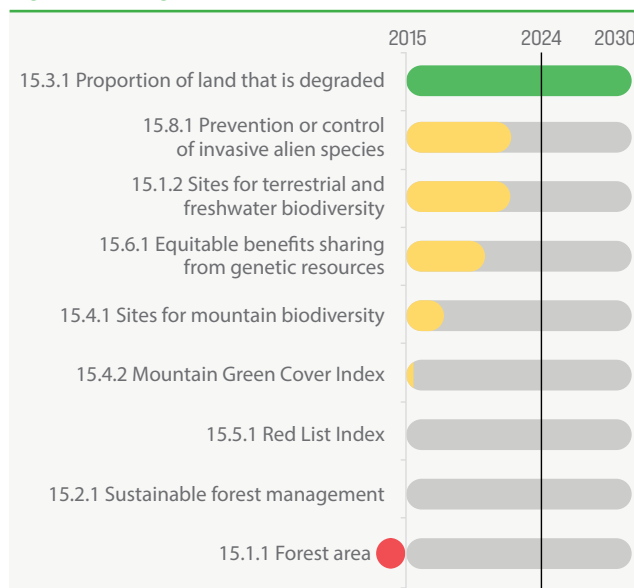
## Figures at a glance

- △ 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:

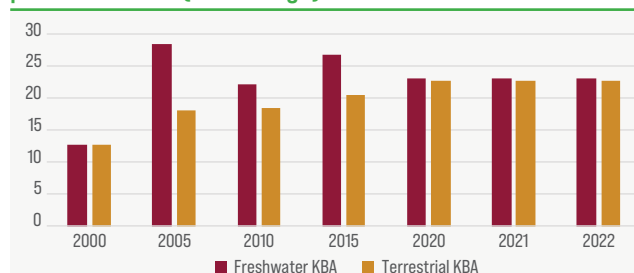
- △ 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area (2020): 2.8 per cent.
- △ 15.8.1 Proportion of countries with a national biodiversity strategy and action plan: 72.7 per cent.

Figure 48. Progress in SDG 15 indicators

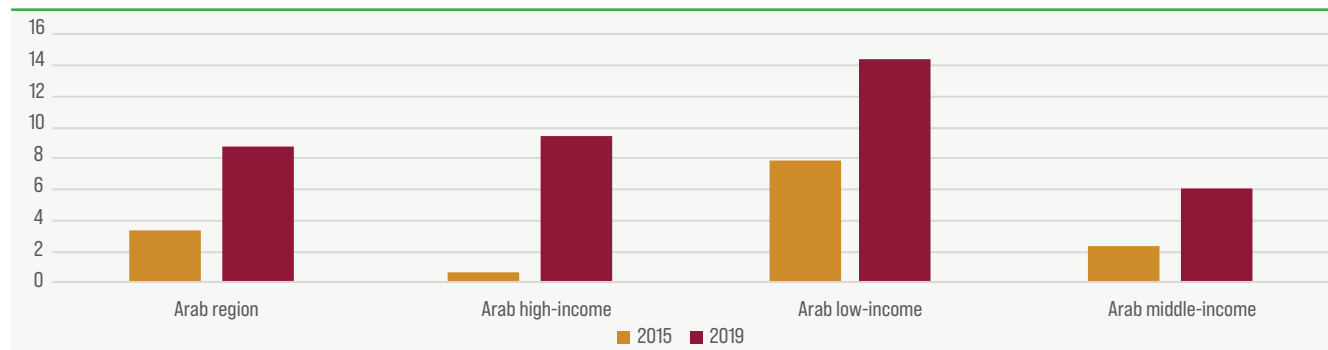


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

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.<sup>13</sup>
- △ 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



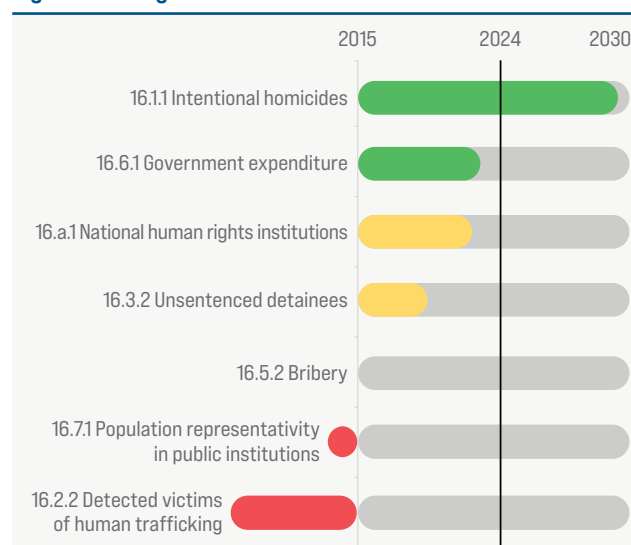
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in 2023. These figures are about 40.5 and 25.4 per cent of all refugees worldwide, respectively. More than 6.5 million refugees have come from the Syrian Arab Republic. The region has around 19.4 million internally displaced people.

- △ 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,<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> 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:

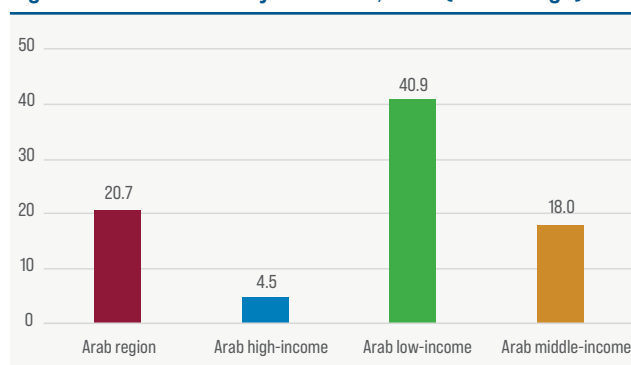
- △ 16.5.2 Bribery incidence, 2024: 20.7 per cent of firms experienced at least one bribery payment.

**Figure 51. Progress in SDG 16 indicators**



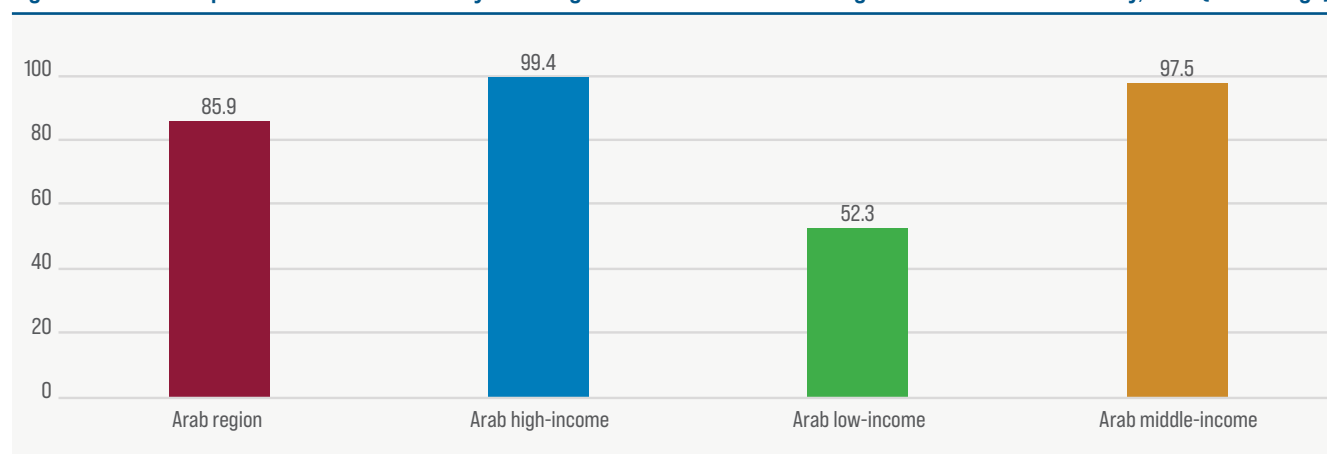
Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

**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.<sup>16</sup>
- △ 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

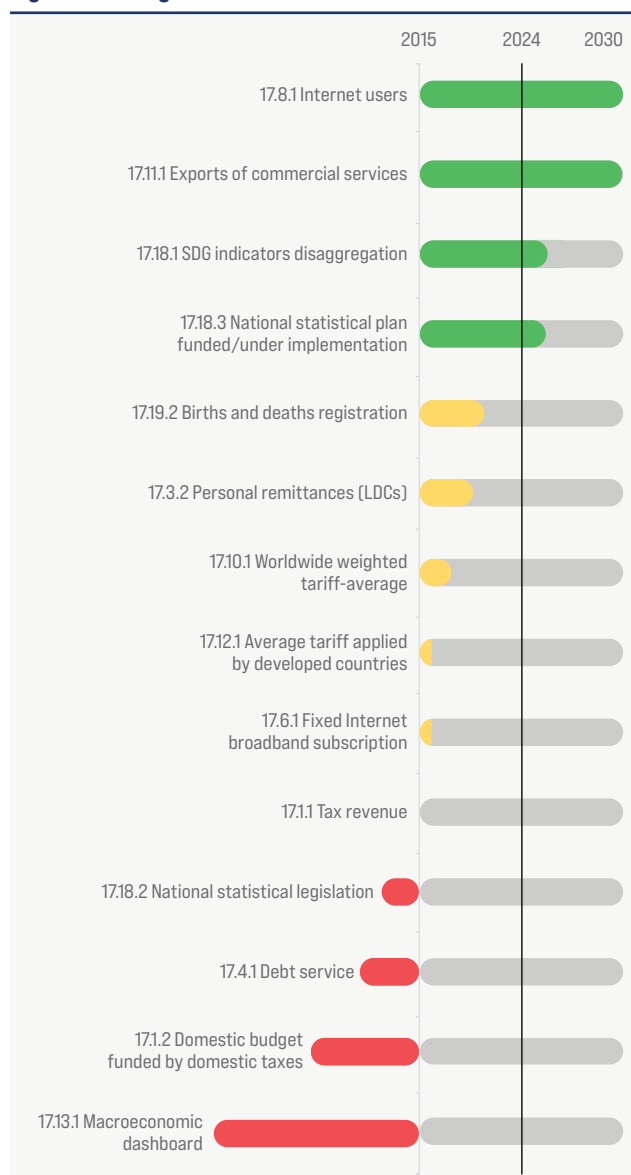
in forgone revenue collection. This number is greater than both foreign direct investment and official development assistance inflows to Arab countries and is estimated to affect at least 8.2 per cent of the region's non-oil trade.

- △ 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:

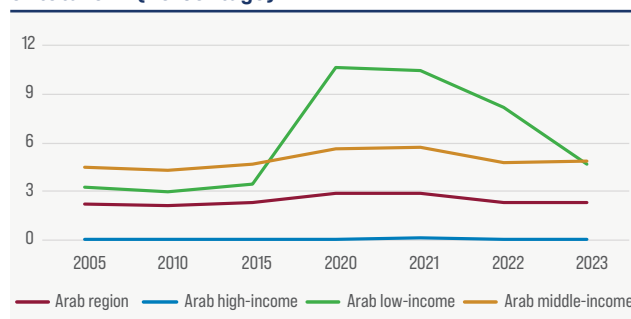
- △ 17.3.2 Personal remittances received as a proportion of GDP, 2023: 2.4 per cent.
- △ 17.6.1 Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2023: 11.7.
- △ 17.8.1 Internet users per 100 inhabitants, 2023: 68.9.
- △ 17.11.1 Developing countries and least developed countries' share of global 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

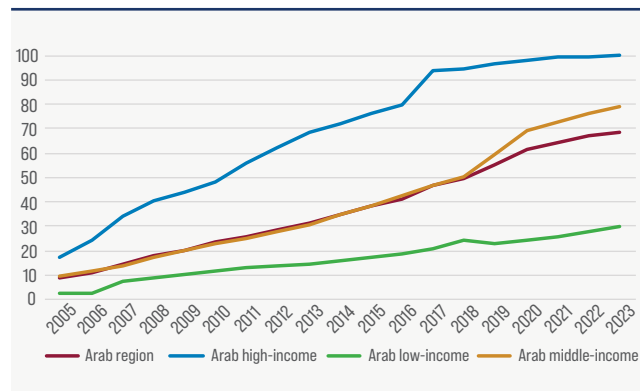


Source: Arab SDG Monitor. Available at <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/> (accessed in March 2025).

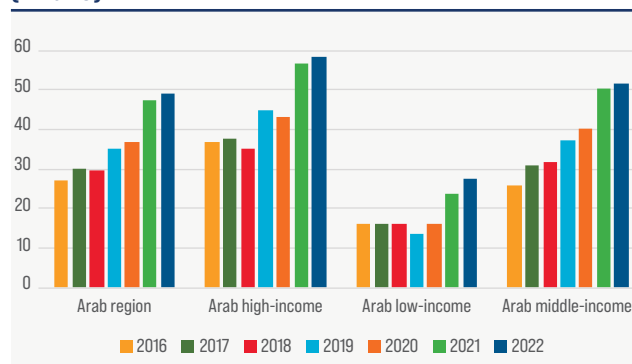
Figure 55. 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (\$) as a proportion of total GDP (Percentage)



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

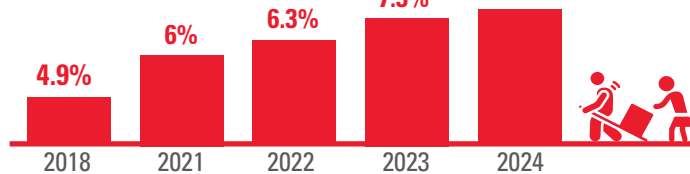
## Working poverty rate

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



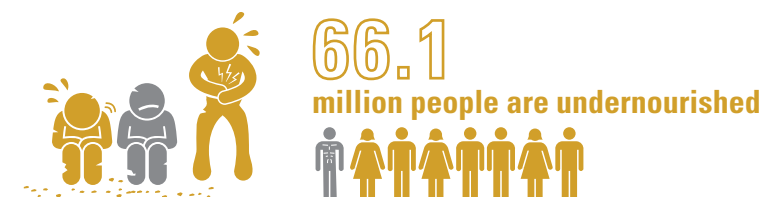
Investment to improve sanitation infrastructure has started to reap benefits, however

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



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

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>57%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>14</b>		



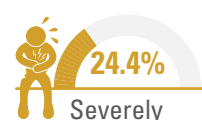
**47.2** million people live in **conflict-hit countries**

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%**



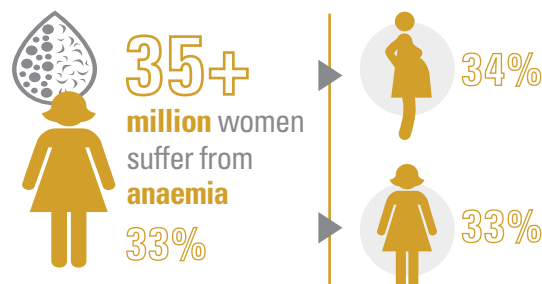
**72.7** (15.4%)  
million people suffer from **severe food insecurity**  
in conflict-hit countries

**105.3**  
million people suffer from food insecurity (15.4%)



2023

**Anaemia**  
among women is **decreasing**  
but remains **significantly high** among pregnant woman



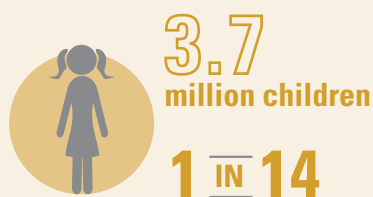
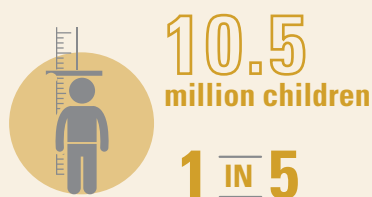
## Malnutrition persists in the Arab region, jeopardizing children's well-being and future development

Children under 5 years of age suffer from **2022**

**stunting**

**wasting**

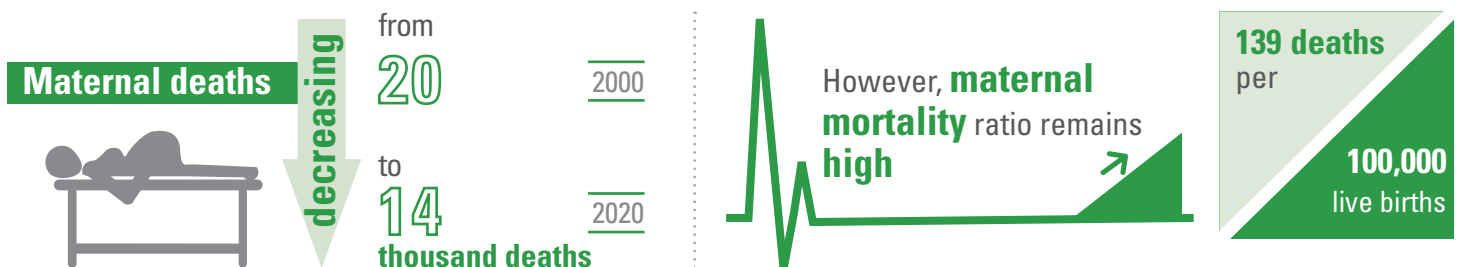
**overweight**



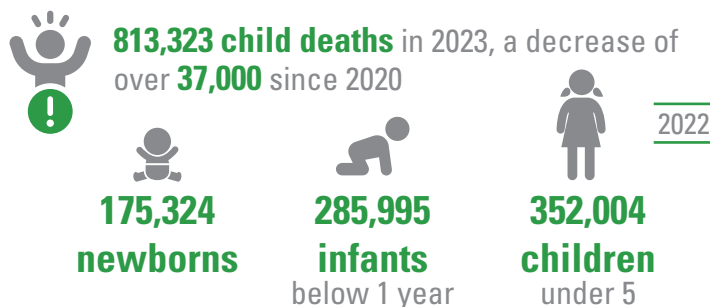
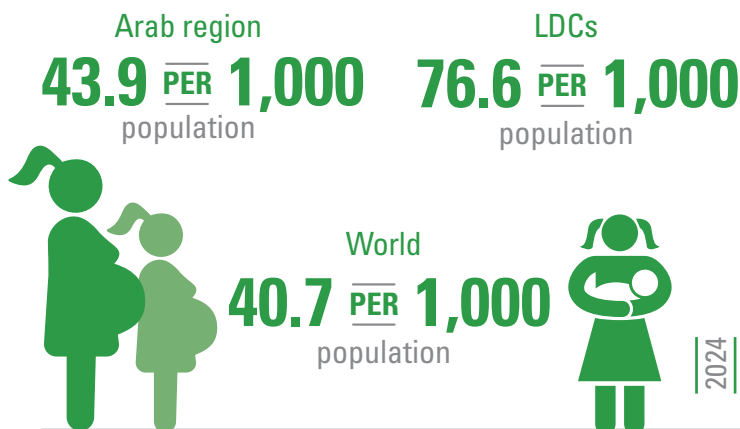


## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

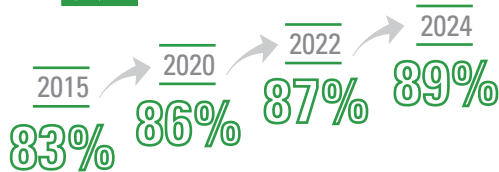
	<b>Targets</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>71%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>28</b>		



### Adolescent birth rate remains high **15–19** years



### Births by skilled health personnel increasing



**1 IN 3** people remained uncovered by universal health services **2021** **still undergo unsafe births**

### Tuberculosis (TB)

**73 PER 100,000 population** **2000**

**40 PER 100,000 population** **2023**

### Malaria

**27 PER 100,000 population**

**19 PER 100,000 population**

Over the past 20 years

**TB incidence decreased by 45%**

**Malaria incidence decreased by 30%**

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



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

**Suicide cases**  
Arab region **18,551** World **712,356**

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

**2.5 PER 100,000 population**

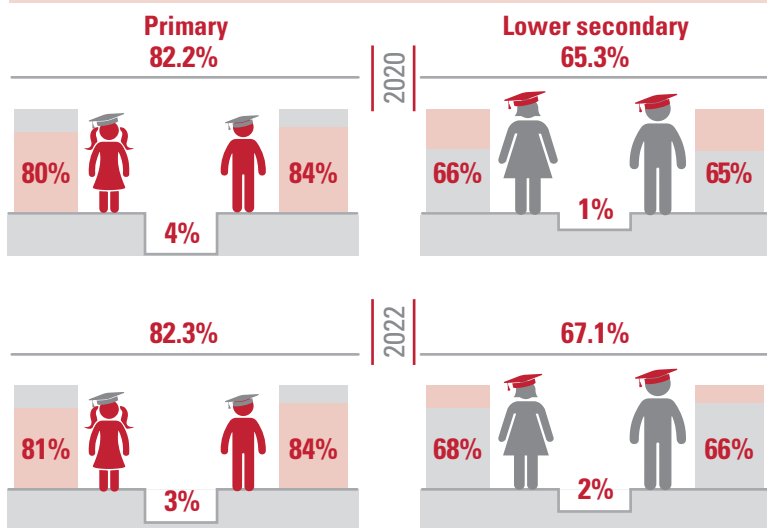




# Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>58%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>12</b>		

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



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



**remain without training**

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%**

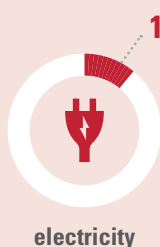


Illiterate men

**17.2%**



**Primary schools lack:**



electricity



drinking water



handwashing



single-sex basic sanitation



computers



access to the Internet

2023



# Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

	Targets	9	Evidence strength	21%
	Indicators	14		

## Child marriage among young women/girls

2024



## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Over  
**40** million girls

still undergo female genital mutilation

1 **IN** 2 girls aged 15-19

have undergone FGM



2023

54.8%

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

1 **FOR EVERY** 6 parliament seats



## Legislated gender quotas

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



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



## 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.



# Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>55%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>11</b>		

## People without access

to safe drinking water services

**25%**

**115.7 million people**



to safe sanitation services

**40%**

**184.4 million people**



basic handwashing facilities

**22%**

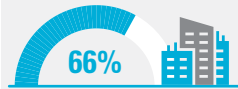
**97 million people**



## People with access



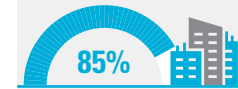
of the urban population



of the urban population



of the rural population



of the urban population



of the rural population

**1.8%**

practised open defecation



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



**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



**Freshwater** withdrawal increased by

**12.9%**

annually since **2015**



**26%**

**2000**

**4%**



**50%**

of **integrated water** resources management is implemented

**2023**



**27%**

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



# Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>83%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>6</b>		

**41.4**  
million  
people



**lived in the dark**

2022

**9%**  
**1 IN 10**



2022

lacked access to electricity

**91%**



2021

have access to electricity  
in the Arab region



**98%**

Urban



**83%**

Rural

**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

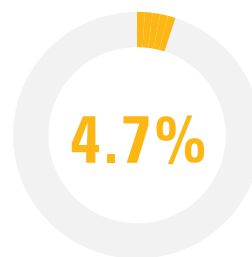


**5** megajoule  
(MJ)

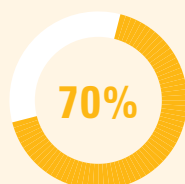
**Renewable energy**

2022

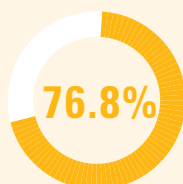
rates penetration continues to lag behind **energy**  
**consumption** in the **Arab region**



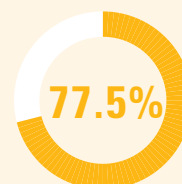
In countries  
in **conflict**,  
**electricity** access  
increased



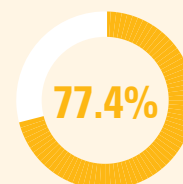
2010



2020



2021



2022

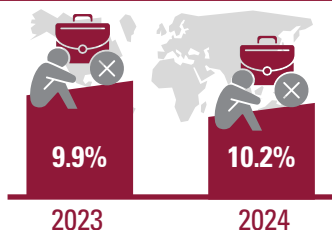




# Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

	Targets	12	Evidence strength	56%
	Indicators	16		

Regional unemployment rate is the highest globally



**1 IN 3** 28.2+

million young people

not in education, employment or training



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

**15.2 million** individuals unemployed

2024



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



Per 100,000 adults

**8 banks**



World

**14 banks**



**25 ATMs**



**64 ATMs**

2022

**37.8%**

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



**28.9%**

Arab women

2021

**71.4%**

World women

**56.4%**

**Informal employment**

in the Arab region with poor working conditions and limited job stability



**58.3%**

Males



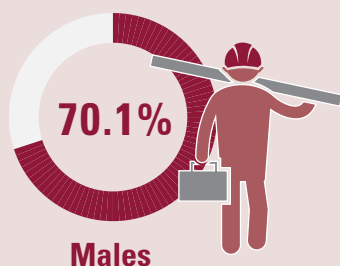
**47.5%**

Females

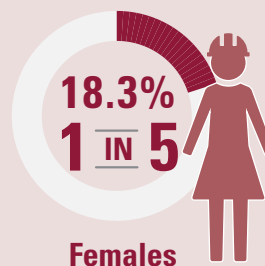
workers were in precarious informal jobs and were likely to be in vulnerable employment

2024

**Labour force participation rates**



2023



**Share of employment**



**15.1%**



**64.7%**



# Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>75%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>12</b>		

## 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 **75%** An increase from in 2015

	Arab region	World
2022	94.5%	95%

Small-scale industries lack access to financial support for recovery



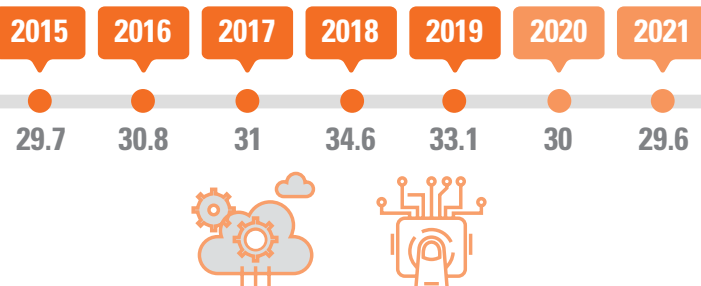
**1 IN 7** small manufacturers

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



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

**642**

World

**1,420**

researchers per 1,000,000 inhabitants

Arab region

**0.67%**  
of GDP



World

**1.95%**  
of GDP

expenditure on R&D



# Reduce inequality within and among countries

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>14</b>		

## 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**

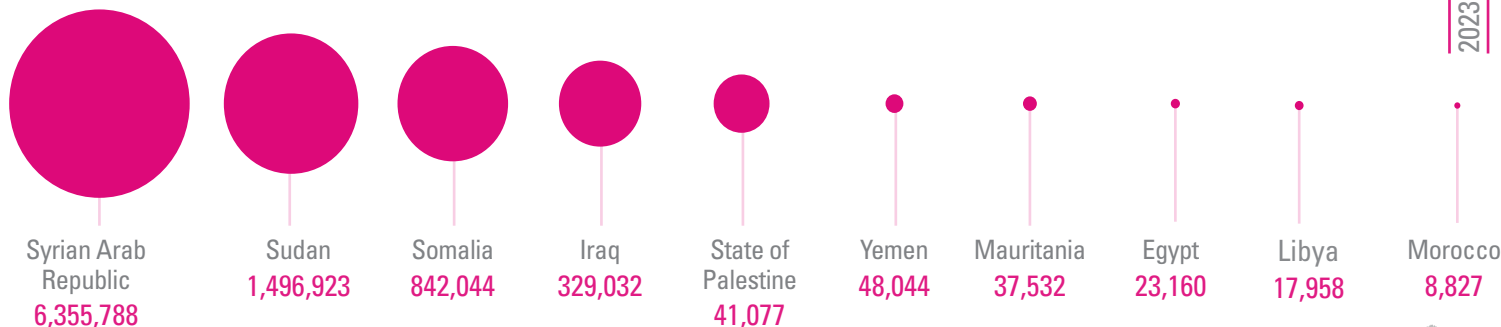
Arab region

**36.1%**

World

**52.3%**

2024



The 10 countries that have the highest number of refugees

**Personal remittances**  
accounted for



Arab region

**2.4%**  
of GDP

**3x** the world  
average

World

**0.84%**  
of GDP

2023



## Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Targets

10



Indicators

14

Evidence strength

36%

5

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

2

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



57+

**million**  
slum  
dwellers in  
the Arab  
region

2022

57,156,000

2022

2020

53,534,000

2016

48,766,000

2010

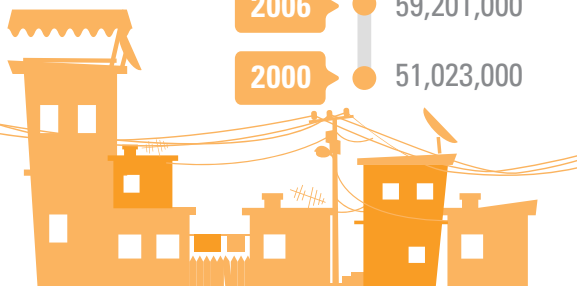
55,099,000

2006

59,201,000

2000

51,023,000



**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



3.3

million people

are internally displaced due to disasters

2023



### Levels of fine particulate matter

PM<sub>2.5</sub>

in Arab cities



2019

increased by 3.2%

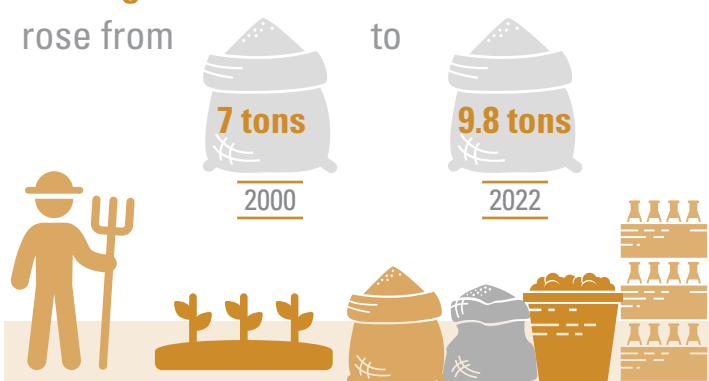
reaching **39** since 2000



# Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>31%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>13</b>		

## The region reliance on natural resources



## Electronic waste NOT recycled

On average

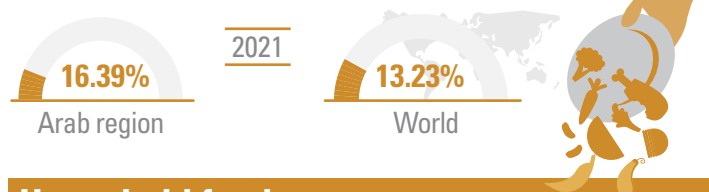


**4%** increase since 2000

## Food waste



## Food loss



## Household food waste



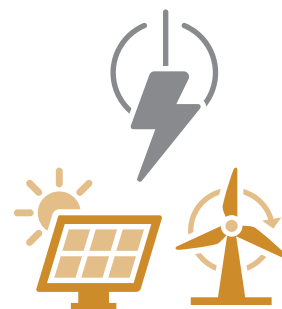
The region lowered its installed **energy capacity** after a peak in 2022 to supply modern and **sustainable energy** services by expanding infrastructure and **upgrading technology in the past 20 years**

**26 watt** per capita in 2000

**46.9 watt** per capita in 2020

**50 watt** per capita in 2021

**55.5 watt** per capita in 2022



## Material footprint increasing gradually in the region (per capita)





# Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>8</b>		

Since **2017**

**8**

**countries**  
scored over



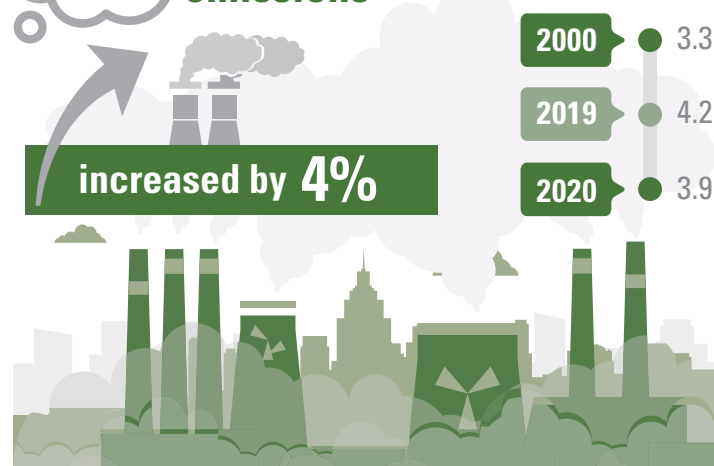
**0.70**



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<sub>2</sub>** **Energy-related emissions**



## Climate finance

falls short of

**\$570**  
**billion**

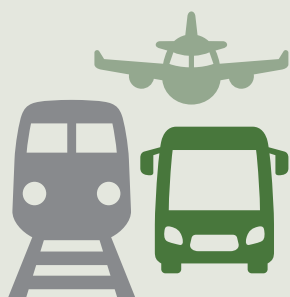
until 2030  
with the majority  
allocated to Egypt,  
Iraq and Morocco



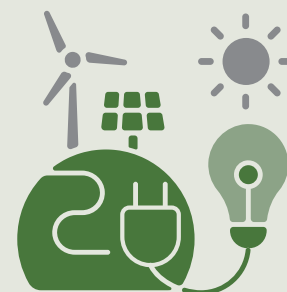
**Public international climate finance commitments to the Arab region were weak**

**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

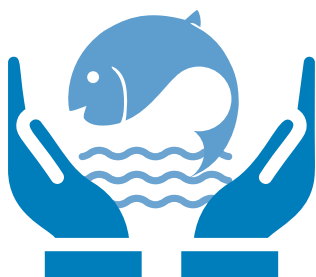


# Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>10</b>		

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

2021



Arab region

3.6%  
of territorial waters

European Union

25%  
of territorial waters

World

12%  
of territorial waters



were designated as marine protected areas

Litter that ends in the beach

307  
thousand tons  
2019



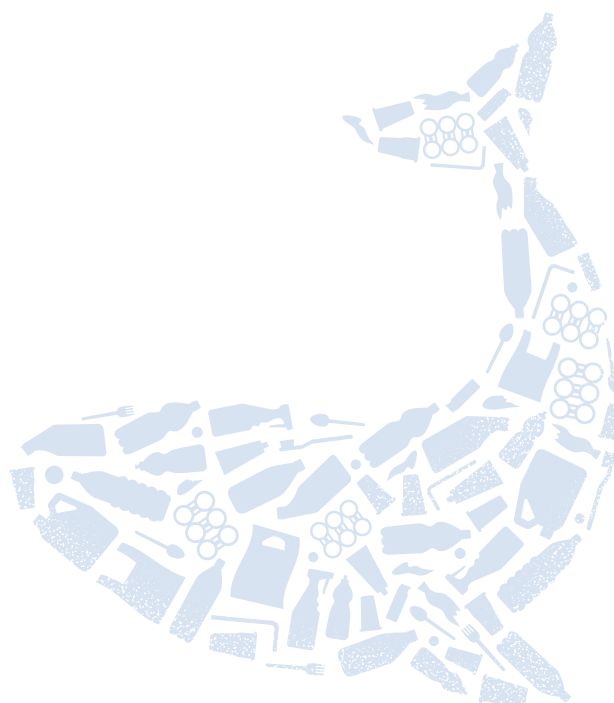
262.5  
thousand tons  
2022



672

2018

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	Evidence strength	64%
	Indicators	14		

## Land degradation affecting at least

Arab region

2019

8.7%  
of arable land



## Forest area decreasing

2020

367,981 km<sup>2</sup>

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

16

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



An increase by  
**3 countries**  
since 2021



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



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

2020





# Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

	Targets	12
	Indicators	24

Evidence strength

29%

Migrated or forcibly displaced

World

108.4  
million people

2023

Arab region

33  
million people  
17.1 million IDPs

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

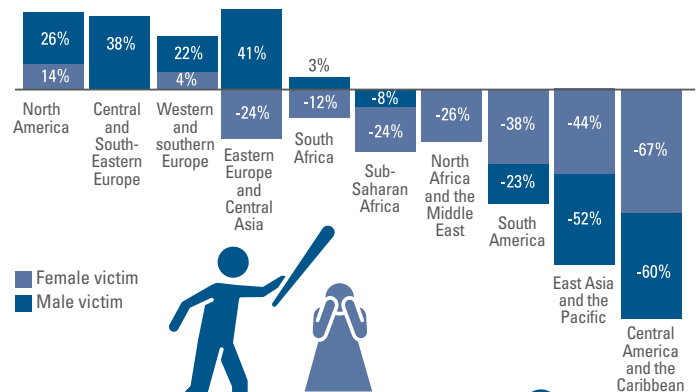


40%

decrease

in the number of **detected victims**  
in the **MENA region**

2020



Female victim  
Male victim



## The highest number of international homicides

Arab region

6.8+ per 100,000 people

32,051  
lives lost

2022

Data per 100,000 pop



9 IN 10  
victims  
are male



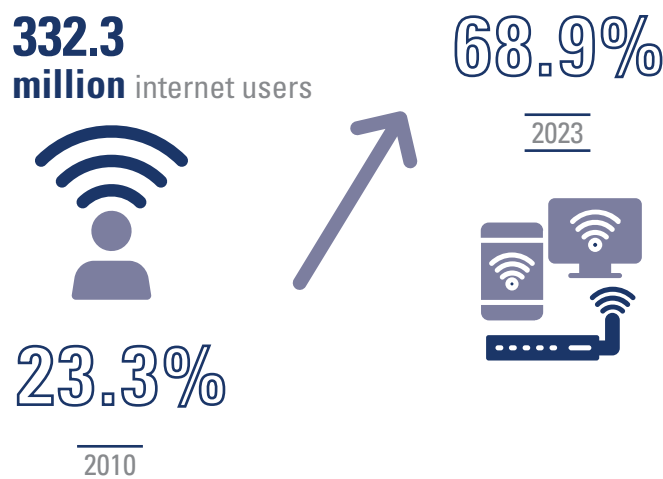
# Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Evidence strength</b>	<b>58%</b>
	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>24</b>		

## Remittance flows



## Digital connectivity 3x



## Arab countries



updated their National  
Strategy for the Development  
of Statistics



nearly  
1/3



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



registered at least  
90% of births



registered at least  
75% of deaths

## The share of merchandise exports from the Arab region



## 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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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2022). [Progress of SDG4 in the Arab Region A Summary Review](#).

# Endnotes

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11. <https://arabsdgmonitor.unescwa.org/PBG9/index-2.html>.
12. <https://asdr-2024.unescwa.org/sdg-09.html>.
13. <https://asdr-2024.unescwa.org/reports/2302081E-ASDR-2024.pdf>.
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15. [Ibid.](#)
16. [2302081E-ASDR-2024.pdf](#).





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. 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.

