



# Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



## GROWING RISKS

**ESCWA is promoting risk reduction by exploring the linkages between climate change, development, human rights, gender equality, and peace and security:**



Conflict and fragility impact **9 countries** in the Arab region.



Overlapping climate, governance, and security vulnerabilities threaten development in the Arab region.



The **Arab Risk Monitor** contributes to risk-informed policymaking by measuring factors related to conflict, climate, and development challenges.



**ESCWA supports** action on policy recommendations including mainstreaming the climate, peace, and security nexus; implementing inclusive social policies; improving natural resource management; and increasing access to finance and technology.

## FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

**ESCWA supports its member States to maximize impacts on sustainable development through optimal fiscal policies:**



Fiscal imbalances and rising debt burdens have contributed to shrinking fiscal space in the Arab region.



The SDG financing gap in the region is estimated at nearly **\$700 billion** per year until **2030**.



The **Social Expenditure Monitor** helps analyze the equity, efficiency, and effectiveness of social spending by aligning policy choices with long-term goals.



The **AI-powered artificial budget intelligence powered toolkit (iBiT)** simulates the effects of spending allocations on SDG performance to maximize outcomes.



ESCWA provides technical support to the development of **integrated national financing frameworks**.



The **Climate/SDGs Debt Swap Initiative** supports sustainable development financing by facilitating agreements between debtors, creditors and donors to redirect debt payments towards climate-resilient projects and the SDGs.

## ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY



Supply chain disruptions and rising prices have increased food insecurity in the Arab region. Food insecurity has been exacerbated by economic, environmental, and political crises, with particularly devastating impacts on conflict-affected countries and LDCs.



**181 million** people in Arab countries (**35%** of the population) are estimated to be food insecure, including **54 million (10%)** in severe food insecurity.

**ESCWA supports policies to enhance the agricultural sector, facilitate food trade, mitigate climate change, and enhance access to food through social protection and other programs. Additionally:**



The **2023 Arab Forum for Equality** focused on food security to promote dialogue and innovative solutions.



Through the **REGEN program**, ESCWA organizes sustainable agriculture workshops to support productivity and rural livelihoods.



ESCWA supports the Arab Food Security Monitoring Framework and the development of a **Food Systems Assessment Tool** to monitor performance of food systems in the region.

## PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

**ESCWA is working to strengthen the role of the private sector in sustainable development:**



Private sector financing for the SDGs is limited in the Arab region in comparison to other regions.



Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) represent some **96%** of registered businesses in the Arab region and employ about half of the labour force, however face challenges accessing finance and supply chains.



The **ICC-ESCWA Centre of Entrepreneurship** built SME capacity on leveraging digital marketing to access international markets.



The second **Arab SME Summit** in Marrakech, Morocco was held under the theme "From Resilience to Prosperity," with a focus on supporting Arab SMEs through crisis. The summit brought together more than 3,000 participants from the business, financing, and policy communities.



**ESCWA has encouraged** private finance for the SDGs, including through a **joint call with the Union of Arab Banks** to provide **\$1 trillion** in additional SDG financing across **six key transition areas**.

## SDG DATA

**Working with UN entities and national statistical offices, ESCWA developed tools including:**



The data gap in the region remains a stumbling block to achieving the SDGs. At the regional level, there is no or insufficient data to track progress in 46% of SDG indicators. However, in many cases data exists, but is underutilized or difficult to access.



The **Monitoring Application for Reporting on SDGs (MARS)**, which enables countries to manage data flows and facilitates external reporting by digitizing coordination processes for enhanced accountability, transparency, and timeliness.



The **SDG Data Collection Tool**, which facilitates the production of comparable indicators and closing data gaps through methodological guidance for producing harmonized data.



An **SDMX Converter** to enable rapid sharing of national data through national reporting platforms. 19 member States have active platforms for reporting their latest SDG data.