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Series of Webinars on selected SDG Indicators for the Arab Region:

An Interagency and Experts Collaboration to Improve the Production and Dissemination of SDG Indicators from Official National Sources

*20 of April*

**Concept Note**

BACKGROUND

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution 70/1: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda). The Resolution reaffirms the need for the strengthening of national data systems through “collaboration between national statistical systems and the relevant international and regional organizations to enhance data reporting channels and ensure the harmonization and consistency of data and statistics for the indicators used to follow up and review the Sustainable Development Goals and targets”.

The resolution also urges countries, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions, and the Bretton Woods institutions among others “to intensify their support for strengthening data collection and statistical capacity-building, including capacity-building that strengthens coordination among national statistical offices”. Moreover, the resolution “Urges international organizations to base the global review on data produced by national statistical systems and, if specific country data are not available for reliable estimation, to consult with concerned countries to produce and validate modelled estimates before publication, urges that communication and coordination among international organizations be enhanced in order to avoid duplicate reports, ensure consistency of data and reduce response burdens on countries, and urges international organizations to provide the methodologies used to harmonize country data for international comparability and produce estimates through transparent mechanisms;”

Five years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda several countries are facing considerable challenges in monitoring targets in many policy areas. The current COVID-19 pandemic highlights the value of measuring and monitoring: no strategy can be developed, and no measure can be implemented without a proper monitoring and evaluation system.

Many countries in the Arab region are reporting on SDG indicators, however, reporting on progress on many of the SDG indicators, remains limited in the region. Insufficient availability and quality of statistical information on SDG indicators hamper the capacity of policymakers to generate evidence-based and effective policy responses and implement the 2030 Agenda.

Translating these recommendations and resolutions into tangible results is imperative and will require intensive collaboration at the national, regional and global levels. Regional Commissions’ Statistical bodies “are the nexus between the Statistical Commission at the global level and the implementation at the national level of the norms endorsed by the Commission. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the support provided by the regional commissions to assist Member States in adapting, implementing and measuring progress towards the implementation of national development plans is of particular significance as it influences the quality of statistics and methodologies used, as well as the use of new and innovative methodologies and sources of data, known as the transformative agenda for official statistics. The regional commissions carry out activities to strengthen the capacity of Member States to produce, use and dissemination official statistics and also provide a regional platform for sharing experiences and practices in statistics work[[1]](#footnote-1)[1].”

In this context, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) implemented an assessment on availability of country data in the UNSD SDG Global database to identify those less reported by countries and/or less understood by national statistical offices, and more estimated by UN Agencies or not reported on. Based on the assessment results, ESCWA in collaboration with relevant custodian agencies will organize virtual capacity development workshops on selected indicators for Arab countries to improve the production and dissemination of SDG indicators from official national sources. ESCWA, UN-Habitat and World Bank met on 12 March to discuss the organization of a joint webinar to build capacities of Arab countries to produce the following indicators:

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| Indicators | Number of Arab countries providing data (C-CA) | Number of Arab countries for which the data have been estimated (E-M-N-NA) |
| 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure | 0 | 0 |
| 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure | 0 | 0 |

C: country data, CA: country adjusted data, E: estimated data, G: global monitoring data, M: modeled data, N: non-relevant data, NA: data nature not available

**Notes**: Data are collected by Egypt (Census), Qatar (Ministry of Justice) and Jordan (Agriculture Census).

OBJECTIVE

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA ), in collaboration with UN Agencies, custodians of SDG indicators, is organizing a series of webinars on selected SDG indicators that are less produced in the Arab region to create a common understanding among data producers on how to collect, measure and disseminate SDG indicators to increase data production and enhance national data flow to policy makers, other users and custodian agencies.

The main objectives of the regional training are:

* Enhancing understanding of metadata.
* Improving statistical capacities to invigorate production and use of comparable SDG indicators.
* Strengthening inter-institutional coordination to invigorate production of SDG indicators and data flow.
* Sharing and discussing country challenges in measuring SDG indicators.

TARGET AUDIENCE

All producers of official statistics in the Arab countries are welcomed to participate. This includes representatives from national statistical systems, national institutions, and other relevant national entities. In addition, policymakers, researchers, and other partners may also participate.

OUTCOME  
The training will familiarize relevant stakeholders with the concepts, international standards, methodological tools, as well as an understanding of the challenges faced to measure SDG indicators. The outcome of the series of training will facilitate the development of regional guidelines and recommendations to improve the production and dissemination of SDG Indicators.

SCHEDULE  
The regional training will be held on the 20th of April 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (see Proposed Agenda)

FORMAT  
The meetings will be held via Zoom. Facilitation of the workshops will be held in Arabic/English with simultaneous interpretation in both languages.

The training will encourage interactive dialogue and participants will be invited to share their national experiences in data collection including challenges, queries and concerns. SDG data-related materials and resources will be shared with participants before each session.

TRAINING CERTIFICATION  
Participants who fully attend ESCWA SDG workshops will be awarded a training certificate by the organizers.

REGISTRATION  
To register for the Regional Training Series, please send your contact information (country, name, title/office, email, and mobile) to Nadine Al-Hallak [al-hallak@un.org](mailto:al-hallak@un.org) in order to receive the links to the meetings.

RESOURCES

<https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-08/190824_measuring_individuals_rights_to_land_publishing_web_0.pdf>

<https://gltn.net/2019/08/27/measuring-individuals-rights-to-land/>

<https://www.unsdglearn.org/courses/sdg-indicator-5-a-1-equal-tenure-rights-for-women-on-agricultural-land-2/>

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-01-04-02.pdf>

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-0a-01.pdf>

ORGANIZERS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ESCWA | World Bank | FAO | UN-Habitat |
| Neda Jafar  Head, Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit  Statistics and Information Technology Cluster  UN House, Beirut, Lebanon  jafarn@un.org T. +961 1 978 344  Joelle Atallah  Statistics assistant  Joelle.atallah@un.org  T.+961 1 978 731 | Thea Hilhorst  Sr. Land Governance Specialist in the World Bank  Email: [thilhorst@worldbank.org](mailto:thilhorst@worldbank.org)  Sydney Gourlay  Economist in the World Bank  Email: [sgourlay@worldbank.org](mailto:sgourlay@worldbank.org) | Yonca Gurbuzer  Statistician.  Statistics Division (ESS) in FAO  Email: [Yonca.Gurbuzer@fao.org](mailto:Yonca.Gurbuzer@fao.org) | Robert Lewis-Lettington  Chief -Land, Housing and Shelter Section in  UN-Habitat  Email: [robert.lewis-lettington@un.org](mailto:robert.lewis-lettington@un.org)  Everlyne Nairesiae  Coordinator - Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) in GLTN, UN-Habitat  Email: [everlyne.nairesiae@un.org](mailto:everlyne.nairesiae@un.org)  Donatien Beguy  Statistician -  Data and Analytics Unit, UN-Habitat  Email : [donatien.beguy@un.org](mailto:donatien.beguy@un.org)  Clinton Omusula  Land Data and Knowledge Management Officer in GLTN, UN-Habitat  Email: [clinton.omusula@un.org](mailto:clinton.omusula@un.org) |

PROPOSED AGENDA

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| Day: 20 April 2021 |  | Speakers |
| 10:00 – 10:10 am | Introduction to the Webinar (objective, speakers, and content) | ESCWA – Neda Jafar  UN-Habitat - Robert Lewis-Lettington (Chief, Land, Housing and Shelter Section) |
| 10:10 – 11:10 am | **Introduction to indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1**  1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure  5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure | Everlyne Nairesiae/Clinton Omusula (UN-Habitat) and Yonca Gurbuzer (FAO) |
| Country experience  Discussion – Q&A | Jordan |
| 11 :10 – 11 : 20 am | Break |  |
| 11:20 am – 12:30 pm | **The joint module for measuring indicator 1.4.2 and 5.a.1** | Donatien Beguy (UN-Habitat), Sydney Gourlay (World Bank), and Yonca Gurbuzer (FAO) |
| Discussion – Q&A |  |
| 12:30 – 1:00 pm | Way Forward and Conclusion | ESCWA – Neda Jafar  Thea Hilhorst (World Bank)/ Yonca Gurbuzer (FAO)/Everlyne Nairesiae (UN-Habitat)/ |

METADATA

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| Indicators | Main sources of data | Metadata Summary | Questions |
| 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure | DHS, National census, HIECs, MICS, Multi-topic household survey, UIS, Administrative records (registries, cadasters, ministries responsible for land) | Indicator 1.4.2 covers (a) all types of land use (such as residential, commercial, agricultural, forestry, grazing, wetlands based on standard land-use classification) in both rural and urban areas; and (b) all land tenure types as recognized at the country level, such as freehold, leasehold, public land, customary land. An individual can hold land in his/her own name, jointly with other individuals, as a member of a household, or collectively as member of group[[2]](#footnote-2), cooperative or other type of association.  **Secure tenure rights**: comprised of two sub-components: (i) legally recognized documentation and (ii) perception of the security of tenure, which are both necessary to provide a full measurement of tenure security.  **Legally recognized documentation**: Legal documentation of rights refers to the recording and publication of information on the nature and location of land, rights and right holders in a form that is recognized by government and is therefore official. For purposes of computing SDG Indicator 1.4.2, the country specific metadata will define what documentation on land rights will be counted as legally recognized (see next section for rationale).  **Perceived security of tenure**: Perception of tenure security refers to an individual’s perception of the likelihood of involuntary loss of land, such as disagreement of the ownership rights over land or ability to use it, regardless of the formal status and can be more optimistic or pessimistic. Although those without land rights’ documentation may frequently be perceived to be under threat, and those with documentation perceived as protected, there may be situations where documented land rights alone are insufficient to guarantee tenure security. Conversely, even without legally recognized documentation, individuals may feel themselves to be protected against eviction or dispossession. Therefore, capturing and analysing these diverse ranges of situations will enable a more comprehensive understanding of land tenure security, based on a country specific context.  Computation method:  Indicator 1.4.2 is composed of two parts: (A) measures the incidence of adults with legally recognized documentation over land among the total adult population; while (B) focuses on the incidence of adults who report having perceived secure rights to land among the adult population. Part (A) and part (B) provide two complementary data sets on security of tenure rights, needed for measuring the indicator.  Part (A): X 100  Part (B): x 100 | Q0. Do you use, own, or hold use rights for any parcel of land, either alone or jointly with someone else, irrespective of whether the parcel is used by your or another household, and irrespective of the use of the parcel (including dwelling plot, agricultural, pastoral, forest and business/commercial plots)?   * Yes - No (questions end)   Q1. Parcel name  Q2. Do you use, own, or hold use rights for this [PARCEL], either alone or jointly with someone else?   * Yes - No (next parcel)     Q3. Is there a document for this [PARCEL] issued by or registered at the Land Registry/ Cadastral Agency, such as a title deed, certificate of ownership, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract?   * Yes - No (go to Q5)   Q4. What type of documents are there for this [PARCEL], and is your name listed on any of the documents as owner or right use holder? List up to 3 and show photo aid  1- Title deed  2- Certificate of customary ownership  3- Certificate of occupancy  4- Certificate of hereditary acquisition listed in registry  5- Survey plan  6- Rental contract, registered  7- Leased, registered  8- Other (specify)  Q5. Do you have the right to sell any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else?  -Yes - No - DK - Refusal  Q6. Do you have the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else?  -Yes - No - DK - Refusal  Q7. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all likely and 5 is extremely likely, how likely are you to involuntarily lose ownership or use rights to any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to in the next 5 years?  -Yes - No - DK - Refusal |
| 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure | Main source: HBS, LSMS, LFS, Living conditions surveys, DHS, MICS, Multi-purpose household survey  Second source: Population and housing censuses, agriculture survey | Agricultural land includes: • land under temporary crops • land under temporary meadows and pastures • land temporarily fallow • land under permanent crops • land under permanent meadows and pastures It excludes: • land under farm buildings and farmyards • forest and other wooded land • area used for aquaculture (including inland and coastal waters if part of the holding) • other area not elsewhere classified.  1)Presence of legally recognized documents in the name of the individual:  • Title deed: “a written or printed instrument that effects a legal disposition”  • Certificate of occupancy or land certificate “A land certificate is a certified copy of an entry in a land title system and provides proof of the ownership and of encumbrances on the land at that time”  • Purchase agreement: a contract between a seller and a buyer to dispose of land  • Registered certificate of hereditary acquisition  • Certificate of customary tenure: an official state document indicating the owner or holder of the land because customary law has recognized that particular person as the rightful owner. It can be used as proof of legal right over the land. These certificates include, among others, certificates of customary ownership and customary use.  • Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease: “a contractual agreement between a landlord and a tenant for the tenancy of land. A lease or tenancy agreement is the contractual document used to create a leasehold interest or tenancy”  • Registered short term (less than 3 years) rental contract  • Certificate issued for adverse possession or prescription is a certificate indicating that the adverse possessor acquires the land after a prescribed statutory period.  2) Right to sell It refers to the ability of an individual to permanently transfer the asset in question in return for cash or in-kind benefits.  3) Right to bequeath It refers to the ability of an individual to pass on the asset in question to another person(s) after his or her death, by written will, oral will (if recognized by the country) or when the deceased left no will, through intestate succession.  **Operationalization of indicator 5.a.1 expressed through mathematical formulas** are the following:  Sub-indicator (a)  Total agricultural population with:  Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it \*100 / Total agricultural population, by sex  Sub-indicator (b)  Number of women in agriculture with:  Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it\*100/ Number of people in agriculture with:  Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it, by type of tenure | Q1. Did this household operate any land (1) for agricultural purposes in the last 12 months?   * Yes - No (go to Q3)   Q2. Was farming performed…   * For use/consumption of the household? * For profit/ trade? * As wage work for others?   Q3. Did this household raise or tend any livestock (e.g. cattle, goats, etc.) in the last 12 months?   * Yes - No (questions end)   Q4. Was raising/tending livestock performed   * For use/consumption of the household? * For profit/ trade? * As wage work for others?   Q0. Do you or does any member of your household use, own, or hold use rights for any parcel of land, either alone or jointly with someone else, irrespective of whether the parcel is used by your or another household, and irrespective of the use of the parcel (including dwelling plot, agricultural, pastoral, forest and business/commercial plots)?   * Yes - No (questions end)   Q2. Do you currently use, own, or hold use rights for any agricultural land (including pastoral land), either alone or jointly with someone else?   * Yes - No (go to Q8)   Q3. Is there a document for any agricultural land you own or hold use rights to that is issued by or registered at the Land Registry/ Cadastral Agency, such as a title deed, certificate of ownership, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract?   * Yes - No (go to Q5)   Q4. What type of documents are there for the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to, and is your name listed on any of the documents as owner or right use holder? List up to 3, show photo aid  - Title deed  - Certificate of customary ownership  - Certificate of occupancy  - Certificate of hereditary acquisition listed  - In registry  - Survey plan  - Rental contract, registered  - Registered  - Leased, registered  - Other (specify)  Q5. Do you have the right to sell any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else?  -Yes - No - DK - Refusal  Q6. Do you have the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else?  -Yes - No - DK - Refusal  Q7. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is not at all likely and 5 is extremely likely, how likely are you to involuntarily lose ownership or use rights to any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to in the next 5 years?   * Not at all likely * Slightly likely * Moderately likely * Very likely * Extremely likely |

1. [1] Source: Relevance and effectiveness of the statistical work of regional commissions - thematic evaluation of regional commissions, Committee for Programme and Coordination, 57th session, April 2017 (E/AC.51/2017/8) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Group rights* include shared or collective rights, and examples include the ejido in Mexico, indigenous territories in Honduras, perpetual DUAT for rural communities in Mozambique. Collective rights occur in a situation where holders of rights to land and natural resources are clearly defined as a collective group and have the right to exclude third parties from the enjoyment of those rights. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)