



The Role of National Statistical Offices in the Arab Region on SDGs

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals are divided into several levels of attention, international, regional and national levels. In this context, it is worth noting the need to take into account the current situation in the Arab Region.

1. **Measuring Progress:** A multidimensional-based indicators are more appropriate to measure progress and make relevant comparisons across countries with different development stages. Qualitative and quantitative indicators should be used to measure progress.

2. **Core issues:** Five core issues need to be addressed in the Arab region. This includes political situation, high economic variation, social variation, environment and natural resources, and human rights-democracy and governance modalities.

3. Scope of work

1. Developing a road map to involve decision makers, engage civil society as well as media and society at large in the statistical work.
2. Assessment of data availability and survey quality (ADP) and develop techniques to collect data in the framework of measuring progress indicators.
3. Highlighting the capacity building needs for the region; and design and implement a technical assistance program including training for statisticians, users, decision makers and journalists.
4. Setup a system to monitor and report about progress in the Arab region, and establishing a central repository information system as a tool to report and monitor progress in the Arab region. LAS and UNESCWA are requested to take the lead in this matter.
5. Advocacy campaigns and awareness-raising efforts to ensure wider participation at the grass root level.

4. **Partners, counterparts and stakeholders:** The statistical work should be cooperative across different players including: Public sector, Civil society, etc. At the regional level, UN agencies and other regional commissions and international organizations involved in measuring progress and capacity building should be identified as partners of the initiative at the Arab region.

5. **Cost Assessment:** Measuring progress is focused on the measurement and understanding of progress rather than achieving specific targets, this measurement requires costing as well. This includes need assessment of the current statistical systems and availability of data sources and then technical assistance to learn more about methodologies in the region. A costing for specific targets is then needed if we decide to follow the approach of the MDGs in transferring the society from certain position to another.

6. **Steps Forward:** At the practical level, "Arab Steering Committee for Measuring Progress" have to be established at the regional level. The mandate of the committee is to make sure that the Arab region is fully integrated in the follow up activities of SDGs. The committee will call for a task force to work on finalizing the position paper and propose a list of indicators for the Arab region.



Key words: measuring progress, Arab region, sustainable development