



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Bringing coherence to SDG data in the region

ESCWA is at the forefront of efforts to strengthen Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) data coherence and access in the Arab region through:



Providing access to methodologies

Producing the SDG Data Collection Tool in coordination with 35 custodian agencies. The tool provides easily accessible guidance and recommendations on data collection methods for each SDG indicator.



Training experts

Organizing a series of 50 webinars with United Nations custodian agencies to train experts from national statistical systems on 115 indicators, strengthen inter-institutional coordination and knowledge sharing on SDG data and build countries' capacities to report on SDG indicators.



Building reporting platforms

Conducting 150 bilateral meetings with 18 countries to build national SDG reporting platforms and improve data quality and availability.



Hosting SDG data platform

Building and maintaining the Arab SDG Monitor as a central platform for SDG data, providing user-friendly access to up-to-date information on the implementation of the SDGs at the national and regional levels.

ESCWA is supporting decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities through:

Organizing the first Arab SME Summit, which brought together more than 800 entrepreneurs, investors, business enablers and policymakers to help Arab small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access regional and international markets and explore opportunities beyond borders. As a result of the summit, \$130 million was committed to support SMEs in the Arab region.

Supporting opportunities beyond borders



Launching the Josour initiative, which bridges the gap between young people and opportunity providers by connecting young job seekers with training, internships and work openings and facilitating dialogue between businesses, policymakers and young people.

Bridging the gap between young people and opportunities



Developing the ESCWA Skills Monitor, which is an artificial intelligence interactive tool that uses big data and machine learning to analyse labour markets and skill needs at the national and regional levels. The monitor connects employers and job seekers, identifies and communicates job openings, generates occupational skill profiles, and provides up-skilling suggestions for job seekers.

Connecting employers and job seekers



ESCWA is encouraging innovative SDG and climate financing solutions through:



Facilitating agreements

Launching the Debt Swap/Donor Nexus Initiative to support countries in financing climate action by facilitating agreements between debtors, creditors and donors/development partners to redirect debt payments towards climate-resilient projects.



Offering recommendations

Providing recommendations on the effective use of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to build regional solidarity, increase countries' fiscal space, and support sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Exploring innovative financing

Co-organizing the International Dialogue on Islamic Social Financing and the SDGs, which explored ways to leverage Islamic financing mechanisms to support sustainable development and emergency relief for the most vulnerable.

ESCWA is promoting regional trade integration through:

Developing the Arab Trade Gateway (ATG), which provides interactive analytical, data and policy tools that help policymakers advance regional and global trade integration. It includes a trade policy simulator and robust tools for assessing market access, trade performance and negotiations.

Creating tools for policymakers



Launching the Arab Economy-wide Trade Simulator Interface (ATSI), a user-friendly policy impact simulator that enables non-specialized trade negotiators to use a dynamic multi-country computable general equilibrium model to analyse the effects of potential reforms.

Developing interactive policy and trade simulations

