One Year of SDGs: The Arab Region at a Crossroads

Rima Khalaf

Executive Secretary of UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
MDG Gains at Risk of Erosion
YOUTH ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED

15-24 YRS

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE ARAB REGION IS THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AND IS SET TO GROW IN THE COMING YEARS. THE REGION ALSO HAS THE WORLD’S LARGEST GENDER GAP IN UNEMPLOYMENT

2/5 YOUNG WOMEN
are unemployed

1/4 YOUNG MEN
are unemployed

GENDER GAP: 19
(female rate minus male rate, percentage points)

ARAB REGION
23.2% (2012)

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
18% (2012)

WORLD
12.4% (2012)
Economic Growth ≠ Human Wellbeing

Using the international poverty line of 1.25 United States dollars ($) a Day, poverty levels in the Arab region appear much lower than they do using national poverty lines that are more reflective of national realities.

INTERNATIONAL POVERTY LINE
$1.25 A DAY
4.1%
ARAB REGION

POVERTY RATES IN OTHER REGIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE &amp; CENTRAL ASIA</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVELOPING REGIONS</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NATIONAL POVERTY LINE
$3.6 A DAY
23.4%
ARAB REGION
Population growth and freshwater resource availability in the Arab region, 1982-2012

Per capita total renewable water resources in Arab countries, 2014, (m3/inhabitant/year)
Exacerbated Hunger and Malnutrition

In Yemen, 1.5 mil children suffer from malnutrition.

Unicef, 2016
A Region Mired by Conflict
The Occupied Palestinian Territory

50 years of Israeli occupation and discriminatory policies:
- Violence against civilians including children
- Discrimination on the basis of religion
- Segregation, Settlements & the Wall
- Blockade and Bombardment
- Destruction of homes and agricultural lands
Battle-related deaths in the Arab region, 2000-2015*

*As of June 2015
Aggravated Poverty Levels in Syria

2010
- Below the upper poverty line: 72.0%
- Above the upper poverty line: 28.0%

2015
- Below the upper poverty line: 83.4%
- Above the upper poverty line: 16.6%

The diagram illustrates the percentage of people below and above the upper poverty line in Syria for the years 2010 and 2015.
Refugees and IDPs from the Arab Region, 2003-2015

Millions

- Refugees
- IDPs

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Iraq: Stunting Rates among Children under-5

War has been linked to worsening nutritional indicators, especially among children.
Yemen: Net Enrolment Rates in Primary and Secondary Education

Conflict correlates with deterioration in schooling, with grave consequences on human capital formation.
sustainability

food
Palestine
stagnation
challenges
conflict
agenda

trade
youth
migration
peace

empowerment
education
remittances
Arab
energy
division
world
water
women
cooperation
transportation
inequality

development
security
solidarity
occupation

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Economic and Social Council Resolution

Resolution 2016/10: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia strategy and plan of action on the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

…the Council endorsed the strategy and plan of action proposed by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as set out in Commission resolution 322 (XXVIII)…

- Incorporating the SDGs into national development plans,
- Statistical systems support,
- Regional follow-up (Arab Forum on Sustainable Development)
- Preparation of regional reports
Translating Integrated Agenda into Integrated Policies

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Tools to translate concept of integrated agenda into concrete policy-making:
- Dependencies
- Trade-offs
- Synergies
- Sequencing

Different sectoral policies aligned towards the same development objectives in a holistic manner
Nexus Approach

Sectoral Policies

Nexus Approach

Integrated Agenda

- Water
- Energy
- Food, etc.

Water-Energy-Food Security

Equality-Inclusion-Justice, etc.

Poverty-Decent Work-Sustainable Growth

National 2030 Agenda Strategy

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Availability of SDG Data

No data  1-2 data points  3 and more data points
Knowledge, Innovation and Tools
Thank you